**Worship Service**

**Sunday August 2, 2020**

The videos for this worship service are posted on our Church’s Youtube channel as a playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bRBVCJ2LTQ&list=PLKBiEVOXnXWwjpM32uANDGrgYhECuX6d4>

1. **Welcome and Prayer**

• *Click on the link below to hear the welcome and opening prayer*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bRBVCJ2LTQ>

Welcome to our time of online worship. The psalmist declares,

“It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night” (Psalm 92:1-2).

Let’s begin our worship time together with prayer

Gracious and merciful God,

we praise you for the many ways you come to us

and offer us abundant life.

When the sun rises and the earth blooms around us,

we are filled with grateful thanksgiving for your gift of a new day.

When evening falls and we find ourselves in deserted, lonely places,

we count on you to provide for our needs.

For the times you show us the way when we are in need of guidance,

we praise you.

For the times you provide healing when we are broken and hurting,

we rejoice.

Your grace makes the poor rich, the hungry satisfied, and the weak strong;

and so we worship you as the Source of life and love, comfort and courage.

May our worship be a beautiful offering to You, O Lord. Amen

1. **Musical Call to Worship: *As the Deer***

**•** *Click on the link below and sing along for a musical call to worship.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBppKZ0eJlQ>

1. **Praise Songs**

*• Click on the links below for the Youtube videos of this morning’s praise songs*

**• *For the Beauty of the Earth***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyOj7BR6W8g>

**• *Great is Thy Faithfulness***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErwiBz1QA4o>

1. **Song of Confession: *Soften My Heart, Lord***

• *Click the link below to hear this song of confession. Let this be your prayer to God.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYFfVKjkzmA>

1. **Old Testament Lesson: Micah 6:6-8**

With what shall I come before the Lord
    and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
    with calves a year old?
**7**Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
    with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
    the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
**8**He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
    And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
    and to walk humbly with your God.

1. **Prayers of the People**

• *Click on the link below to hear the morning prayer.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tp_HgsYpvqs>

O God, we give you thanks for your goodness in all the times of our lives. Even in the uncertainties of this present moment, we are grateful for the strength and courage we find, knowing you are right beside us. Give us the wisdom and patience we need to face a future filled with many questions and challenges.

Aware of our own needs today, we are reminded by Christ’s compassion that so many others nearby and much further away experience even greater struggles. And so we lift up our prayers for the world, seeking your guidance so that we may do our part to bring comfort, healing and hope.

We pray for all who are sick or in pain, that they may have the medical assistance they need and the gift of healing in body, mind, and spirit.

We pray for those who are grieving, that they may know the comfort of your presence and find hope in your promises.

Especially we remember those whose lives have been changed by COVID-19 and ask that you will support their recovery and heal relationships affected by this disease.

We pray for those who are hungry or homeless, and all those experiencing the stress of poverty and economic uncertainty. Give those with more resources the confidence to share generously.

We pray for leaders in our communities and in our nation, as they seek ways to recover well-being in the face of the global pandemic. Give them wisdom and courage to make decisions for the well-being of the most vulnerable.

We pray for those who seek to show hospitality to others in their homes, in their workplaces, in the church and the community, that their generosity will inspire others to open their hearts so that your goodness at work in the world will be multiplied.

We pray for prisoners and for those who work in prisons, especially for chaplains and volunteers who bring your word of love and grace to the incarcerated. After long weeks and months deprived of familiar contact, help us all understand the stress of being imprisoned. May those who represent the face of Christ in these environments find strength and wisdom in your companionship and offer ministry of reconciliation and renewal that you desire for everyone.

In this time of silence, we offer our personal prayers to You.

Lord Jesus Christ, you walk with us through all the days of challenge and celebration. Be our Bread for the journey of life, to sustain us and encourage us, whatever the week ahead holds for us. Through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen

1. **Reflection Hymn:** ***We are One in the Spirit***

• *Listen to this reflective song before we listen to the New Testament lesson. Click the link below for the Youtube video, which has the words and the music.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGD_BFSf90c>

1. **New Testament Lesson: Acts 6:8-8:3**

• *Click on the link to watch a dramatized reading of this passage*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osY1WxCWnks>

1. **Message: Stephen’s History Lesson**

• *Click on the link to hear the sermon. A copy of the sermon is also attached to this email.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4xhMyjfdYU>

*Prayer after the Sermon*

God, source of light and wisdom, soften our hearts and lower our defenses. Give us a retentive and honest memory, a willingness to learn about difficult and new things, and an ability to discern your voice calling us to follow you.

Help us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, O God. Amen.

**10) Musical Response: *For the Healing of the Nations***

*• Click on the link below for the video.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYFwJitauAM>

**11)** **Blessing**

**•** *Click the link below to hear the words of blessing.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7op51VRS7HE>

Empower us by your Spirit

to love whole-heartedly,

to give and receive forgiveness fully,

to pray daily,

to serve cheerfully,

to live simply,

and to entrust our lives to You, O God.

Amen.