

March 29 2020 -Lent 5 Worship @ Home Guide

Woodstock Presbyterian Church, 142 E. Court St., Woodstock, VA 22664

You are encouraged to use this as a guide for worship at home.

A visual version of our worship will broadcast on the church FaceBook page by Sunday at 9:30am.

Join at a time convenient for you. Songs and hymns are included

– you are invited to sing, hum, or simply pray over their words.

We gather in Spirit with trust in our ever-present God... +Pastor Kate

OPENING PRAYER

For forty days and nights the rain fell,
and the waters covered the face of the earth.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

For forty years the people wandered,
seeking the land of God's promise.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Moses spent forty days on the mountain,
learning the commandments of God.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh:
Repent, or in forty days you will perish.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days
and was tested by the devil.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Eternal God,
as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ,
so give us the grace of repentance
that we may pass through the grave with him
and be born again to eternal life.

For he is the One
who was crucified, dead, and buried,
and rose again for us,
Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

+ GATHERING SONG – Lord, Jesus, Think on Me #417



Lord Jesus, Think on Me 417

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin. From
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, a - mid the bat - tle's strife. In
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray. Through
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when this life is past, I

earth-born pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.
all my pain and mis - er - y be thou my health and life.
dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heaven - ly way.
may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see, and share thy joy at last.

This text is among the oldest hymns in this book; its original Greek version dates from around the beginning of the 5th century. The stanzas used here come from a 19th-century paraphrase, whose simplicity and directness are well complemented by a 16th-century psalm tune.

TEXT: Synesius of Cyrene, 5th cent.; trans. Allen W. Chatfield, 1876, alt.
MUSIC: Daman's *Psalmes*, 1579, alt.

SOUTHWELL
SM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As children of God's light,
we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord:
to participate in what is good and right and true,
and expose what is unfruitful and evil.
Knowing that we turn from the light,
we bring our confession to God,
so that what is hidden in us becomes visible,
and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

Eph. 5:8–10

**Gracious God,
we are people who still love darkness rather than light.
We keep shameful deeds secret,
but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue.
We see ourselves as blameless,
but pass judgment on others.
We do not stand firmly enough with those who
are vulnerable,
but step back, protecting ourselves.
Forgive us, we pray.**

Bring us into your light that we may
see ourselves rightly.
Bring us into your light that we may
know ourselves loved.
Bring us into your light that we may
live more fruitful lives.
Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin,
and shine upon us with your grace.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
the light of the world. Amen.

READING John 11:1-35

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, ^[a] "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus ^[b] was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, ^[c] said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus ^[d] had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles ^[e] away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. ^[f] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who

lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, ^[g] the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep.

READING Romans 8:24-26

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes ^[p] for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes ^[g] with sighs too deep for words.

REFLECTION

*What word, image or phrase caught your attention?
How has the assurance of God's presence comforted you in troubled times?
How are you being led by God today?
What does this word from God prompt you to change?*

We believe that...

The same Spirit

**who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

In a broken and fearful world

**the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

**we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

+HYMN # 634 To God Be the Glory

<http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/98.mp3>

Refrain

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
 2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the peo - ple re - joice!

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
 but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

and give him the glo - ry: great things he has done!

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Lift your intercessions – joys and concerns for yourself or others – to God at this time. These prayer requests have come from our community:

*Scott Powell and Samaritans Purse at work in Italy.
 Loretta Lantz – hospitalized this week for pacemaker (now home)
 Lori Staley, who has been sick this week (is better!)
 For those who are working to provide for the things we need
 For our families, church, town and country
 For those with underlying health conditions during this uncertain time*

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our voices
 and be attentive to our prayers.**

We pray for those whose hope is lost,

who feel dried up and cut off from you.
**By your grace, open their graves;
bring them back to the land of the living.**

We pray for those who are oppressed,
held captive by the power of death.
**Release them from their chains;
unbind them and let them go!**

We pray for those who weep,
lost and lifeless in fear and regret.
**Grant them the peace of your presence;
show them what your love can do.**

We pray for those who are dying,
the light of life fading in their eyes.
**Help them to believe in you
so that they may live and never die.**

We thank you, O Lord,
for having heard our prayers.
**Enable us to trust in you,
and thus to see your glory;
through Jesus Christ,
the resurrection and the life.**

We lift our prayers with our siblings in Christ around the globe, praying as Christ taught:
**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; 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.**

OFFERING

*With deep gratitude for God's love, mercy and forgiveness, we dedicate our very selves to sharing
this gift through our lives...*

+SUNG DEDICATION – We Give Thee but Thine Own #708



We Give Thee but Thine Own 708

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun-ties thus as stew-ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap-tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be;

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

+ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The psalmist assures us
that God's goodness and mercy will follow us,
even pursue us,
all the days of our life.
As God's forgiven people,
receive this goodness and mercy,
and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.
**We will live as children of the light
for Christ shines on us.**

+SUNG BENEDICTION 447 *We Are Forgiven*

FORGIVENESS

447

We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
10.8.10.8

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Lenten Discipline - Prayer @ Home: Light a Candle

We are often overwhelmed by the magnitude and amount of need and brokenness around us. At times, our words fail us – they seem inadequate or won't come at all. Sometimes, we can see that someone is struggling, but we don't know the details. It is good to remember that God does not require our language to respond to our need. Take a moment to light a candle, let it be your prayer for God to intercede.

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~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

Pastor Kate's contact info: 757-617-5374

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+ A Note from your WPC Session: The Session met via conference call Thursday March 26th. The decision was made to continue to keep the WPC facilities closed until we are no longer prohibited from gathering. We are monitoring guidance from the CDC, Va Dept of Health, and mandates from our state government. Being the church from where we are is the best way to love both ourselves and our neighbors – keep up the good work, friends!

+ Offerings: The building may be shuttered, but the Church IS at work! These are uncertain times for many in our community. WPC remains committed to our outreach and to supporting our staff for

as long as possible. If you are able to share your time, talents, and resources, please let us know. Donations and tithes can be received through the mail (or dropped into the church mail slot).

+**Holy Week** resources on their way! Pastor Kate has been gathering ideas and resources for your personal devotions and our communal gatherings during Holy Week. Check your inbox early next week. IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO PRINT AND DELIVER A COPY OF THE MATERIALS PLEASE LET EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE.

A special video worship service is being planned for Palm Sunday, a Zoom meal on Maundy Thursday, and a prayer guide for Good Friday. Our Woodstock area pastors are working together on the ecumenical Easter sunrise service.

+ **Tech Training:** Pastor Kate will host “office hours” Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 via ZOOM Video Conferencing. The platform allows for video visits through the camera on your computer or smart phone, or just audio by dialing in from any phone. An email with the link will be sent out Monday. Note that these will be open times for all to visit with the pastor and each other. If you need to speak to Pastor Kate privately, please call or email her directly.

+**Readers needed:** If you (or someone in your bubble) has the ability to do a video recording and would like to participate in reading during worship, please contact Pastor Kate.