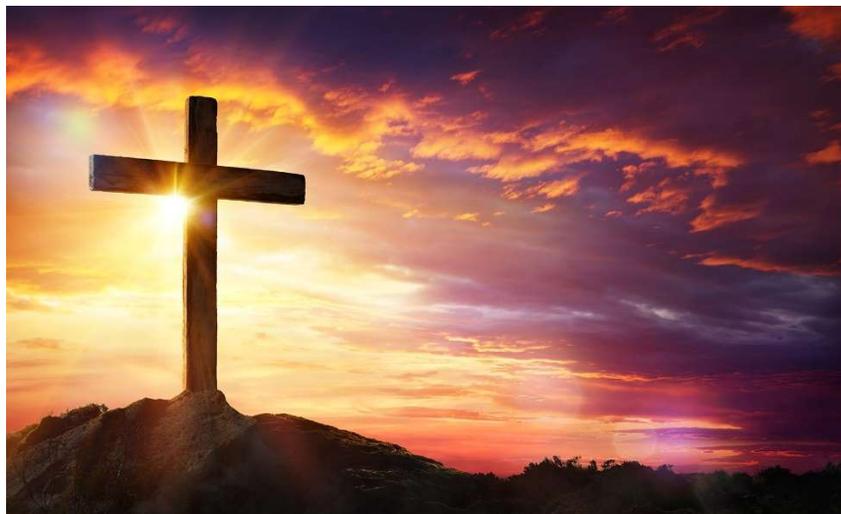


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WILLMAR, MN
JUNE 21, 2020**



Prelude

Preparing Our Hearts

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

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Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

Refrain:

I sing because I’m happy; I sing because I’m free,
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled,” his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:

his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. [Refrain]
Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him; from care he sets me free:
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. [Refrain]

Welcome to Worship

Friends, we are doing worship in a new way during this season. The sanctuary is empty, but we are still the church. The church has always been the people, not the building in which we gather. Even if we cannot be together in this place, we are together in worship today by the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and by the digital signal that helps us connect to one another.

Wherever you are, and whether you are watching it live or as a recording, this is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Prayer

O God, light of the hearts that know you,
life of the souls that love you,
strength of the thoughts that seek you:
to turn from you is to fall,
to turn to you is to rise,
and to abide in you is to stand fast forever.
Although we are unworthy to approach you,
or to ask anything of you,
grant us your grace and blessing
for the sake of Jesus Christ our redeemer.
Amen.

Let us offer to God our silent confessions.

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:
The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

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O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me to bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 21:8-21

⁸The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.^[a] ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” ¹¹The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” ¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. ¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷And God heard the

voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Romans 6:5-11

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Message

"It's Complicated and Still It is Not"

Rev. Dr. SanDawna Ashley

Executive Presbyter

Minnesota Valleys Presbytery

Hymn of Affirmation

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

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Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers toils and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Prayers of Intercession

For all the blessings of this life,
we give thanks to You, Creator God.
For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers,
who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within.
That Your love, your Word, like a seed,
may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

For the leaders of various nations and cities,
that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits,
with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace.
May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

For those who serve in harms way,
those who live in dangerous places,
those who live in areas of war and strife,
those who live in fear,
those who worry about employment, bills, food,
and struggle just to find dignity in life.
May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

For those who suffer from any illness or dis-ease—
of mind, body, or spirit.
Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health—
health as only you, O God, can bring.
May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

For those who are dying, and for those who have died.

Send forth your comforting love.
Give solace to those who mourn.
Console those who grieve.
May your grace surround us
like a mantle upon our heads,
a shawl upon our shoulders,
a hand, to hold our hand.

Amen

And now, with the confidence of the children of God,
we pray the prayer which Jesus taught us:

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Friends, we cannot pass an offering plate online. I want to thank you for continuing to give generously, sending your offerings to the church. Your gifts allow us to continue to be the church. So, I would like to take this moment to say thank you, and to bless the offerings you have made this week: your financial gifts; and your lives offered to God's service. Let us pray...

Offering Prayer

Holy God, who gives life, nourishment, and strength to all creation,
we thank you:
for the community of faith you have built,
for your servants who have held fast to you through centuries,
for the teachings and the witness of our ancestors,
for the gospel's welcome to all in need,
for the healing that comes from your watchfulness.
Bless these gifts that all may be nurtured in truth.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me”

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Take up your cross and follow me, lift up the yoke of your salvation,
put on the armor of the Word, and walk in the Truth and Light.

What would it profit you to gain the world for a day?
If you would have your life, first you must give it away.

Take up your cross and follow me, lift up the yoke of your salvation,
put on the armor of the Word, and walk in the Truth and Light.

What would it profit you to gain the world for a day?
If you would have your life, first you must give it away.

Take up your cross and follow me, lift up the yoke of your salvation,
put on the armor of the Word, and walk in the Truth and Light,
and walk in the Truth and Light.

Charge and Benediction

Go with the God of Hagar and Sarah;
live in the Spirit into whom you are baptized.
Consider yourself dead to sin
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The God of all mercy,
who answers the cries of the helpless
and raises you from death,
keep you safe in Christ Jesus,
now and forever.