

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Words of Preparation

The trumpeters and singers joined together to praise and thank the LORD with one voice. They lifted up their voices, accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD:

“For He is good;
His loving devotion endures forever.”

Then the temple, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud so that the priests could not stand there to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God. II
Chronicles 5:13

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Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s temple dwells in you?

3:16

II Corinthians

The Welcome

Dr. Miller, Sarah Savage, Jaclyn Metcalf

The Call to Worship

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble!

God is a mighty fortress,
A bulwark never failing!

Therefore, we will not fear –though the earth should change,

Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

Though its waters roar and foam,

Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

One thing is for sure: the Lord of Hosts is with us

–the God of Jacob is our refuge! Psalm 46

***The Hymn** A Mighty Fortress is Our God

EIN FESTE BURG

***The Prayer of Adoration**

***The First Reading** Psalm 131

The Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that these days have unsettled us; the very word “coronavirus”, unknown a few months ago, now seems to threaten us at every turn, dominating headlines and causing anxiety. More than a few of us are unnerved, uncertain, on edge, and unwell in many respects. Fear lurks and sometimes takes control. Lord Jesus Christ, you know our weakness and our

misgivings. Like the disciples who cry out in fear when the waves threaten their lives, we, too, can become people of little faith. In your mercy, come and meet us in our need today. Anchor us in the good news that no matter what comes our way, "You will hold us fast." Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.....(*silence*)

He Will Hold Me Fast

Eric Baird, soloist

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; when the tempter would prevail He will hold me fast; I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path, for my love is often cold --He must hold me fast!

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast, for my Savior loves me so! He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight; Christ will hold me fast! Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be lost, His promises shall last. Bought by Him at such a cost He will hold me fast. *Refrain.*

For my life He bled and died Christ will hold me fast; justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast. Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last!

The Invitation to Receive God's Gift

Friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: in Jesus Christ there is

forgiveness ---for all who call upon Him! **Alleluia! Amen!**

The Affirmation of Faith (The Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1)

What is your only comfort in life and death?

That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil.

He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.

Therefore, by his Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

The Time with the Young Disciples

Courtaney Miller

The Anthem

And Can It Be?

Dan Forrest

The First Church Chancel Choir, pre-recorded from last year

an And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be? And can it be that I should gain interest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me who Him to death pursued?

Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace; emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race; 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me. *Refrain.*

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus and all in Him is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own. Amazing love, how can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me? Amazing love! *Charles Wesley*

The Prayer for Illumination

The Second Reading Daniel 12:2-3, John 11:17-27, 38-44

The Sermon Jesus and the Resurrection of Lazarus
McCoy,
Physics Department

Professor Jerry
University of Tulsa,

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." John 11:25-26

The Response

Fullness of Grace In Human Frailty
Ariel Rodriguez, soloist

Getty and Townend

Fullness of grace in man's human frailty; this is the wonder of Jesus. Laying aside His power and glory humbly He entered our world. Chose the path of meanest worth; scandal of a virgin birth. Born in a stable cold and rejected; here lies the hope of the world. Fullness of grace the love of the Father, shown in the face of Jesus. Stooping to bear the weight of humanity; walking the Calvary road. Christ, the Holy innocent took our sin and punishment. Fullness of God, despised and rejected; crushed for the sins of the world. Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for; promise of God in Jesus. Through His obedience we are forgiven, opening the floodgates of Heaven. All our hopes and dreams we bring gladly as an offering. Fullness of life and joy unspeakable: God's gift in love to the world.

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

***The Hymn**

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us, to keep us in his grace, and guide us when
perplexed, and free us from all ills of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth
adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

***The Benediction**

The Postlude Voluntary on the tune EIN FESTE BURG

Friedrich Marpurg

**Please stand*

Message from the Pastor:
JD Miller

It's in the very the DNA of the Christian community to gather for worship -at least once a week, usually Sunday mornings. To be absent from worship --to dismiss it as unnecessary (as some do)-- is to misunderstand the mysterious dynamic of blessing and nourishment that Jesus, the Lord of the Church, promises those who gather.

Worship is for our good. It provides an infusion of spiritual strength and blessing, straight from the Lord himself. The writer to the Hebrews puts it this way: "Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together." (Hebrews 11:25)

So the idea of closing the doors of the Church seems antithetical to everything we hold true about Christ's community. Christians yearn to draw close, to congregate, to embrace, to hold hands in prayer, to share the bread and the cup at the Lord's table ---and the list goes on.

We strain against the very notion of "Social Distancing".

But the historic Church would remind us that "Social Distancing" is often the best we can do against certain enemies. German Christians were forced to go underground during the worst days of the Nazi regime. The underground Chinese church is vast and extensive ---for similar reasons. These enemies were visible.

The caronavirus is an unseen enemy. It can spread quickly from person to person, and presents many hazards to the health of those who can least afford to become ill. So we have decided to close our doors (not our hearts!) for a season of time.

But there is no cause for fear. Vigilance, yes. Intentional planning, yes. Considering how to make the best of this time, yes. But fear, no.

About this the Scriptures are quite clear:

The Lord is near. Be anxious in nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, make your requests known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:5-7

Meanwhile, we're able to stay connected in various and sundry ways.

**Worship:
(All "virtual gatherings")**

These will be recorded and can be seen after the live viewing.

Sundays:

9.30 Contemporary Service: Livestream online and Facebook

11:00 Sanctuary services and TIF, Livestream and Facebook

Wednesday Night:

7:00p.m. Sanctuary: Livestream and Facebook

A Daily Pastoral Message: *The 10:10*

Every day, at 10:10 a.m., Monday through Saturday, Dr. Miller and colleagues offer a pastoral message. Prayers, Scripture, and music lead the way.

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Pastoral Needs and Requests:

We're seeking to respond to needs as quickly and effectively as possible.

Please consider the following:

- 1) Let us know if *you need* help.
- 2) Let us know if *you can* help.

If you (or a friend) have a pastoral need:
please call 918-301-1015. You'll receive a call back. If

you can help, please let us know:

Current Needs:

Meals on Wheels: Drivers

Helping Hand: Men and Women to Staff the Offices
9:00- Noon, one or two days a week.

Grocery Runners: to the infirmed

Telecare phone ministry: calling on members and friends

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Alao Aruna, Jane Azlin, Bob Balch, Billy Boyd, Kitty Brumbaugh, Nancy Burns, Roy Cail, Karen Cluck, Sandra Cousins, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Fred Droege, Allan Edwards, Vivienne Edwards, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Luke Fravel, Eugene Gilbert, Loise Gitau, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Nathan Homan, Meg Hubler, Ruthie Huffman, Harvey Hunt, Larry Don Johnson, Maggie Jones, Charla Kitch, Joyce Kunkel, John Lesch, Amy Lesh, Dottie MacMillan, Laurence Mansur, Margaret Martinson, Bob Matthews, Jo Matthews, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, Gabriella Mungai, Pamela Neumann, David Osterholt, Patti Parker, Penny Steinkuehler-Perkins, David Perkins, Don Perry, Robert Perryman, Sue Phelps, Rosemary Priest, Katherine Reid, Stephen Riungu, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Jacob Rodehaver, Mary Ruddle, Amy Russell, Ellen Ryan, Susan Shults, Helen Marie Sisler, Cissy Ssetimba, Ann D. Taylor, Barbara Thomas, Bill Thompson, Joe Wanenmacher, Sandi Willhite, and Jack Williams.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Ralph Kitch, a member since 2000, on died March 15; and Beverly Jacobs, a member since 2007, died on March 18.

Digital services and messages:

We will also be broadcasting messages, stories and more through our social media outlets including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Social media:

Facebook [@FirstChurchTulsa](#)

Twitter [@1stChurchTulsa](#)

Instagram [@FirstChurchTulsa](#)

We will be maintaining a skeleton crew at the Church to answer the phone and maintain the building. During this time, we will perform deep cleaning and sanitization of all of the surfaces to prepare the building when it is time to reopen.

In the meantime, should you need pastoral care, please call the Church office at 918-584-4701.

Please know that if you miss Sunday worship, you can still share the message by watching services on Cox Cable Channel 3 at 11 a.m. (live), 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.; on Facebook (live) [@FirstChurchTulsa](#) and online at www.Livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa.