



First Presbyterian Church, Annapolis, Maryland

March 29, 2020 – Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

OPENING WORDS

O that God would tear open the heavens
and come down!

Isa. 64:1

Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.

Mark 13:32

Be alert! Keep awake!

Mark 13:33, 37

The time is drawing near:

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Mark 1:1

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord, you have the words of eternal life.
Speak to us by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we might hear what you would say to us today. **Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:1-13, 32 (NRSV)

13:1 As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

⁹“As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. ¹⁰And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹²Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ¹³and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

... ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(A time of silent prayer is kept after each petition.)*

Source of all Wisdom,

the nations are fraught with anxiety and fear, and chaos is all around us.

Guide all peoples in the way of peace...

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Compassion,

For the sick and infected: bring help, bring healing.

Sustain bodies and spirits, Guide us in containing the spread of infection.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Comfort,

protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease.

Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all Seasons,

give the young and the strong the necessary caution

to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease.

Inspire them to help.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Justice,

help our elected officials as they allocate the necessary resources

for combatting this pandemic. Help them to provide more tests.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Reason,

For our scientific community, leading the charge to understand

the disease and communicate its gravity, give them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Provider of Life,

For workers in a variety of industries facing layoffs and financial hardship,

God, keep them from panic, and inspire your church to generously support them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father and Mother of us all,

For families with young children at home for the foreseeable future,

help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children.

For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support.

For parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children, present them with creative solutions.

For college and university students, whose courses of study are changing, whose placements are cancelled, whose graduation is uncertain,

God, show them that while life is uncertain, their trust is in you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Strength,

For those in need of regular therapies and treatments that must now be postponed, help them to stay patient and positive.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ever Present One,

For Christians in every neighborhood, community, and city,
May your Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve,
and to proclaim the gospel, in word and in deed.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

REFLECTION

How do you profess your faith in God's coming reign of justice and peace,
especially in the face of our troubled world?



HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: MORNING

Loving God,
thank you for waking me up this morning
and giving me another day to love and serve you

well.
Thank you for the ways you will lead me today;
help me to trust in you. Amen.

HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: EVENING

Gracious God, you were good to me today,
even when I lost sight of you.
Forgive my fickle and heartless ways,
and conform my will to yours.
Grant me a safe rest

and strengthen me in body, mind, and heart,
that I may serve you faithfully
and love you well
when I awake to greet your new day. Amen.

Liturgy from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B* Vol. 1, 2014 Westminster John Knox.

STAFF NEWS - The church staff continue to work in new ways to meet the changing needs of this church. We can be reached by cell, text, phone, email, or via facetime. Facilities Director, John Jamieson continues with projects in and around the campus better. Al Johnson is cleaning thoroughly the nooks and crannies of this church campus. Dan Arnold, Assistant Facilities Manager and Painter Extraordinaire, is painting each day in the Kinhart Center (six floors!). Pastor Lisa is working remotely and quickly has shifted to online venues that allow for meaningful spiritual connection. Sharon and Dottie are in the office most days; and Bob and Miss are doing their planning and work from their home computers and devices. Don't hesitate to reach out.

CONGRATULATIONS - Ken Kniss & Anna Barefoot on the birth of Daniel Thomas on March 12 weighing 8lb, 6 oz.

WEEK OF MARCH 29 CALENDAR - Tuesday: Bible Study, 2:00 pm; PNC, 7:00 pm; Session, 7:00 pm. Wednesday: Staff, 11:00 am. Sunday: Fellowship of the Bean, 9:30 am; Youth Fellowship, 5:00 pm. Worship, online, at your convenience!

Lisa Rzepka, Transitional Pastor

Bob Muckenfuss, Music Director & Organist / Miss Good, Family Ministry Director
First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis / 171 Duke of Gloucester St. / Annapolis MD 21401
Partner with the Caibarién congregation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Cuba
The National Naval Memorial of the PC(USA) / An Earth Care Congregation of the PC(USA)
Partner with Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, Czech Republic
Covenant Church with the Haiti Restoration Partnership

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIRTUAL CHURCH THROUGH APRIL 30, 2020 - To make decision and respond in a timely manner, the Session has shifted from a monthly to weekly meeting schedule. On March 25 they agreed to extend virtual church (and a closed church campus) through the end of April. At that point, they will reevaluate. Please join us online, on facebook, on the internet to connect with your church community. Questions for Session can be directed to the Clerk of Session, Jim Reinig (Jamesreinig@comcast.net).

FIND FELLOWSHIP; "FOLLOW" FIRST! When Jesus said, "Follow Me," doubtful he had Facebook in mind! But right now, we can use Facebook to keep connected. The FPC Facebook "page" now also has a Facebook "group" which makes interactive communication simpler. Friends and members of the church are encouraged to "Follow First."

1. Sign in to Facebook (or "create an account" for new users)
2. Search "First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis *GROUP*". Be sure to look for the word "group" to make ensure the right location (https://www.facebook.com/groups/1100186226989067/?source_id=173542819362386). It will look something like this: First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis > First Presbyterian of Annapolis Group.
3. Once on the "group" page, click "Follow."
4. Check-in at your convenience. See what members are posting. Chime in yourself! Let us use our Facebook Group as another way to uplift each other until we can be "face to face" again. Share activities to keep occupied. Recommend a book. Share a photo, a prayer, or meditation. Write something funny! Send a video that others might enjoy. The FPC Annapolis Group can be a place for fellowship, support, and encouragement. Miss your church family, *Find fellowship, follow First...* on Facebook! Questions marymariequig@icloud.com.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY - Bible Study has shifted to Tuesday afternoons, 2:00-3:00 pm with Rev. Rzepka via ZOOM. To join the discussion of the upcoming sermon scripture, download the ZOOM app to your smart device and reach out to Lisa (lisa@annapolis-presbyterian.com) who will send you the details.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE BEAN - is keeping the conversation going, virtually! Spiritual Formation Elder and Bean participant, Cecilia Richardson, has set-up a ZOOM account for the weekly Bean discussion at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. To join the "coffee & conversation" group from the comfort of home, email cfnegri@hotmail.com.

MISSION ACTIVITIES - continue! First Presbyterian has long prided itself on its mission work. Though COVID-19 has stopped the world in its tracks, it has not stopped our outreach. Mission Elder, Cathy Shultz coordinates our mission gifts of time, talent and treasure with her vibrant Mission Committee. Email catherineshultz@msn.com.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - on Sundays at 5:00 pm continues under the leadership of Family Ministry Director, Miss Good, but remotely! 25 youth checked-in the last few weeks with their smart devices to continue to plan, brainstorm and prepare for Youth Sunday (shifting to a new Sunday in late spring). To connect with youth peers, email miss@annapolis-presbyterian.com.

ANNE ARUNDEL ACTING TOGETHER (ACT) - is responding to community needs in new and innovative ways. Church member, Julie Carlson (ladsmom@gmail.com) is our point of contact for ACT activities. If you'd like to help, please reach out to Julie or visit the ACT website (<https://www.actiaf.org/>).

MEMBER DIRECTORY - To obtain a PDF of the church directory, email office@annapolis-presbyterian.com.

SPECIAL THANKS - to Communications Committee members/webmasters, Jenn and Mike McDermott, for their quick and helpful response to the changing church landscape. Their expertise has facilitated a smooth transition for our online media offerings and logistics in a month of rapid change.