

**THE ORDER FOR THE
WORSHIP OF GOD AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10:30 AM ~ March 22, 2020**

PRELUDE

“Deck Thyself, My Soul (No. 5, Op. 122)”

Johannes Brahms

WELCOME & GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Ephesians 5, John 9

One: *When the world is dark and full of hate and fear,
when we cannot see God – we will,*

ALL: **turn on the light!**

One: *When we cannot find our way back to love, hope and peace– we will,*

ALL: **turn on the light!**

One: *When our vision dims due to the darkness within – we will,*

ALL: **turn on the light!**

One: *Come and worship the light of the world.
Hallelujah ! Praise God.*

*HYMN #610

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!
2. The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
3. Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.
4. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.
5. To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: *Ever-present God, we try to be faithful and then we become afraid. And, in our fear, we forget
to hold on to you for our guidance and security. Lord, forgive and renew us.
Lord, in your mercy,*

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

One: *Ever-wise God, help us to balance the need to take caution with your call to be bold and brave
and to use hands and feet to serve. Guide us with your compassion and wisdom.
Lord, in your mercy,*

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

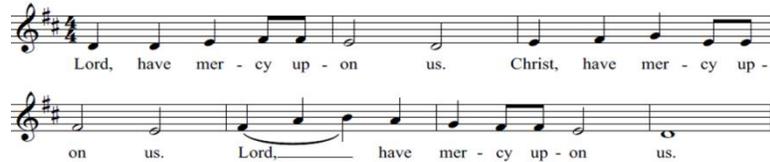
One: *Ever-loving God, in these and all times, help us to see the good in your creation, to be a ray of
your light, to show your love. And, lift us up to try again when we fail. Lord, in your mercy,*

ALL: hear our prayer.

One: Steadfast God, help us to stay close to you. For, it is in knowing your presence that we find the way to be your faithful children and servants in all times. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

(A moment for silent meditation and confession.)

KYRIE ELEISON



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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn #581)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"The Confession of 1967"

(Excerpt)

**We believe that God has created the world of space and time
to be the sphere of his dealings with humankind.
In its beauty and vastness,
sublimity and awfulness,
order and disorder,
the world reflects to the eye of faith
the majesty and mystery of its Creator.
We believe that God has created us
for personal relationship in which
we may respond to the love of the Creator.
Life is a gift to be received with gratitude
and a task to be pursued with courage.**

MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

Jodi Haun,
Director of Children's Ministries & Missions

THE 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 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.

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

John 14:18-19, 25-27

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Turn, Turn, Turn"

Pete Seeger

SECOND READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

SERMON

"Everything Happens for a Reason?"
The fourth sermon in a series titled, *"Is That in the Bible?"*

Rev. Ashley A. Hood

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN #816

"If Thou but Trust in God To Guide Thee"

1. If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that nought can move.
2. Only be still, and wait God's leisure
in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure
and all-discerning love hath sent.
No doubt our inmost wants are clear
to One who holds us always dear.
3. Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,
but do thine own part faithfully.
Trust the rich promises of grace;
so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
the soul secured by trust indeed.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Toccatà in E Minor"

Johann Pachelbel

**Congregation standing or seated*