



CROSSROADS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting People • Igniting Hearts • Transforming Lives

Words of Welcome

Morning Prayer

Pastor Scott: As you come to worship you might like to picture a road that you know really well. Is it straight or twisted? Is it smooth or uneven? Is it busy or quiet? Who else uses it? Who have you walked the road with? Hold the picture in your mind while you pray.

ALL: As I come before you today God, I bring you my road recognizing others are bringing theirs too. For some the road to worship today will have been difficult while for others it has been smooth. For some there will have been twists and turns, for others it may have felt straight and plodding. Some will have walked alone and others with companions. Thank you that you walk each road with us, uniting us as a community of faith wherever we are to the glory of your name. Amen.

Hymn

"Surely the Presence of the Lord"

Sheldon & Alice

Original Testament Reading

Psalm 139:1-10

L: O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

ALL: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

L: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

ALL: Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

L: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

ALL: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

L: Where can I go from your spirit?

ALL: Or where can I flee from your presence?

L: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

ALL: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.



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Original Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Sermon

Sermon Series: UNAFRAID: Living with Courage & Hope

"Friendless & Alone"

Pastor Scott Walters

Hymn

"In the Garden"

Sheldon & Alice

Pastoral Prayer

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. In this challenging and uncertain time, 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.

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 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.



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Bless scientists and researchers around the world, 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.

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

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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