



“We Wait, We Hope, We Stay”
Week 6

First Lutheran Church, Sandpoint
Worship - February 7, 2021

Prelude

Play meditative instrumental music that helps quiet your mind, body, and spirit for listening to God’s presence with you.

Let us seek to simplify this moment, slow down for a time. Let us worship, leaning on prayer, reflection and sharing with one another.

Threshold

“God is Holding Your Life” - (Inspired by Psalm 121)

[For those of you without access to the online service, we will look into creating a DVD of the music/ videos for these sections. Let the office 208-263-2048 Pastor Steve know if you could use a DVD to support your worship.]

Today’s Psalm comes late in the Book and offers a glimpse of a time when the exiled outcasts are gathering back together and seeing their world built back up. We too, yearn for a re-gathering and a day when we sing our praises and play our instruments with abandon together again. We wait, we hope, we stay firm in our faith, knowing as our ancient ancestors did, that God is indeed holding our lives.

**Venturing out or coming home,
‘neath heat of day or cool of night,
we call the one who hears your voice
and comes to heal and keep your life.**

**God is holding your life
God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe
*[repeat refrain]***

Opening Collect Prayer

Leader: Healing God,
You are working to bind up the wounds of the world.
Open us this day to be your hands and feet for a suffering people,
so that we might make a difference right where we are,
contributing to your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

***People:* We praise you for the strength to persevere,
holding our lives together in love.**

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Psalm Reading: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (*Lukan Psalter translation*)

Alleluia! How good it is to praise our God!
How pleasant and how fitting to sing God's praise!

ADONAI rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers Israel's exiles.
God heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.

God knows the number of the stars
and calls each one by name.
Great is ADONAI, and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.
ADONAI lifts up the oppressed,
and casts the corrupt to the ground.

Sing to our God with thanksgiving;
sing praise with the harp to our God—
who covers the heavens with clouds,
who provides rain for the earth,
who makes grass sprout on the mountains
and herbs for the service of the people,
who gives food to the cattle,
and to the young ravens when they cry.

God does not thrill
to the strength of the horse,
or revel in the fleetness of humans.
ADONAI delights in those
who worship with reverence
and put their hope in divine love.

Alleluia!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Lectionary Scripture for today: Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Reflection

Whether this Psalm was aspirational (written before the exile ended) or was a reflection of what was happening already, the last verse reminds us that we can keep hope even in our waiting because God's love is steadfast, come rain or shine. A God who knows each star by name in the vastness of stars (and we know even more just how vast this is than our ancestors did), knows each of our names, knows the names of all those we have lost, knows the names of all who will come after. God's vastness "covers" all things... all the pain, all the waiting, all the hope. So we stay in love with the God who loves us.

Take some time now and reflect on this. How is God helping you rebuild after this time in the wilderness? What might we still need to wait, hope, and stay where we are for awhile longer, trusting God is holding our life?

Song of the Day. (ELW 612)

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen
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Prayers of the People

As we turn in prayers. I will offer a category of concern and we will allow a brief pause, then we will respond as indicated.

As a prayer posture for this worship series, I invite you to cup your hands, ready to receive God's love and peace, and in preparation to be God's love and peace in the world.

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community... *[pause]*

God of Justice, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world... *[pause]*

Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic... *[pause]*

Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone... *[pause]*

Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in comfort,
for Christ-like hospitality and generosity... *[pause]*

Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.

Let us pray, for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know,

[pause and include any other petitions you might have]

hear our prayer.

Holy and Living One, as we gather to break bread once again, break us open to your love,
to your peace, to your presence, to your transformative power. In the name of the One
who invites us time and again, Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Confession and Assurance

We are all invited to the gift of this table of grace. As a response to the invitation, we are
asked to let go of all that separates us from accepting this grace. We confess the ways we
have placed hardship in the hands of others, rather than peace.

[sung]

**Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.**

When we place peace in each other's hands, we place love in all the hands of the world.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen!

The Peace and Thanksgiving

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Will you make a gesture of peace toward others who may be with or near you as a sign of offering the peace that Christ gives us.

Then, write here what you are thankful for today and/or how you sense God calling you to respond to this gracious gift of peace and forgiveness today.

OFFERING

If you would like to offer financial support for the ministries of First Lutheran, you can mail them to the church. 526 S. Olive, Ave. Sandpoint, ID 83864 or online at <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>

[sung]

**Give thanks for strong yet tender hands
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short let hands speak out;
the heights of love expressing.**

If you are with someone or on the phone with friends or family, Holy Communion can be shared now. Choose a leader and follow the liturgy included here. If you would like a pastor to share this meal with you by phone, arrange through the church office.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts, your lives to the Holy One.

We long for this communion.

Let us give our greatest thanks to the Holy One.

It is a good and joyful thing to give our thanks and praise.

Gift of Life, Creator of All That Is,
You have breathed life into us,
filled our emptiness,
loved us through our resistance.

Time and again you say, Listen!

Time and again you say, Live!

Time and again you say, Love!

And so we gather and give thanks in this moment.

We stop so we may listen,
we breathe so we may live,
we open so we may love.

**Holy , holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you God,
And blessed be your work in Jesus,
Peace-Giver, Life-Healer.
Spirit-Anointer, do your work in us, as in him.

For Jesus gathered with his disciples, his friends, his family.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his companions saying,
“Take, eat, this is my body. My life given for you.

And after the supper he lifted his cup, gave thanks over it,
and offered it to his companions, saying,

“Drink from this cup, all of you. This is my life, my love poured out for you.
Whenever you gather together, stop... *Selah*... think of me. I am here.”

And so,
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

[sung]

**As at communion shape your hands,
into a waiting cradle;
the gift of Christ receive, revere,
united round the table.**

Let us pray the Lord's Prayer together.

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

We who are many are one body, one loaf, rising in Spirit together.
Even if we cannot be physically in the same space,
we are one in love.
We are one in the grace of Christ broken open for us.

While we have many cups,
God's love is poured upon us from the one cup of salvation.
It is in this sharing beyond all time and space that we are drawn close,
that we are made whole,
that we are made free.

As you are served by those with you,
or served by your own hand,
know that the hand that serves you is the hand of all Christ's Body,
through mystical union with the Divine.
You are not alone.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Share bread with each person at your table saying,
“The body of Christ given for you.”*

*Then share the wine or grape juice with each person saying,
“The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

*For those at the table who do not yet receive Communion, you can offer this or a
similar blessing, “You are a child of God. God’s love is always with you.”*

Prayer After Receiving

God of all that is too deep for words,
we give you thanks that, at this table of grace,
you offer your holiness, your steadfast love.
Open us often to your *Selah*, your pause,
to hear the needs of your people.
We pray this in the name of the Host of this Table,
Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction

Now go in the knowledge that
God is holding your life
even as we hold each other.
You are not alone.
You are loved.
Amen.

Postlude

Worship Notes:

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Songs:

Psalm Songs for 121 “God is Holding Your Life” and 147 “Wait, Hope. Stay” by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan; used with permission and license.

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Prayer List: Michelle Thurston, George Marker, Lynn Franck, Martha & Ed Jewell (as they return to Libby, MT), Chris Ingham; Randy Petersen; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Gerda Burke; Debbie Haberlock; Kara Schripsema; Kai Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Eugene Kurwicki; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier, Sylvia Greenwood; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

We include prayers for Luther Park - its staff, residents, and families; our nearly elected Council Members and Luther Park Board. We ask for faith, the ability to learn from the last year, and continue to find our way to do God’s Work with Our Hands in 2021.

Announcements:

The 2021 FLC Council will be installed during the Zoom Fellowship time at 10 a.m. The first Council Meeting will February 10, at 6:15 p.m. on Zoom.

Lent begins Wednesday, February 17. We are still working out the logistics for our observance and worship on Ash Wednesday. During these 40 days, we will examine our life of prayer and how it may become more and more the means for developing our spiritual resiliency.

On Sundays, the worship series, “The Gift of the Dark Wood” will help us explore the gifts God gives us when we aren’t sure of where we are or where the path we are on will take us. The disciples, once they sense Jesus has set his face toward Jerusalem, aren’t sure if Jesus knows what he is doing. Together, we will let ourselves get lost, so that we may be found.

If you want to go deeper into these themes during the week, please consider purchasing Eric Elnes book by the same name. [Gifts of the Dark Wood: Seven Blessings for Soulful Sceptics](#). Cokesbury Publisher has them available currently for \$14.79 paperback.

FOR YOUR PRAYER AND REFLECTIONS UPON GOD'S WORD



526 S. Olive Ave.
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
208-263-2048
office@firstlutheransandpoint.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America