



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church

Head, Heart, and Hands in the Service of Christ

Sunday, March 22, 2020 Worship God!

Welcome to this new way of worshiping God in our own homes! Forest Lake Presbyterian Church invites you to take some time today to worship God! Below you will see a worship guide that includes several links and ideas for you to use in your own life of faith.

Our theme for Lent is, "Walking In The Way of Jesus!"

Join us as we walk together in this new way.

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 127)

If your household includes several people who read, try assigning parts. If you are a household of one, then read it aloud, with strength and passion, as if God is listening!

If God doesn't build the house,

The workers lay the foundation in vain.

If God doesn't guard the city,

There is no point in the watchmen staying awake.

If God doesn't secure our futures and bless our lives,

There is no point in seeking to secure ourselves. We want to worship the only source of life, security and blessing. Let us praise God!

Opening Prayer - PC(USA) Book of Common Worship – p. 260

(ask someone to read if you have multiple readers in your household)

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world

Through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.

Help us to hear your word and obey it,

That we may become instruments of your saving love;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever. Amen.

Meditation

Walking in the Way of Jesus Now!

<https://youtu.be/XDRhQGPZunw>

Rev. Ellen Fowler Skidmore

Scripture Psalm 23 Common English Bible ; C. © 2011

The LORD is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

**He lets me rest in grassy meadows; he leads me to restful waters;
he keeps me alive.**

He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name.

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me.

Your rod and your staff—they protect me.

You set a table for me right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over!

**Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life,
and I will live in the LORD's house as long as I live.**

If you have other Bibles in your house, you could read this Psalm from different translations. This song was originally written in Hebrew and so is translated in various ways. Do any of the other translations help you think about the meaning any differently? Do they raise questions? Email them to ellenskidmore@flpc.org to start a conversation about what it means!

Click here to hear Ms. Andrea read Psalm 23 from a Children's Bible

<https://youtu.be/2WDbHNud9DQ>

Prayers for the World

If you are a household of one, you might try writing your prayers for the world. Feel free to use the prompts below or write your own. If you have others in your household, assign some reading parts and take turns saying prayers for the groups mentioned below. Once you read a group, feel free to add more to that prayer or to name some by name in each category.

O Shepherd God, we know that you have provided for us our whole life long. But today we are worried, and so we come to you in prayer. We do thank you for the gift of clean water and a warm bed and food to eat. We also thank you for those who love us and for those who are continuing to work so that we can live. So, hear our prayers as we pray

For the workers in grocery and drug stores, water treatment plants, garbage and recycling collectors, and TV and Radio station workers, hear us as we pray for them.

Silent or spoken prayers

For the policemen and policewomen, the firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, the nurses, doctors and hospital staff who might be afraid, tired and worried today, hear us as we pray.

Silent or spoken prayers

For the leaders of our city, our state, our nation and the leaders of the other world's nations who are trying hard to keep us safe, hear us as we pray.

Silent or spoken prayers

For all the students who are out of school and who have to learn in ways that are not always easy or fun, and for the teachers, principals and all of the school workers and staff who are worried about their students and their jobs, hear us as we pray.

Silent or spoken prayers

For all those who are sick right now, we pray. For those who have this virus, and those who are sick with other things, hear us as we pray.

Silent or spoken prayers

O God of joy and sadness, you are God over life and death, and we are grateful that you love us and hear our prayers. Now, hear us as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray:

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.

Charge and Benediction –

Questions 1 & 2; Belonging to God: A First Catechism (PCUSA)

Who are you?

I am a child of God!

What does it mean to be a child of God?

That I belong to God who loves me!

Walking In the Way of Jesus – How Now?!

Your Church Staff has thought of some good ways that might be helpful as you try to claim God's presence and peace in these new and uncertain times. Try one or several of these to help you walk in the way of Jesus this week:

- The American Red Cross is in need of blood donors
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/local-homepage/location/columbia-american-red-cross-1.html>
- Food Pantries and Harvest Hope are in need of donations of all sorts
- Think about where you find beauty. Spend some time appreciating the “grassy meadows and restful waters” that God has given us.
Take a walk and name out loud the beauty you see.
- Call, Facetime or Skype an older adult or person you know is afraid to visit, to read this Psalm to them, or just to visit!