

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla  
Worship Service for the Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*March 26, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown* - Jason W. Drug

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *My Peace I Give You* - Barbara J. Hastings

**Introit #832:** *Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand* *vs. 1*

**Call to Worship**

Wait for the Lord.

**Our souls wait and hope in God's word.**

Hope in the Lord.

**With God there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem.**

Our souls wait for the Lord,

**more than those who watch for the morning.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #366:** *Love Divine, All Love's Excelling* (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

Christ is nearer to us than we can imagine.

**Jesus' power is not just for a distant past and a far-off future.**

Jesus is here for us here and now.

**Because there is forgiveness with God, let us call upon the Lord.**

## Prayer of Confession

**God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love and grace.**

## Declaration of Pardon

**God of resurrection, we know the power of death. We have seen its works. We have felt its sting. We have been to the valley of despair, and felt like there was no chance for life. We do not believe in your power to resurrect. We do not believe in your power to redeem our pain, and fashion something beautiful in this world. Forgive us. We cry from the depths— however faint our call may be, we pray you hear our voice.**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## Passing the Peace of Christ

**Kyrie Eleison/Lord, Have Mercy #577:**

*(please stand)*

## Anthem:

## Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.* Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior who taught us to pray:

**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**

**Hymn #286:**

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God* vs. 1, 2

*(seated)*

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. Amen.**

**Scriptures for the Day**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Ezekiel 37:1 - 14

**Epistle Lesson:** Romans 8:6 – 11

**Gospel Lesson:** John 11: 1 – 45

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** Everything Is Temporary

Jonathan Kimball

**Affirmation of Faith** from The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968 (please stand)

**We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

(please stand)

**Offering #709:** *God, We Honor You*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel, through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #547:** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (stand)

**Benediction:**

(remain standing)

God the giver of love, Christ the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *The Glorious Song* - Lani Smith

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Jeff Sandquist and Lorie Francis.  
Worship led by Melba Read and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball.*

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