

Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
Sunday, August 9, 2020



Choral Call to Worship: *As I Went Down to the River to Pray*

***Sing along with Alison Krauss:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htSXYs8sQM>

Composer: unknown

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way!**

**O sisters let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sisters let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe & crown?
Good Lord show me the way**

**O brothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on brothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way**

**O fathers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O fathers let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown?
Good Lord show me the way**

**O mothers let's go down
Come on down, don't you wanna go down?
Come on mothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way**

And who shall wear the starry crown?

Good Lord show me the way

O sinners, let's go down

Let's go down, come on down

O sinners, let's go down

Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray

Studying about that good ol' way

And who shall wear the robe and crown?

Good Lord show me the way

***Call to Worship:**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

the conviction of things not seen.

We come convinced of many things but trusting very few.

God of limitless surprises meets us here in this place

as we touch that which we cannot see,

that which we have not dared to hope.

Let us worship the Triune God- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***Hymn of Praise: *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*, verses 1, 2, 3, 5**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: Attributed to John Hatton, 1719

Sing along with Grace Community Church - Sun Valley, California:

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=jnazafzv&p=music+videos+of+Jesus+shall+reign+where%27er+the+sun#id=69&vid=6d0fa91761173293a823b569f4214077&action=view>

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;

his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;

His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,

and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;

Angels descend with song again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!

Call to Confession:

As God's beloved children, we are invited to come to our God with the fullness of our lives, to admit our love and our hate, to admit our faith and our fear. Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession together.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

God of truth, we know we fall far short of your expectations for us – sometimes we fail even our own self-expectations. We wander away from you in our daily routines; we ignore your commands and we turn our backs on those who need us. Forgive our short-sighted vision, our constant focus on ourselves, and our discounting of future generations in our decision-making. Help us to deepen our connections with you through prayer, study, gratitude, and service. Help us deepen our connections with others through words and actions that reflect your love and generosity (moment of silent confession). We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all grace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Like our ancestors in the faith, we can dare to trust in the promises of God, even without any visible proof staring us in the face. This is the good news of God's love.

We will trust in those things that last, in the grace which counts, and in the mercy no one can take away from us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy: *Give Thanks*

Text and Music: Henry Smith, 1978

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=jnazafzv&p=music+video+to+give+thanks+with+a+grateful+heart#i d=45&vid=8a992eb8c4a4c220b6fd1a6e7b9074ba&action=view>



**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"**

Give thanks, give thanks.

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"**

Give thanks, give thanks.

First Lesson: Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven

and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Special Music: *Whispering Hope* sung by Melvin Wilhite

***Sung by the JMTC Chennai, India Virtual Choir Worldwide:**

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=jnazafzv&p=music+video+for+Whispering+Hope#id=46&vid=56ab7a5d410c15f58270354e6970e762&action=view>

Second Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.



Sermon: “Good Ancestors”

Rev. Kathy Campbell

***Affirmation of Faith from the Christian community of South Africa:**

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

**We believe that God is at work in our world
turning hopeless and evil situations into good.**

**We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end
and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever.**

**One day all tears will be wiped away;
the lamb will lie down with the lion,
and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.**

**True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired,
they are assured and guaranteed in Christ.**

This is our faith. This is our hope.

Hymn of Meditation: *Together We Serve

Text: Dan Damon; Music: SAN ANSELMO

Sing along with Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA:

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=jnazafzv&p=music+video+of+together+we+serve#id=2&vid=e959e9eafbc3acbf2ac81b6482c5ebe&action=view>

**Together we serve, united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.**

**We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
extending your love to the last and the least.**

**We seek to become a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

**We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**

**Together, by grace, we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.**



Prayers of the People:

Gracious and loving God,
Creator of all things good and bountiful,
as we move into the unknown experiences of this new week,
be our steady companion and guide,
and help us rejoice and be glad,
for we know it is a privilege to be alive
and to have the opportunity
to live into being the people you call us to be.

God of hope and healing, you promise that in the midst of suffering,
you will always be present.

We pray that all who suffer in any way,
whether through illness, injury, poverty, hunger,
homelessness, addiction, violence, or grief,
be especially aware of your sustaining presence,
and encouraged by your love to persevere.

You urge us always to remember the prisoners, God,
so we lift up to you all who are incarcerated,
especially those in solitary confinement,
and pray that they be treated with fairness and compassion,
and find hope and redemption in their lives.

So many places in our country and throughout the world
continue to struggle with the coronavirus pandemic.
We pray for healing for those who are ill,
comfort for those who mourn, and wisdom for those who lead.
We ask for your special presence with all medical personnel
and essential workers who are tired,
but still working so hard to save lives.
Undergird them and give them strength for this journey.

Help us, God, as a country, to heal divisions, build trust,
listen and learn from each other,
that we may all work together for the common good.

In facing conflicts in our own lives, God,
we pray that you remove bitterness or resentment from our hearts,
and keep us from ever returning evil for evil.
Help us instead to overcome evil with love.

And when the way before us seems closed,
and we do not know what our next step should be,
lighten our darkness, Lord: make the path plain before us,
and let us walk beside you with trust and confidence and joy.

We ask all this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying:
*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.*

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

All it takes is one person, then another, than more, who hear God's hopes, trust God's promises, and have the faith to merge our gifts together, so they can be used to bring hope, healing, grace, and peace to our communities, to our sisters and brothers. Let us receive this morning's offering trusting that God will multiply them for those who are spiritually and physically in need.

***Traditional Doxology:**

Sing along with the Evangelical Church Trinity United Methodist Church, Wilmette, IL

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=jnazafzv&p=music+video+of+traditional+doxology#id=9&vid=a139f07f951f831094980fe8aaf7977d&action=view>

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

Lord, we thank for Your faithfulness. Thank you that we can always trust in you. You are an abundant God and out of your great mercy you have given us life now and forever. We give you this offering today. With it we worship you and give our whole selves to you. Please take it and use it for your kingdom and your glory. Extend and multiple its reach and influence, we pray. May it be a great blessing to many. We ask all this in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Text: Jaroslav Jan Vajda; Music: Traditional Welsh Tune

Sing along with First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE:

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=jnazafzv&p=music+video+of+go+my+children+with+my+blessing#id=2&vid=dca3433cc682f7b2a3211eceb90c626c&action=click>

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, never alone.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.



Benediction:

"What kind of ancestor will you be?"

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.—**Numbers 6:24–26**

Postlude: *Amazing Grace* sung by Celtic Thunder

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=jnazafzv&p=music+video+of+celtic+thunder+singing+amazing+grace#id=1&vid=93c82e1afb5612d7197f27efae11d656&action=click>