

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, March 22, 2020

Order of Worship – Online Service

Prelude – Fairest Lord Jesus

Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: Lent is a coming home,

People: Home from weary years,

Leader: Home to calm our fears,

People: Home to dry our tears.

Leader: Lent is a coming home,

People: Home to remember our name,

Leader: Home to a warm embrace,

People: Home to a hopeful place,

Leader: Home to God's own heart,

All: Home to a renewal of love, peace, and hope.

Opening Prayer

God of shepherds and sheep, Moses and me, you speak to us through unconsumed burning bushes and unassuming, ordinary encounters. You go to extraordinary lengths to communicate to us, assure us of your presence, enlist us in your service. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear. Show us when to speak up and when to be quiet. Tell us when to take off our shoes and when to put on your whole armor. May all we do today reflect our awareness of your presence. Amen.

Opening Hymn 475 – *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* (Nettleton)

Verse 1

Come Thou fount of every blessing

Tune my heart to sing Thy grace

Streams of mercy never ceasing

Call for songs of loudest praise

Teach me some melodious sonnet

Sung by flaming tongues above

Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it

Mount of Thy redeeming love

Verse 2

Here I raise mine Ebenezer

Hither by Thy help I'm come

And I hope by Thy good pleasure

Safely to arrive at home

Jesus sought me when a stranger

Wandering from the fold of God

He to rescue me from danger

Interposed His precious blood

Verse 3

**O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above**

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Prayer of Confession

Sandi Gray

All: God of day and God of darkness, all our time belongs to you. Yet how often we fail to notice your nearness, feel your presence, trust your guidance. We desire only good times, happy moments, and miss your work in the shadows. We avoid conflict with others and fear looking deep within ourselves. Sometimes it feels we have no place left to run, no place left to hide, especially in these difficult times.

Loving God, hold us close during these Lenten days so we can look at ourselves, our relationships, our openness to you. In brightness or darkness, let us always know your healing, freeing, guiding presence. Amen.

Congregational Response – *Kyrie*

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Sandi Gray

Leader: This is the good news of God's grace: Though we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though we were enemies of God, God loved us. Once we were lost and dead -- now Christ has become our life and salvation. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Exodus 3:1-12

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Take off your Shoes!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Song of Response – **“Rest”** by Maher & Cockrell

Verse 1

**Oh my Lord
You are my Shepherd and I shall not want
Oh my Lord
Beside still waters You repair my heart
I trust in You oh I trust in You**

Chorus

**Even though I walk
through the valley of death
You restore my soul and You give me rest
Oh the memories of Your faithfulness
You restore my soul and You give me rest
You restore my soul and You give me rest
You give me rest**

Verse 2

**Oh my Lord
You've prepared a table for You and me
Oh my Lord
In the middle of a fire with my enemies
I trust in You oh I trust in You**

Chorus

Bridge

**I will fear no evil for You're here with me
Your goodness and Your love
They will never leave
Just a closer walk with Thee
just a closer walk
Just a closer walk with Thee
just a closer walk**

Chorus

Tag

You give me rest 2x

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Pastoral Prayer & 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.

Concluding Song – *“Spirit of the Living God”* by Sooter & Fieldes

Verse 1

**Spirit of the living God
Spirit of the living God
We only want to hear Your voice
We're hanging on every word**

**Spirit of the living God
Spirit of the living God
We want to know You more and more
We're hanging on every word**

Repeat Verse 1

Chorus

**'Cause when You speak
and when You move
When You do
what only You can do
It changes us
It changes what we see
and what we seek**

When You come in the room
When You do what only You can do
It changes us
It changes what we see and what we seek
You're changing everything

Verse 2

Spirit of the living God
Spirit of the living God
We're leaning in to all You are
Everything else can wait

Spirit of the living God
Spirit of the living God
Come now and breathe upon our hearts
Come now and have Your way

Chorus

Bridge 1

When You move You move all our fears
When You move You move us to tears
When You move You move all our fears
When You move You move us to tears

Bridge 2

When You fall we fall on our knees
When You fall we fall at Your feet
And when You fall we fall on our knees
And when You fall we fall at Your feet Yeah!

Chorus

Ending

Spirit of the living God
Spirit of the living God
We only want to hear Your voice
We're hanging on every word

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Charge and Blessing

Leader: In the coming week what does God call us to do?

People: **We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
and demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.**

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!