



CROSSROADS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting People • Igniting Hearts • Transforming Lives

Words of Welcome

Morning Prayer

Let us pray. Gracious God, Power of Life, we praise you that you have not abandoned us to the living death of sin and despair, but that with Jesus Christ, you have lifted us up from the grave. Grant that we might ourselves know the power of the resurrection, now and in the world to come; for it is in the name of the risen Christ that we pray (even as he taught us saying, "Our Father...")

Hymn

Blessed Assurance

Alice and Sheldon

Original Testament Reading

Psalm 27:1-8, 14

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.



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Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

New Testament Reading

Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Sermon

Sermon Series: UNAFRAID: Living with Courage & Hope

"Fear of The Other"

Pastor Scott Walters

Hymn

He Lives

Alice and Sheldon

Pastoral Prayer

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. In this challenging and uncertain time of global pandemic and public health crisis, we come before you offering our prayers on behalf of those in need, the Church and the world.

For the Church, that it may not grow weary of proclaiming the gospel of Christ and serve as beacon of hope to a suffering world

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For all affected by the coronavirus around the world. For the leaders of the nations that they may work together for the common good as the outbreak spreads. May barriers that divide be brought down that bonds of trust may be strengthened to benefit the entire human family.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they have access to medical care and regain their strength and health; grant them your healing grace. Give strength to all who are caring for loved ones.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For healthcare workers, who with hearts of service, stand on the front lines of providing care. Grant them courage and protection as they put the needs of public safety before their own.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bless scientists and researchers around the world as they combat the virus, that their work may yield knowledge to develop a vaccine, treatments, and improved measures to reduce its spread.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Remove the presence of fear and anxiety from our hearts, that confident in your providence we may be generous in sharing our resources.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Grant that our churches and communities of faith may reflect your love, as they minister to the most vulnerable among us; fill them with your Holy Spirit as they work to be your healing hands and feet to all in need.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those who have already lost loved ones to the virus and those who will yet suffer such loss that they may know the consolation of your love.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The Concluding Collect

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. *(Prayer from Gloucester Cathedral)*

Announcement

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Blessing

*This morning's "The Prayers of the People" is adapted with permission of The National Cathedral at www.cathedral.org



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