

**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**April 26, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Greeting & Welcome**

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Call to Worship** *(Based on Psalm 23)*

One: In the darkest valley,

**All: at the banquet table;**

One: in the hard work of life,

**All: at the moments of ease;**

One: in our day-to-day reality,

**All: at times set aside -**

One: like this time, now -

**All: for worship, for listening, for paying attention;**

One: with every step we take;

**All: goodness and mercy follow us and our cups overflow.**

**“Morning Has Broken”**

Morning has broken

Like the first morning,

Blackbird has spoken

Like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing

Fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain’s new fall

Sunlit from Heaven,

Like the first dewfall

On the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness

Of the wet garden,

Sprung in completeness

Where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,

Mine is the morning,

Born of the one light

Eden saw play.

Praise with elation,

Praise every morning,

God’s re-creation

Of the new day!

### **Litany for the Vulnerable**

**Compassionate God, we pray for vulnerable people all over this world, people working without masks, in line at the food bank, trying to call the unemployment office, or gasping in the ICU.**

**Protect them, God; we feel so powerless ourselves to help them. Encourage and empower us to work for peace and freedom from fear in our own contexts.**

**God of grace, we pray for those whose lives have been turned upside down by various disasters: floods, fire, famine, and now virus. Bring courage and hope to them; through their pain, may they remain connected to you in prayer.**

**We pray for those who say there is no God; may we through the living of our won lives demonstrate the joy and peace of a Spirit-centered existence.**

**God of community, we pray for our own congregation; may we be a source of hope for our neighborhood.**

**Help us to discern needs and work to fulfill them. Strengthen and unify our congregation and show us how we can be the disciples you envision us to be. Return the sick to health and well-being and relieve the suffering of those who have lost loved ones, lost their sense of meaning, lost their ability to live the lives they long to.**

**Guide us, Great Shepherd, into your paths of right relationships.  
In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

### **Special Music**

#### **Reading**

John 19: 38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Homily**

A Holy Saturday People (or Liturgical Whiplash)

**“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

**Prayers of the People...**concluding with the Lord's Prayer

*After each petition, Pastor will say “Lord, In Your Mercy.”*

*Congregation will respond with “Hear Our 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 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.***

**“Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted”**

Come ye souls by sin afflicted  
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down  
By the broken law convicted  
Through the cross behold the crown  
Look to Jesus look to Jesus look to Jesus  
Mercy flows through Him alone

Take His easy yoke and wear it  
Love will make your obedience sweet  
Christ will give you strength to bear it  
While His grace shall guide your feet  
Safe to glory safe to glory safe to glory  
Where His ransomed captives meet

Blessed are the eyes that see Him  
Bless the ears that hear His voice  
Blessed are the souls that trust Him  
And in Him alone rejoice  
His commandments His commandments His commandments  
Then become their happy choice

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary  
Light to newly opened eyes  
Like full springs in deserts dreary  
Is the rest the cross supplies  
All who taste it all who taste it all who taste it  
Shall to rest immortal rise

## **Benediction**

Grace, Mercy, and Peace in the name of Jesus Christ, welcome to worship at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church.

## **COVID-19 FUND**

We hope this finds you and yours taking care of yourselves and each other. If you or someone you know is not doing well, please feel free to reach out. We want to support the vulnerable in these times. To that point, last Sunday our church created a Covid-19 Task Force and Fund. This fund is meant for those who are not impacted and have the resources to give generously and then a task force of Carol Beckman, Jeanne Mielke, and Christy Hill will allocate those monies for the greatest need as the fallout continues to affect so many in our midst.

## **GOING FORWARD**

As we continue to grapple with the ramifications of this rapidly changing reality, we want you to know that your church leaders: your Session, the church staff, and myself continue to pray, monitor, and listen to public health officials so we can envision when we can return to

this space together. Right now, we are talking with sister churches and each other to determine what that might look like. As you will hear today in the sermon, much is to be decided, and much more is yet to be revealed. Our Session will meet virtually on May 17th and I can assure you that this will be a discussion topic. One thing the staff and I remain grateful for is your presence. I am grateful I don't have to stare at blank pews. I am grateful you are remaining the body of Christ, and I am grateful you are continuing to support our mission. If this is your first time to witness our online service, welcome. We are grateful for you. Please peruse our website to learn more about commitment to share the peace of Christ.

### **Need a Mask?**

Christy Hill has generously offered to make a mask for anyone in need.

If you are in need of a mask, you can contact Christy at

[christy.hill321@comcast.net](mailto:christy.hill321@comcast.net).

### **Los Ninos Summer Camp**

We can tell you that Maritza Morelli, the Executive Director of Los Ninos Primero, and myself, have jointly decided to not hold Los Ninos' Summer Camp this summer. I am thankful to Maritza for making this incredibly difficult decision. I believe it shows compassionate leadership for the people she serves. If you would like to support Los Ninos, they are desperately in need of used laptops, if you have one in your home not being used, they will scrub it of all files and distribute it to a student very much in need of one to continue their studies.

## **UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

A few dates to keep in mind:

1. May 3rd we will be right back here.
2. May 10 we will celebrate Mother's Day as well as Senior Sunday. We have 8 seniors that are a part of the class of 2020 and they (and their moms) will all play a role in that service. That afternoon, we will hold a food drive for CAC from 2-4pm in the church parking lot. It will be a lot

like picking up take out from a restaurant these days. You will stay in your car, pop the trunk or hatch and we will collect the food.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Finally, we lament to inform you of the death of longtime church member Jack Ward. Jack was a faithful saint of the church who loved to sing in the choir. Please be in prayer for the Ward family as they grieve. They plan to hold a service when we will be able to gather together.

We continue to pray for everyone affected by this pandemic, and continue to pray for our leaders as they help us to discern how to live communally into this new reality.

And now, let us breathe into the love of Jesus Christ as we prepare our hearts to worship God.