

**Sunday, March 22, 2020**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Encounter with GOD - "Sight"**

**SMALL GROUP WORSHIP SERVICE LITURGY**

All songs are included in the back of the package.

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

**Legend**

Yellow: Reader

Green: Reader

Purple: Reader

Grey: All people

**Users Guide**

This service is intended to be led by different readers, have responses from the whole group, as well as to have parts that are open for personal sharing, prayer, listening, etc. This means that yellow sections can be different readers, as with green and purple. These colours are used to indicate multiple readers within the same section. This service is also intended to be used individually. Please use this as a guide to worship and let yourself be attentive to the ways the Spirit moves.

**Helpful Tips**

- Decide beforehand who will read each section, it will help with the flow.
- Decide if you will sing on your own, or pull up one of the provided YouTube links to sing along with. Do this beforehand, it'll help with the flow.
- *ALSO*, if you do use the youtube links, I advise you to load them all and skip the ads before beginning the service. The ads can be very distracting to worship.
- Pay attention to the parts that are intended to be led by children.
- Pay attention to the times of standing and sitting. Remember, worship includes our whole bodies.

*Worship Sourcebook Litanies - Reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources*

**GOD GATHERS US**

**Welcome**

Lent has often been seen as an invitation to 'go into the desert or the wilderness.' It's a place where we face up to who we are before God when there's nothing but God and us in a challenging environment. It's also a place of encounter, a place where God meets us and teaches us more about who he is for us and with us. There can be many 'deserts' in life; the isolation due to COVID-19 is only one of them. As we gather this morning to worship God in small groups, as families, or alone, may we experience that God meets with us in ways that defy our imagination and assure us of his presence, his provision and his love! Lent is a journey to the cross and resurrection. May we see Jesus' crucifixion in a new light through a rather strange passage from the Old Testament. Our prayer is that God will continue to shape us as his people -- one in the Spirit, one in Christ, one in the Father -- so that our current 'absence' will make all of our hearts grow 'fonder' for one another as we look forward to the day that we can gather as a redeemed people once again. Let's pray!

**Prayer** Holy and loving God, as we worship you today, we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us, to help us become more holy and more loving. In a world that does not understand repentance, we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus. "And when our faith falters as we are confronted by so much that overwhelms us at this time, help us to see Jesus with new eyes. Amen." Amen.

*Adapted from Worship Sourcebook 2nd Edition J.1.1 p. 559*

\* **Song: Hymnal # 532** | Be Still, for the Presence (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>)  
CCLI Song #120824 / CCLI License #2024198

### **Call to Worship: Psalm 144:1-11 NLT (Alternating Verses)**

1 Praise the Lord, who is my rock.

He trains my hands for war  
and gives my fingers skill for battle.

2 He is my loving ally and my fortress,  
my tower of safety, my rescuer.

He is my shield, and I take refuge in him.  
He makes the nations[a] submit to me.

3 O Lord, what are human beings that you should notice them,  
mere mortals that you should think about them?

4 For they are like a breath of air;  
their days are like a passing shadow.

5 Open the heavens, Lord, and come down.  
Touch the mountains so they billow smoke.

6 Hurl your lightning bolts and scatter your enemies!  
Shoot your arrows and confuse them!

7 Reach down from heaven and rescue me;  
rescue me from deep waters,  
from the power of my enemies.

8 Their mouths are full of lies;  
they swear to tell the truth, but they lie instead.

9 I will sing a new song to you, O God!  
I will sing your praises with a ten-stringed harp.

10 For you grant victory to kings!  
You rescued your servant David from the fatal sword.

11 Save me!  
Rescue me from the power of my enemies.

Their mouths are full of lies;  
they swear to tell the truth, but they lie instead.

### **\*Greetings**

*Child:* Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Isaiah 43:1-3, NIV

Greet one another with the peace of Christ!

\* **Song: Hymnal # 597** | Holy is the Lord ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcEcjm\\_JEcl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcEcjm_JEcl))  
CCLI Song #4158039 / CCLI License #2024198

## **GOD RENEWS US**

### **Call to Confession**

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sins and live for righteousness. By his wounds we are healed.

Let us confess our sins.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Holy and merciful God,  
we confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:  
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**we confess to you, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**we confess to you, O God.**

**(We confess to you silently the things that we are scared to name)**

Accept our repentance, O God,  
for the wrongs we have done.

For our neglect of human need and suffering  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**accept our repentance, O God.**

For all false judgments.

for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt  
toward those who differ from us,

**accept our repentance, O God.**

Restore us, O God,  
and let your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us, O God,  
for your mercy is great. Amen.

*Based on Worship Sourcebook 2nd Edition J.2.4 p.567*

OR

God, we make so many mistakes;  
we turn away from you so often.  
We need you so much.

Thank you that you so loved the world  
that you sent Jesus to die on the cross  
to save us from our sins. **Amen.**

*Worship Sourcebook 2nd Edition J.2.17 p. 571*

### Assurance of Pardon and Call to Holy Living

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we, free from sins, might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.

—from 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24, NRSV

**Song: Hymnal # 357** | In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gs7X-6\\_wvs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gs7X-6_wvs))  
One License #A713971

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession - Mary Jane Tigchelaar

Almighty God, how wonderful you are. Creation cries out in awe of your power, The universe shines with your glory and greatness. Almighty Lord, how majestic you are. Each atom and molecule carry a tiny part of your plan, Every microbe speaks of your breathtaking beauty. Almighty Father, how awesome you are. The mountain ranges reflect your heights, And the gentle valleys your mercy. Almighty One, how creative you are. Each tree and flower are filled with your wonder and bounty, Each life resounds with intricacy and miracles. Let us lift our eyes to you, our wonderful, majestic, awesome God.

Abba this prayer we offer comes from a different place than we have ever been in, many of us are praying this prayer in our homes either alone or with a handful of others, some of us may be in a different part of the country but no matter where we are lord, we are united in our faith in you no matter the circumstances! We confess Abba, that we are navigating territory that is not familiar to us and many of us have some anxiety about what tomorrow brings. We confess that often our first response has been to panic and run to the store and make sure that we have what we need to maintain our comfort. We confess that we have also been following the stock market and we feel unsure about our financial future. Father, we need you to be the louder voice in our head and hearts, the voice that calls us back to the peace you so freely provide that passes all understanding.

Abba, thank you for your word, for the gift of prayer. Thank you that you are near and that your Holy Spirit is moving among us! Thank you for your provision for this day and for the abundance that we experience, may we be moved to share what we have with our neighbour. Thank you for our government and for the way in which they are acting amid this pandemic crisis to lessen the effects and to get a handle on the spread of it. Thank you for our medical caregivers, protect them and give them the energy and skills to do the work they need to do. Thank you for the children who go about their daily lives with the same laughter and trust they had last week. Thank you for technology and for the ability to stay connected.

We ask Abba that you would be with our elderly who are even more vulnerable during this time, speak to them Lord and flame their faith in such a way that causes them to praise your name with joy in their hearts. We pray for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones and who feel even more alone during this time of

social distancing. Surround them with your love and grace. Help us to find creative ways to reach out to each other to encourage one another and to lend a helping hand. Be with those who are single and living alone already, equip them with patience and joy and enable them to extend hospitality to those around them. Be with our families, especially where extended time in our homes with other family members brings tension which for some leads to angry words and actions. Reign in our homes Abba, forgive our sins and turn our hearts to you!

Let's end this prayer with the words of St. Patrick

I arise today  
Through the strength of heaven;  
Light of the sun,  
Splendor of fire,  
Speed of lightning,  
Swiftness of the wind,  
Depth of the sea,  
Stability of the earth,  
Firmness of the rock.

I arise today  
Through God's strength to pilot me;  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's hosts to save me  
Afar and near,  
Alone or in a multitude.

Christ shield me today  
Against wounding  
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in the eye that sees me,  
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today  
Through the mighty strength  
Of the Lord of creation.

Amen.

## **GOD SPEAKS WITH US**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 15

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

*Message* | Encountering God: God's Surprising Grace for Dark Desert Nights (Please see email for SoundCloud link)

\* **Song: Hymnal # 21** | This is my Father's World (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4C1zgSYiG80>)  
Public Domain

## **GOD RECEIVES OUR OFFERINGS**

### **Offertory Prayer**

*Child:* Lord, you give us everything that is good—  
our homes, our food, our families, and even our lives. All that we own and all that we are belong to you. Since  
you give us so much,  
we thank you by sharing our time, talents,

and right now our money with others in need.

Use these gifts to show your love to people throughout our world in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Worship Sourcebook 2nd Edition 5.2.27 p. 251*

Offering: First Offering: Ministries of First Hamilton CRC

Second Offering: Christians Against Poverty Canada

Ways to give:

- 1) **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance):** (to get set up with PAR, please email [office@firsthamilton.ca](mailto:office@firsthamilton.ca))
- 2) **CanadaHelps.org:** <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/first-hamilton-christian-reformed-church/>
- 3) Or, by **mailing** a cheque to 195 Charlton Ave W. Hamilton, ON L8P 2C9

## **GOD SENDS US**

\* Blessing

*Oldest in the room:* May the God of love, who shared his love, strengthen us in our love for others.

May the Son who shared his life

grant us grace, that we might share our life.

And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us

empower us to be only and always for others. Amen.

\* **Song: Hymnal # 938** | My Friends May You Grow in Grace

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G566cm86Mvo>)

## Be Still, for the Presence

D F#m7 Bm Em7 A

1 Be still, for the pres-ence of the Lord, the Ho - ly One, is here.  
 2 Be still, for the glo - ry of the Lord is shin-ing all a - round.  
 3 Be still, for the pow - er of the Lord is mov-ing in this place.

D F#m7 Bm Em7 Asus A

Come, bow be - fore him now, with rev - er - ence and fear.  
 He burns with ho - ly fire; with splen-dor he is crowned.  
 He comes to cleanse and heal, to min - is - ter his grace.

G A/G D/F# G A/G D/F#

In him no sin is found; we stand on ho - ly ground.  
 How awe-some is the sight, our rad-iant King of light!  
 No work too hard for him; in faith re - ceive from him.

G A F#m7 Bm Em7 Asus A D

Be still, for the pres-ence of the Lord, the Ho - ly One, is here.  
 Be still, for the glo - ry of the Lord is shin-ing all a - round.  
 Be still, for the pow - er of the Lord is mov-ing in this place.

## Holy Is the Lord

G C2 D7sus Em7  
 We stand and lift up our hands, for the joy of the Lord

C2 D7sus G C2 G/D  
 is our strength. We bow down and wor - ship him now;

D Em C Dsus  
 how great, how awe - some is he! And to-gether we sing:

A C2 G/B Cmaj9 Dsus  
 Ho-ly is the Lord God Al-might - y,

Em7 C Dsus  
 the earth is filled with his glo - ry. Ho-ly is the Lord

G/B Cmaj9 Dsus Em C

God Al-might - y, the earth is filled with his glo -

Dsus Em C Third time to Coda 1 Dsus 2 Dsus

- ry, the earth is filled with his glo - ry. - ry It's ris -

G D/F# Dm/F

- ing up all a-round, it's the an - them of the Lord

1 Cmaj7 2 Cmaj7 C

re-nown. It's ris - re-nown. And to-geth-er we sing,

A C2 3 A

ev - ery - one sing:

C2 D.S. al Coda

Ho - ly is the Lord.

Coda Dsus G

- ry.

## In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

Dm F B<sup>b</sup> C Dm F C

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re - joice!

B<sup>b</sup> A Dm C F B<sup>b</sup>

Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is

C Dm C F

near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.

*Spanish*

El Señor es me fortaleza,  
 el Señor es mi canción.  
 Él nos da la salvación.  
 En él confío, no temeré.  
 En él confío, no temeré.

*Portuguese*

El Senyor és la meva força,  
 el Senyor el meu cant.  
 Ell m'ha estat la salvació.  
 En ell confio i no tinc por,  
 en ell confio i no tinc por.

Words: English based on Philippians 4:4-6, Spanish and Portuguese based on Psalm 118:14,  
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Music (IN THE LORD, I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL): Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) © 1991 Ateliers et Presses de  
 Taizé, Taizé Community, France, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

## This Is My Father's World

D A7 D G D A

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-tening ears all  
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise; the  
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for - get that,

D Bm A7 D A7 D

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their Ma - ker's praise.  
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.

A7 D G D G D A7

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of —  
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The —

D Bm A7 D A7 D

rocks and trees, of — skies and seas; his hand the — won - ders — wrought.  
 rus - tling grass I — hear him pass; he speaks to — me ev - ery - where.  
 Lord is King, let the heav - ens ring! God reigns; let the earth be — glad.

## My Friends, May You Grow in Grace

2 PETER 3:18

D A Bm

My friends, may you grow in grace and in the

G A D A

knowl - edge of our Lord and Sav - ior. My

D A Bm

friends, may you grow in grace and in the

G A D A

knowl - edge of Je - sus Christ. To

D A Bm7 A

God be the glo - ry, now and for - ev - er,

G2 A D A

now and for-ev - er, a - men. To

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. It features a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a final G4. Chords G2, A, D, and A are indicated above the staff. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment with notes G2, A2, B2, C3, and D3.

D A Bm7 A

God be the glo - ry, now and for - ev - er,

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The treble staff continues the melody with notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, and A4. Chords D, A, Bm7, and A are indicated above the staff. The bass staff continues the accompaniment with notes E2, F#2, G2, A2, and B2.

G A D

now and for - ev - er, a - men.

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of music. The treble staff concludes the melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a final G4. Chords G, A, and D are indicated above the staff. The bass staff concludes the accompaniment with notes G2, A2, B2, C3, and D3.