



First United Methodist Church

Worship Guide for Sunday, April 5, 2020

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ.

People: We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.

Leader: Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God's love might look like this: a forsaken savior on a cross?

People: Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost amid the world's distractions and responsibilities. Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.

Leader: Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid.

People: Thanks be to God, who opened the gates of heaven, that we might find the faith, hope, and love, witnessed in Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.

INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE

"The Wonderful Cross"

PRAYER of CONFESSION and ASSURANCE of PARDON

Leader: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way;

People: and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Leader: You revealed Your law to Moses. O God,

People: but Your people set up a golden calf.

Leader: You challenged them, through the prophets, to seek justice for the poor;

People: but the people refused, preferring false prophets who set their consciences at ease.

Leader: At last, O God, You sent Your own Son to woo them back;

People: but Your people plugged up their ears and crucified Him.

Leader: We are those people, O God. All of us are those people.

People: guilty, judged, and seeking forgiveness.

Leader: Hear our prayer and accept our plea for mercy.

People: Lead us to the foot of the cross, teach us Your ways, and give us hearts intent of pleasing You.

(a time for personal reflection)

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. God's love frees us from the world's bondage, and allows us to live, love and serve. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

People: Through Jesus Christ, our sins – yours and mine – are not only forgiven, they are forgotten Thanks be to God. AMEN

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 22

MORNING PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. AMEN

HYMN OF REFLECTION

"Here Is Love"

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 15:25-39

SERMON

"FRIDAY: "Crucified"

Rev. Gary Ihfe

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"'Tis Finished, the Messiah Dies"

BENEDICTION