

FAIRMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Service for the Worship of God

Fairmont Presbyterian Church nurtures and guides people to live inspired lives.

March 22, 2020
10:30am
4th Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Brian Maguire

Prelude

Call to Worship

Rev. Kelley Shin

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

People: Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

Leader: though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

People: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

Leader: God is within her, she will not fall. God will help her at break of day.

People: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; The LORD lifts his voice, the earth melts.

Leader: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty Fortress is our God, A Bulwark never failing;

Our Helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;

His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,

On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;

Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;

Lord Sabaoth His Name, from age to age the same,

And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,

We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;

His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure,

One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His Kingdom is forever.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Gracious and loving God, the world around us in in an uproar, fears and anxieties swirl all around us. We lose ourselves to our fears and forget that you are with us. Forgive us our anxious hearts and all that we do to keep you separate and apart. Forgive us our sin. Cleanse us of our fears and instill in us the courage to be your people, sharing your love and showing the ways of your Kingdom...(silent confession)...Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of Christ's Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Time with Our Children

Rachel Boden

Prayer for Illumination

Reading

John 9:1-14

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

It's Not Your Fault

Rev. Brian Maguire

Hymn: Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

[Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

[Refrain]

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People (concluding with 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.

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

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Within the Fellowship

For prayer concerns, please contact: Rev. Kelley Shin at kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

For emergencies, contact Rev. Brian Maguire at (937) 269-2864 or Rev. Kelley Shin at (937) 751-0752.

Announcements

Lenten School (March 22 -April 8): A Celebration of Discipline: How do you get closer to God? How do you change your life so that you can live more like the person you were meant to be? How do you pray? These are some of the fundamental "how" questions on the method and means of living life as a Christian. We will be examining these questions together in Lent using Richard Foster's classic book, A Celebration of Discipline as our guide as we learn from centuries of Christians' experiences of how to live closer to God and each other. We will be meeting throughout Lent **on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 online via Zoom.** Join ZOOM using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/796214074> or this ZOOM ID: 796-214-074.

An Update from Fairmont Presbyterian Church

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our savior and physician of all our souls. As a community, a congregation, and a world we face an unprecedented challenge with the rapidly spreading Coronavirus. We will face this crisis as God's people have faced countless challenges in the past: together. The leadership of Fairmont is taking all necessary actions to safeguard our members and staff, not merely maintaining but extending our ministries and missions, and deepening our caring for our members and our community.

At the present time, in-person gatherings for worship and all programs at Fairmont are temporarily suspended. They will be suspended for as long as public health concerns may require. Our Session has formed a physician's advisory group that is constantly monitoring the best available public health information and is advising us regularly. We ask that, **for the present time please do not come to the church building.**

However, we *do* want us all to come together to be the church. Our real connection has always been through the Holy Spirit, not our physical proximity. Accordingly, we are offering a wide array of opportunities to worship, connect, care, and grow all through digital media. So, what should you do?

1. **Take care of yourself** -- Avoid in-person contacts with others, practice good hygiene, stay rested and well fed, and do everything you can to stay healthy.
2. **Pray** – Pray for the sick and the scared. Pray for doctors, nurses, and health care workers. Pray for leaders. Pray for teachers, delivery drivers, grocery store workers and everyone who is trying to make this better. Pray for the unemployed. And pray for our world and all who are scared and anxious.
3. **Love** – We may be physically separate, but we are called into ever deeper bonds of love and caring, calling and checking on each other, writing notes, and reminding everyone that no one is alone.
4. **Participate** – Join us and invite friends, family and neighbors for worship, Bible Study, and our Lenten School all online. Bring your children and their friends to join us online for daily children's time. For worship, visit www.fairmontchurch.org/worship-videos for current and past worship services and current live streams.
5. **Give** – As we ramp up our feeding efforts in our community, we need your financial support. Please give through our online giving portal at <http://fairmontchurch.org/stewardship-and-giving/>

The current pandemic is a worldwide crisis. The word "crisis" literally means a moment of decision. The leadership of Fairmont has decided to not only survive this emergency, but to innovate, grow, and transform our ministry by and through the Holy Spirit. Together, we can deepen our connections to God and each other. We know that we will pass through this storm because God is with us. Jesus is with us reminding us not to worry and that all will be well. The Spirit will sustain and encourage us, empowering us to boldly be Christ's church. My hope is that someday our little children will look back on this time and tell their grandchildren that back in 2020 Fairmont really stepped up and was the church of Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and your families. Please stay in touch, join us in online worship, let us know of your needs, and in all things, pray.

In Christ,

Brian

What has Fairmont stopped doing?

- Public worship is suspended
- The office is closed, but we are regularly checking phone messages and emails
- Fit 4 You is suspended
- All public, in-person, meetings, classes and groups have been cancelled
- All outside groups (except 12 step groups) have been cancelled
- Suspended in-person visits to nursing homes, assisted care facilities, and hospitals

What has Fairmont already started doing?

- Sunday morning streaming worship through Facebook and YouTube
- On-line worship resources for both children and adults
- Session, Deacons, Trustees and Team meetings continuing through Zoom
- Christian Formation classes meeting through Zoom
- Accelerated building cleaning
- PYC weekly meetings through Zoom
- Confirmation weekly meetings through Zoom
- Daily children's ministry classes through Zoom, including preschool
- Daily messages to children and youth through Facebook and Snapchat
- Telephone connections with vulnerable older adult members
- Phone tree established to call people without internet access
- Pastoral Care providers accelerating telephone, card, and email outreach
- Youth and younger members have been organized as a tech support team

What will Fairmont be doing?

- New and innovative on-line worship experiences
- Extended community feeding relief efforts
- Direct material support for vulnerable older adult members
- Expanding Christian Formation offerings for members of all ages
- Encouraging use of on-line giving and text giving

Worship Staff

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Associate Pastor
Director of Christian Education
Director of Music
Praise and Worship Leader
Church Organist

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