

“We Are Made For the Beloved”

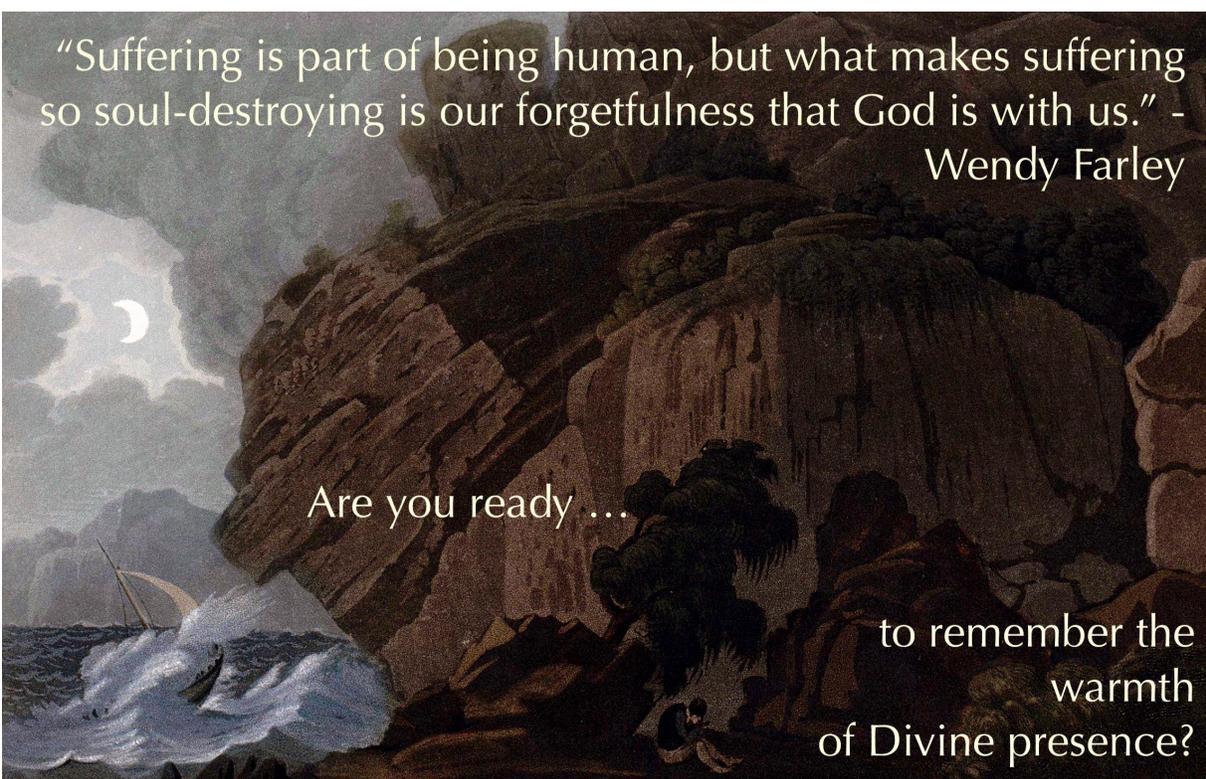
Week 2

July 19, 2020

At home worship with First Lutheran Church

WE GATHER

Threshold Moment



***Divine Goodness,
prepare my spirit to see
and be beguiled
by the beauty of life.
Amen.***

If you have wind chimes, brush them softly to focus your attention on the spirit and this time of reflection upon God's Word. See worship preparation materials for options of creating your own set of chimes.

Leader:

A Christian mystic of the 14th century, Julian of Norwich, lived during one of the worst centuries of human history, including the black death pandemic that wiped out millions of people, famines, floods, war, and corruption. In her writing, she addresses what she believed to be at the root of suffering—the misplaced idea of God's rejection. Without this core belief in beauty and sacred worth, we engage in self-and-other-destroying behaviors, inducing further suffering.

Contemplative practices invite us into union with the Divine One, healing the wounds of forgetfulness.

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth,
over and around us lies.
God of all to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise!**

[chimes]

Silent Centering

You are invited into a moment of quiet rest, a time of slowing the pace of your body and mind so that the spirit can settle.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF OPENING:

Divine Goodness, Holy One,
Pause us for this moment, bear us up in this time, hold us for eternity.
We open to your warming presence.
We remember we came from you.
We affirm all beings are your beloveds.
And all the people say, “Amen.”

Hymn of Beauty:

(ELW 765)

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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WORD

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

Lectio Divina

Leader: Last week we began our series and were introduced to “lectio divina,” an ancient practice of savoring our sacred texts with greater intention.

To savor is to “save the taste” in our memory—to take something in and allow it to linger.

Today, we will create pauses in our scripture readings, in order to meditate on the flavor of the stories and the Psalmist’s poetry. As we savor God’s Word for us, may it become a mantra that can visit us — in our memories and dreams — when we need to heal the wounds of forgetfulness.

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set.

Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

¹³And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;

¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said,

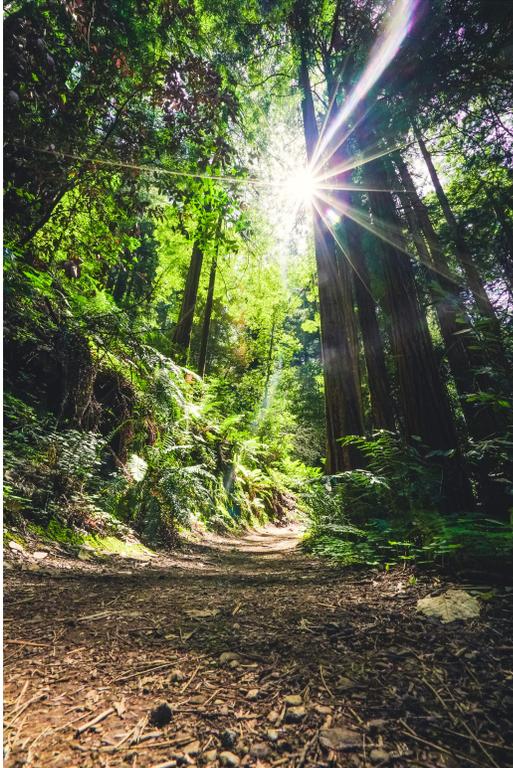
"Surely the LORD is in this place — and I did not know it!"

¹⁷And he was afraid, and said,

"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 16:7-11

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.

¹¹You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable:

“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.

²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him,

‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’

28He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’

The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’

29But he replied,

‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.

30Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,

Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned,
but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Sermo Divina

[There are many ways to enter into this time of contemplation on God’s Word. Maybe capture images with photography, sketches or painting, quilting, with poetry like haikus, listen or play music, go for a prayer walk. Journal with the prompts given in the supplemental Preparation at Home materials. Share your reflections with the congregation, family or friends.]

WE RESPOND

SONG OF THE DAY:

(ELW 622, refrain)

Neither Death nor Life

Refrain – All

Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor
trials in the pres-ent, nor an - y trial to come, nei - ther height, nor
depth, nor all of cre - a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us
from the love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: 'Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor'. The second staff continues: 'trials in the pres-ent, nor an - y trial to come, nei - ther height, nor'. The third staff continues: 'depth, nor all of cre - a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us'. The fourth staff concludes: 'from the love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.' The music uses various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests and ties.

Confession of Faith

We believe in God, who made us in God's own image.

We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like God.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.

Our counselor, our guide, our motivator - The Spirit is our joy!

Forgive us, O God,

when we take ourselves too seriously,

when we lose sight of your divine goodness,

when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children,

when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through + Christ Jesus.

Through Christ you have been given grace upon grace.

Your sins are forgiven.

Let us live together, now in hope.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Praying separately in our homes yet united in the Spirit, let us together intercede for all the needs of the world. In response to each bid, you are invited to offer your own prayers, silently or aloud, and to conclude each petition with the words, "Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"

A brief silence.

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways (*regions and nations in conflict may be named*). Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us (*especially*). Gather us with them on the day of salvation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Share what you are grateful for.

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

SONG OF THANKSGIVING *Doxology (Sing or Speak)* (ELW 884)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

HOLY COMMUNION

If you are with someone or on the phone with friends or family, Holy Communion can be shared now. Follow the liturgy in the “Spirit and Life” document, beginning on page 7.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 GO FORTH

RITUAL ACTION FOR THE WEEK

Leader: With each week’s message, we will find a way to integrate contemplative practices into our daily lives as a way of opening to the Divine in deeper ways, thereby training our spirits for compassion in all things.

This week’s ritual action is a time of feeling warmed by God’s love. Set a reminder to spend some time “warmed” by sitting/walking in the sun or sitting/lying while wrapped and cradled in a soft blanket.

As you do so, allow your mind to slow, your heart to open, your eyes to drink in your surroundings.

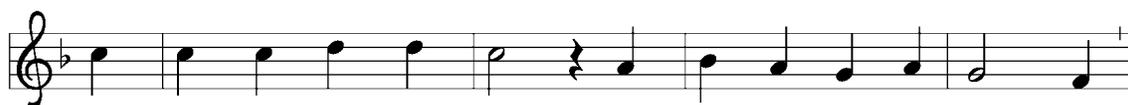
You may want to put a note nearby, “Your very essence is warmed by the presence of divine love. Be reminded to offer that warmth to others... for the beauty of the earth.”

And now, let us add our singing to the song of creation already in progress...

Closing Hymn:

(ELW 840)

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

BENEDICTION

The world is so varied and beautiful.
Seek wisdom wherever it is to be found.*
And may the goodness of the Creator,
the companionship of the Christ,
and the insight of the Spirit,
infuse your life now and always.
Amen.

Benediction Song Reprise

**God of all to thee, we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise!**

Worship Notes:

* The first two lines of the Benediction are a quote from Dr. Wendy Farley's father, Dr. Edward Farley, a renowned theologian.

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Pastors:

Lori Morton
Steve Neuder

Administrative Assistant:

Angie Brass

Council President:

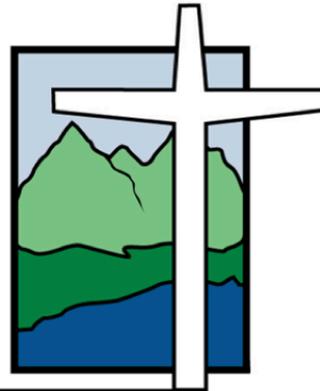
Jim Carlson

208-263-2048

526 S. Olive Ave., Sandpoint, Idaho
83864

Office Hours: 9 AM - 2 PM M-Th

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