

Virtual Service: Sunday, April 5, 2020

“Hiding in Hope, Embracing our Fears, and Experiencing Perfect Love!”



Here is the link to Sunday's Service: [FCMF Worship 4 5 20 Edited](#)

The Order of Service appears below.

1. GATHERING

- **Prelude:** “Talk about Suffering Here Below” (Steve and Cathy)

- **Call to Worship:**

Leader: Lord we gather today facing uncertainty, anxiety and fear as the world struggles with the unknowns of Covid-19. We confess that we are troubled by rapidly changing events and we worry about how the ripple effect of this crisis may impact our own day to day lives and the lives of those we love.

People: Healer of our every ill, Light of each tomorrow, Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

Leader: We pray now for those who are ill with this virus, and for the families and loved ones of those who have died. Bring healing to those who are sick, protection to those who are elderly, and comfort to those who mourn. Bless those who are in quarantine and those who are awaiting test

results. Be near to those who are lonely, grant patience to those who wait. We remember in particular the people of China, South Korea, Iran and Italy.

People: Healer of our every ill, Light of each tomorrow, Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

Leader: We pray now for doctors, nurses, lab technicians, paramedics and first responders, pharmacists, those working to develop vaccines and all those in health care who risk their own lives to care for others. Grant protection to them and to their families. May they know an extra measure of your grace.

People: Healer of our every ill, Light of each tomorrow, Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

Leader: We pray now for leaders of our government and for government officials around the world at local, regional and national levels. Give them wisdom to act for the wellbeing of all people. Grant them the courage to make difficult decisions. Empower them to be truthful and to lead with compassion.

People: Healer of our every ill, Light of each tomorrow, Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

Leader: We pray now for the poor who are suffering the most from this illness and from its economic fallout. We pray for those with no access to health care or health insurance, for those with no paid sick leave, for children who will not eat when schools are closed and for those in industries whose jobs are being most severely threatened.

People: Healer of our every ill, Light of each tomorrow, Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

Leader: We pray for all those people and places that were already facing intense suffering before the Covid-19 crisis began. We pray for the people of Syria, for those children and families at our borders, for the many around the world who struggle with intense poverty and disease. And we remember the challenges and brokenness of our beloved Mother Earth. May we not forget these people or these realities while we focus on this new challenge.

People: Healer of our every ill, Light of each tomorrow, Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

Leader: Finally, we pray Lord for the unnamed concerns of our hearts (silence). In your mercy Lord: Hear our prayers. We ask that as we offer these concerns to you we not be overcome by fear. We ask that every time we wash our hands we receive your call to open our hands, and to open our hearts to those in need. Help us to care for one another. And may we remember your promise which the Psalmist proclaims: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Therefore we will not fear." (Psalm 46:1-2)

People: Healer of our every ill, Light of each tomorrow, Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

*Refrain taken from hymn #377, "Healer of our Every Ill," Hymnal Worship Book, Herald Press, 1992, words by Marty Haugen. Prayer by Carmen Schrock-Hurst, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, 3/10/2020, permission granted to use with citations.

- **Pass the Peace of Christ**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love

- **Congregational Singing:** My life flows on in endless in song (Blue Hymnal #580)

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

- **Scripture:** John 20 : 19-23, 1 John 4:16-20

John 20:19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear... Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them..."

1 John 4:16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them... 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

- **Sermon:** "Hiding in Hope, Embracing our Fears, and Experiencing Perfect Love!"

3. RESPONDING TO GOD

- **Congregational Singing:** "The Lord is My Light" (Green #87)

- **Reflections and Responses**

- **Joys and Concerns**

- Keep our healthcare providers in your prayers. They are on the front line and often suffer from emotional stress.
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19.
- Pray for the poorest in our world who are suffering so much due to the pandemic. May they not be forgotten during this time.
- Pray for those who are afraid. You cannot always run and hide from your fears. But you can name them and ask God to help you learn to stop listening to the unhealthy fears that want to control your life.

- **Closing:** Haiku (Liz)

