



ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“It is said that our anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength.”

—CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, grant that we, who justly deserve to be punished for our sinful deeds, may mercifully be relieved by the comfort of your grace; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

PSALM: Psalm 23

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

ORDER OF WORSHIP

In Scripture, the Call to Worship comes from God. We need to be called because it is not our natural response to come to God. God takes the initiative, moves towards us with grace, and invites us to worship him.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 46

LEADER God is our refuge and strength,

PEOPLE **A very present help in trouble.**

LEADER Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

PEOPLE **Though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

LEADER Though its waters roar and foam,

PEOPLE **Though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

LEADER There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

PEOPLE **The holy habitation of the Most High.**

LEADER God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

PEOPLE **God will help her when morning dawns.**

LEADER The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

PEOPLE **He utters his voice, the earth melts.**

LEADER The LORD of hosts is with us;

PEOPLE **The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm · William M. Runyan

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! *Chorus*

Aware of God's holiness and our sinfulness, the Prayer of Confession invites us to honestly confess our sins. We are free to confess even our most grievous faults because no matter how deep our sin may be, God's grace in Jesus Christ is deeper still. Confession both acknowledges our need for grace and celebrates its abundant provision in Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

The Words of Assurance should be received with gratitude and joy because these words of Scripture assure us that God has promised to forgive and restore those who confess their sins through the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Psalm 103.11-13

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

LEADER Hear and receive the good news of the gospel:
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

HYMN

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Matt Crocker · Joel Houston

You call me out upon the waters,
The great unknown, where feet may fail,
And there I find You in the myst'ry,
In oceans deep, my faith will stand.

*And I will call upon Your Name,
And keep my eyes above the waves,
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace,
For I am Yours, and You are mine.*

Your grace abounds in deepest waters,
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed, and You won't start now. *Chorus*

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,
Let me walk upon the waters,
Wherever You would call me;
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander,
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior. *Chorus*

OFFERING

*Please text **centralchurchnyc** to 77977 or visit our website in order to give electronically.*

THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth LM

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Word of God is the primary means by which God speaks to us and the ultimate authority for what we believe and how we live. All Scripture passages are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4.1-13

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

²I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

LEADER The word of the Lord.

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

The Spirit makes the reading and preaching of God's Word a powerful means of challenging, comforting, and strengthening God's people and awakening people to new faith.

SERMON

***Making the Most of the Time* | A Time for Reason**

Rev. Ed Sirya

SERMON NOTES

We sing the prayer that
Jesus taught us to pray
to our Heavenly Father.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever,
Amen.

We begin our worship
with God's gracious
invitation, and we
conclude with God's
blessing, his good word.

It is appropriate to
look up and open our
palms as we receive
the Benediction to
symbolize how Jesus
Christ lifts our heads
and to demonstrate our
eagerness to receive
God's blessing.

BENEDICTION

God never draws us
into relationship with
himself without also
sending us out into
the world to be his
representatives and
ambassadors.

DISMISSAL

LEADER Let us go forth to serve the world as those who
love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ALL **Thanks be to God!**