

# Saint Mark Virtual Worship

## Sunday, March 22, 2020

Welcome to online worship. A few things to help you prepare for worship wherever you are.

If you're following along with others, ask people to take turns reading the prayer or scripture out loud. If you're on your own, try reading out loud even though you're the only one listening. Sometimes reading out loud can help us focus even more.

If you are accessing this on your computer, put your phone on silent and put it away somewhere you can't see it. Make sure your email is closed and you won't get any alerts from anywhere. If you're on your phone, maybe put it on do not disturb so you won't get calls or texts while you're reading, listening and praying.

Now, once you've done that, make sure you're in a comfortable place. Put your feet on the ground. Let your shoulders loosen up. Close your eyes. Take five deep breaths. As you breathe in, breathe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us all life. As you breathe out, breathe out the fear, anxiety, worry, everything that separates us from God.

### Let us worship God.

#### **Opening prayer**

Holy God, why is it that we look but do not see?

Bring us again and again into your light

Until your ways become visible to us,

And bear fruit in us.

Touch us so that we are utterly changed,

A "before" and "after,"

A "now" and "then";

That we may also say,

"One thing I do know,

that though I was blind, now I see."

Lord we believe; help our unbelief.

In Christ's light we pray. **Amen.**<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Prayer from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A Volume 1*, edited by Kimberley Bracken Long.

**Hymn**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less  
Jeff Doenges, Director of Music

Link for the hymn:

<https://youtu.be/gDACT6xIOyk>

**First Reading:**

Psalm 23. (NRSV)

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

He restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

For you are with me;

Your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

My whole life long.

**Second Reading**

Romans 5:1-5. (on video)

**Sermon by Pastor Scott Wilson**

Link to listen and watch:

<https://youtu.be/5xQd7wQHsto>

**Hymn**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness  
Chris Rice

<https://youtu.be/0k1WhFtVp0o>

## **Prayer of Intercession:**

God our faithful shepherd,  
We depend on you for everything we need:  
For daily food, for guidance and protection,  
For healing in injury, and comfort in sorrow.  
You respond in abundant provision.  
Thank you for your tender care of us.  
Thank you for soothing the wounds of this life.  
Thank you that in the presence of enemies, be they disease, pandemic, or even the last enemy, death,  
You are with us, as Shepherd, Host, Home.  
Knowing your faithfulness in our lives, we bring before you the lives of others,  
The cares of this world,  
Entrusting all things to your goodness and mercy.  
Bring healing to those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit.  
Bring release to those who are held captive by old hurts.  
Bring freedom to those who are unjustly accused,  
Relief to those burdened by debt,  
Comfort to all who suffer.

We pray for people living precariously in their new normal. Protect, we pray, health care workers, doctors, nurses, researchers, grocery store workers, pharmacists, and any who are risking their health to help ensure ours. By the power of Christ help us put aside our own needs for the needs of our neighbors who are vulnerable and susceptible to illness.

Loving God help us to see the world from your perspective and in your power. We know you have promised us your presence.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus the risen and reigning Christ. *Amen.*

## **Benediction**

Live in Christ's light,  
Even in the darkest valley.  
Trust that he is able to open your eyes enabling you to walk by faith  
In his name. Amen. <sup>2</sup>

The peace of Christ be with you.

---

<sup>2</sup> Benediction from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A Volume 1*, edited by Kimberley Bracken Long.

## **Announcements**

- The Monday night Bible study will take place via Zoom video conference. Look for an email on Monday with a link and more information. No Zoom account is needed!
- The Mission Ministry is working on a resource of ways we can support those in our county who will be in particular need as schools and other county resources close. Look out for that via email.
- If you do not want to go outside but need groceries, prescriptions, or other errands run, **please let one of the Pastors know** and we will connect you with someone. We have had members of the church volunteer to help with this!
- The congregational Lent Devotional is a great way to stay connected and spiritually grounded during this time.
- Pastors Scott and Shelby and our Office Administrator Christina will be working remotely for a time, based on the recommendations of National Capital Presbytery. We will still be reachable!

Please contact us if you need us.

Christina Stefanelli

[office@saintmarkpresby.org](mailto:office@saintmarkpresby.org)

office phone which will reach her cell: (301) 530-8142

Pastor Scott

[scott@saintmarkpresby.org](mailto:scott@saintmarkpresby.org)

cell: (941) 350-4375

Pastor Shelby

[associate@saintmarkpresby.org](mailto:associate@saintmarkpresby.org)

cell: (904) 625-7805