



**“Awe and Wonder”  
Week 2**

First Lutheran Church, Sandpoint  
Worship - January 10, 2020

**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.]*

Strength and peace is the prayer of the Psalm this week. The Psalmist says “let me count the ways” that we can know the strength of the Holy One. With awe and wonder we behold the presence of God in all the elements of creation—water, fire, air, earth. And it is this glory that assures us that God, indeed, is holding our lives.

**Lift up your eyes, behold the hills.  
From where will help and rescue come?  
We call the One who made the earth,  
Who bless'd the stars, the moon and sun.**

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

### **Opening Collect Prayer**

*Leader:* Holy and Awesome God,  
You who created everything in a  
spectacular show of light and matter.  
Open us this day to the wonder of your  
power  
so that we might know the everlasting  
strength of your reign  
on earth as it is in heaven.

***People:* We praise you for your mighty  
works, holding our lives in the fabric of  
the cosmos. Amen.**



## **Psalm Reading: Psalm 29**

*Lukan Psalter translation*

Give glory to ADONAI, you heavenly court,  
give ADONAI glory and strength!  
Give forth the glory that God's Name deserves,  
and worship ADONAI in the splendor of holiness!

The voice of ADONAI resounds  
over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders over the  
raging seas.  
God's voice is powerful,  
God's voice is full of majesty.

The voice of ADONAI snaps the cedars,  
shatters the cedars of Lebanon.  
It makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of ADONAI strikes with  
bolts of lightning;  
the voice of YHWH shakes the wilderness,  
the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of God twists the oaks,  
and strips the forests bare;  
and in God's Temple all cry, "Glory!"

ADONAI sits in judgment over the flood;  
ADONAI is its Ruler forever.  
Give strength to your people, ADONAI!  
Bless your people with peace!

Additional Lectionary Scripture for today: Genesis 1:1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7; Mark  
1:4-11 (Baptism of Jesus)

## Reflection

The repetition in this Psalm (“the voice of ADONAI”) points to this literature’s musical origins as an earthly and heavenly call for us to worship the One who is in all things, including the storms of life.

This is traditionally the Baptism of the Lord Sunday. The “waters” depicted in this Psalm are a good connection to the “blessing over the water” in which we rehearse the salvation of God through biblical references to water... culminating in the water at Jesus’—and our own—baptism. God took an element of our world - we rely upon everyday - and added God’s Word of promise to this water, “You are my Beloved, in whom I am well-pleased”. How does your baptism inform your relationship with God? Like water, life-giving and uncontrollable. What is it like to be held in this way?

From the waters of creation to Noah and the flood, the crossing of the Red Sea, and the storms in Paul’s shipwreck, the Bible has much to say about the awe-filled wonders that ancient peoples saw in nature. Waters, and our life of faith, can be stormy at times. But God is there.

## Testimonies of Being Held

*This is an opportunity to let people share how they have felt the love and support of others, of God, in this time of pandemic. Take some time now and reflect on this, in light of your baptism.*

*If you are willing, Pastor Lori and Pastor Steve would love for you to offer your thoughts, either in writing or perhaps we could record you by phone. We will share these with the congregation, so we all may begin recognizing the many ways God is present with us, our Emmanuel. Our light revealing God’s peace and love for the world.*

### My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -  
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my  
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.  
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

*Silence*

## Prayers of the People

Each week we will have a moment to write prayer concerns on small pieces of paper. We will then place these prayers in a container [*bowl, box, etc*]*—a symbolic action of placing them in God’s hands, God’s care.*

*Take a moment to do this.*

Let us continue our 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.**

Holy and Living One,

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.**

**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 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.**

### **Sung Prayer Response**

*“Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands” - to the tune of  
“The King of Love, My Shepherd is.”*

*[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.**

### **The Peace and Thanksgiving**

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

Will you make a gesture of extending your cupped hands toward others who may be with or near you as a sign of offering the peace that Christ gives us. If you are alone, place your cupped hands over your heart, as a sign that you send your heartfelt peace out to the world.

Then, write here what you are thankful for 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>*

*[after a moment, continue with this verse]*

**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.**

## 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:

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**Prayer List:** George Marker, Michelle Thurston, Lynn Franck, Ed Jewell, 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; Sylvia Greenwood; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

We include prayers for Luther Park - its staff, residents, and families; Our nation, as it transitions to a new President; our congregation as we seek leaders and resources for our ministries in 2021

### Announcements:

- **Offering Envelopes for 2021** - If you would like a box of envelopes and haven't already been assigned a number, please call the office by January 5 and leave a message that you would like to be assigned a number. The phone number is 208-263-2048. If you haven't picked up your envelopes yet, there will be one more opportunity on January 12 (9 a.m. - noon) in the vestibule entrance nearest the office.
- **The Annual Meeting** will be January 31, 2021. The budget review will be January 17, 2021 at 10 a.m.. Both will be remote meetings on Zoom (invite to be sent with the weekly Sat. Email) that can be accessed by phone and online. More information will follow with instructions on how to participate.