

First Presbyterian Church - Rouses Point NY
Virtual Worship-June 14 2020
Order of Service

Greeting

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, and all desires and secrets known, prepare us to worship you in spirit and in truth. Cleanse and inspire us through your Spirit this day, so we may more perfectly love you and magnify your name. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord's unfailing love never ceases. Come let us worship God who loves us and welcomes us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy One, we call to you who are eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. We confess that there are times, when we fail to recognize you in our daily lives. Forgive us for the ways we have sinned against you in thought, word, and action, and for our failure to speak and act on your behalf. Help us to truly love you and show love to others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Readings and Proclaiming God's Word

Old Testament: Psalm 116:1-19

New Testament: Romans 5:1-8

Sermon "We Love You God"

*Affirmation of faith: Apostle's Creed

Prayers of the People and

Lord's Prayer

*Benediction

Special Prayer Following Worship: Gracious God, we give you thanks for your steadfast love for us. We proclaim our love for you. Indeed we love you Lord. It is with our confidence in the love we have received and we give back to you that we lift up our intercessions.

We pray for the end of the school year, students, teachers, staff, and families. We pray for those taking tests, that your Spirit will be with them to give the peace and the power to communicate what they know.

We lift up the crisis in our nation and the world. We pray we might become instruments of your peace. We give thanks that many places are reopening more and more, and pray those who are suffering economically will begin to recover. But we also pray that virus will not be given new life, or continue its infestation here and around the world.

We pray for those places of worship which are reopening. We pray for the churches in our area that have reopened their buildings for worship this weekend and will in the next few weeks. Put your arms of protection about worship leaders and those who attend.

We pray for your continued guidance in the session's decision to not reopen our building most likely for another two months, in order to protect those among us who are most vulnerable. We ask your comfort and patience upon those for whom this news is disappointing, or causes sadness. May your Spirit bind us together even though we are separated. We pray you will make you will known to us in all things and give us the courage to hear and obey.

Give comfort to those who mourn the loss of a loved one, a job, their business, or their ability to fellowship and enjoy the presence of others face to face. In the precious name of Jesus our Savior we call upon you, Lord and pray as Jesus taught us. Our Father....Amen

SERMON SUMMARY- PSALM 116 & ROMANS 5:1-8

IN THE MIDST OF WHAT IS FOR MANY, THE OVERWHELMING PROBLEMS OCCURRING IN OUR NATION AND AROUND THE WORLD, THE BIBLE REMINDS TO TRUST IN GOD.

THIS TRUST INCLUDES SEEKING GOD'S GUIDANCE AND ACTING WISELY. IT IMPLIES CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD FOR HELP AND DELIVERANCE.

AND IT INVOLVES BEING PATIENT AND WAITING FOR THE LORD TO ACT, REMINDING OURSELVES GOD IS HERE AND WILL NOT FORSAKE US.

BUT ONE OTHER THING THAT IS NOT MENTIONED OFTEN ENOUGH IS THE FOCUS OF AN OLD COUNTRY SONG REWRITTEN BY VAN MORRISON. HIS VERSION OF THIS SONG WAS MADE FAMOUS BY ROD STEWART.

THE FIRST VERSE GOES LIKE THIS: "HAVE I TOLD YOU LATELY THAT I LOVE YOU? HAVE I TOLD YOU THERE'S NO ONE ELSE ABOVE YOU? YOU FILL MY HEART WITH GLADNESS, TAKE AWAY ALL MY SADNESS, EASE MY TROUBLES—THAT'S WHAT YOU DO."

THESE WORDS REMIND US OF THE KIND OF THING WE SHOULD ASK OURSELVES CONCERNING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD, WHICH IS A QUESTION LIKE: WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE TOLD GOD WE LOVE HIM?

SAYING "I LOVE YOU" DIRECTLY TO SOMEONE IS IMPORTANT AT TIMES, RATHER THAN DECIDING SINCE HE OR SHE KNOWS HOW YOU FEEL THERE IS NO NEED TO SAY IT.

SO IT IS VALUABLE TO ACTUALLY SAY TO GOD- "I LOVE YOU", INSTEAD OF JUST SPEAKING INDIRECTLY ABOUT OUR LOVE FOR GOD, AND ASSUMING OUR ACTIONS DEMONSTRATE OUR LOVE.

OF COURSE SAYING THE WORDS "I LOVE YOU GOD" ARE NOT ACTUALLY NECESSARY, PARTICULARLY SINCE GOD KNOWS OUR INNER MOST THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS- AND YET SOMETIMES IT IS NICE FOR US TO DO SO.

OF COURSE ACTIONS ARE IMPORTANT ALSO. IN FACT BOTH OUR LOVE FOR GOD AND GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS MOST OFTEN REVEALED THROUGH ACTIONS.

ROMANS 5- OPENS WITH A REMINDER ABOUT GOD'S GRACE FOUND IN JESUS HIS SON, WHO PAID THE PRICE TO REDEEM US FROM OUR SIN. ROMANS 5:8- REMINDS US HOW GOD FIRST LOVED US BY SENDING JESUS TO DIE FOR OUR SINS. THE LORD'S ACTIVE LOVE FOR US REQUIRES A RESPONSE.

PSALM 116 IS A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LOVE OFFERED IN RESPONSE TO DELIVERANCE FROM A PHYSICAL THREAT OR ILLNESS. ALTHOUGH THE WORDS ARE NOT SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO GOD, THE PSALMIST BOLDLY PROCLAIMS "I LOVE THE LORD".

HE SPEAKS ABOUT HOW GOD HAS SHOWN LOVE, AND HOW THE PSALMIST PLANS TO LIVE AND SPEAK AND ACT IN WAYS THAT WITNESS TO THE LOVE HE HAS RECEIVED FROM AND RETURNED TO, THE LORD.

PSALM 116 OFFERS US AN EXAMPLE OF THE FIRST PART OF THE GREAT COMMANDMENT, WHICH IS TO: LOVE THE LORD WITH OUR WHOLE HEART, SOUL, MIND, AND STRENGTH. FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, LOVING GOD, HAS BEEN CALLED "THE VERY CORE, THE VERY FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN LIVING."

A BASIC SUMMARY OF HOW TO DO THIS IS TO LOVE GOD DEEPLY WITH OUR INNER MOST BEING. IT IS TO LOVE GOD WITH HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES AND WITH OUR POSSESSIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES. LOVING GOD WITH OUR MINDS MEANS TO SEEK GOD'S WISDOM, TO TURN OUR THOUGHTS AND INTELLECT TOWARDS THINGS THAT PLEASE GOD. FINALLY TO LOVE WITH OUR STRENGTH MEANS TO PERSEVERE IN LOVING GOD EVEN WHEN WE STUMBLE OR FALL.

THE PSALMIST PROMISES TO FOCUS HIS LIFE ON PLEASING THE LORD- WHICH IS IN FACT IS A FORM OF TRUE WORSHIP. TESTIMONY IS GIVEN TO ALL WHO WILL LISTEN, SACRIFICE IS OFFERED ACCORDING TO THE LAW, AND VOWS ARE MADE TO KEEP ON LIVING AS GOD'S SERVANT IN THE WORLD.

FOR CHRISTIANS- OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE INCLUDES SHARING THE GOSPEL IN WORD AND DEED. OUR SERVICE INVOLVES BEING MESSENGERS OF GOD'S GRACE IN THE WORLD BY HOW WE TREAT OTHER PEOPLE.

BUT, OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS BEGINS WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD. SO LET US REMEMBER TO SAY TO GOD: "I LOVE YOU" AND LIVE OUT THAT LOVE EACH DAY. AMEN