

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Psalm 105:1

THANK YOU to those who are serving us during worship today.

MUSICIANS: Jan Johnson & Angie Meester

GREETERS. Today – North Door – Pat & Deb Prier

South Door – Kevin & Shelly Meester

Next Sunday: North Door – Ken & Nancy Mehmen

South Door – Mike & Kayla Stirling

USHERS. Today – Gerald Haan

Next Sunday – Dale Meester

VALET PARKING. Today – Mike Stirling

Next Sunday – Pat Prier

COFFEE SERVERS. This week – Marlyn & Marcia Allspach

Next week – No Coffee

THIS WEEK AT PARKERSBURG CRC

Today 9:30 a.m. – Morning Worship Service (ONLINE)

6:30 p.m. – Life Plus (ONLINE)

Next Sunday 9:30 a.m. – Morning Worship Service (ONLINE)

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to Arnie and Kay Swanson, who will be observing their 53rd anniversary on April 8.

Please remember those of our congregation who live alone and those alone in care facilities through a phone call or a card in these trying days.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The bulletin has the songs and all the "normal" stuff listed for worship so you can consider the songs chosen for the worship.

There will be no second offering next Sunday.

Due to isolation order Council will not meet on Monday.

Be sure to check out the church website on Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm for our online version of Life Plus!

NEWS FROM WORLD RENEW: The COVID19 virus is affecting a lot of people. Hundreds of factories in **Cambodia** are facing a shortage of raw materials from China and announced many closings, affecting about 160,000 workers. Ask God to provide support for all who are affected.

Creation Care: God created the earth and placed the care of it in our hands. The effects of climate change are stripping families of their livelihoods and resources. Ask God for solutions for us to use to change the way we live.

Growing Hope Globally: Through our partner, Growing Hope Globally, we can donate seed money to help purchase farm supplies, sell fertilizer and seeds at a discount rate, and bring hope to thousands around the world. May God continue to bless these efforts that make a big impact through small "mustard seeds" of love.

There is now another way to give offering! You can now give your offering electronically on the church website. It can be set up on a one-time, weekly or monthly basis, using your credit card or from your bank account. You can give to special or faith promise offerings as well. There is also an option to add extra to the offering to cover the transaction fees that are involved. Giving is confidential, no one else on the website will see what you are giving or who is giving. To get started, go to: <http://www.parkersburg-crc.org/give>

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Morning Service

April 5, 2020 – 9:30 AM

WE COME NEAR TO GOD

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship:

*Song: TCH 297 **Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

*God's Greeting

*Mutual Greeting

Lenten Reading

Song: TCH 580 (v. 1&2) **Through It All**

Palm Sunday Story: Matthew 21:1-11

Hymn of Response: TCH 583 **You Are My All in All**

Morning Prayer

Offertory and Offering: 1) General Fund
2) World Renew

*Hymn: TCH 301 **We Will Glorify**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Scripture: **Luke 23:44-49**

Message: **TRUST**

Prayer of Dedication

RESPONSE OF LOVE, GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

*Hymn: TCH 300 **All Glory, Laud and Honor**

*God's Blessing

*Closing Song: **For God So Loved the World**

*Postlude

MESSAGE NOTES

IT IS FINISHED

TRUST

Today we hear Jesus' words of trust in his heavenly Father. From the cross he cries out, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (Luke 23:46)



Some may hear the word *father* and think of a parent unworthy of trust. We know of fathers who hurt or abuse their children, who are lazy or apathetic, unwilling to care or help. These fathers have hands that aren't there for their families at all. Sometimes, they even abandon their children. There are also fathers who have unrealistic expectations and demands from their children. It's very hard to trust fathers with hands and hearts like these.

But our heavenly Father is very, very different. He is totally trustworthy. He is the kind of Father with whom you want to have a relationship. How do we know this? One way we know the heavenly Father is through his Son. Knowing Jesus, we can commit ourselves into God's hands. Jesus used his hands to heal the sick and give sight to the blind; he used his hands to welcome little children. Jesus used his hands to wash his disciples' feet in an act of humble service. We can trust our heavenly Father's hands because Jesus allowed his hands to be nailed to a cross for us!

During this Coronavirus pandemic, many have fallen ill and have restricted breathing, are on ventilators, in medically induced comas, and fighting for their lives.

At this time, no verse seems more appropriate than Psalm 31:5. The verse reads, "Into your hand I commit my spirit." There are no better hands in which to entrust this situation than the hands of our heavenly Father.

From the cross, Jesus echoed the words of Psalm 31. In doing so, he identified with our helplessness, and he modeled a pattern we can follow. In times of absolute desperation, we can always entrust ourselves into the hands of our heavenly Father. Those hands are totally trustworthy.

Sometimes in life, we are left with no other options. We are at our wits' end. We've run into walls. We're in over our heads and powerless to change the situation. Even in times like this, it is hard for us to yield, to entrust ourselves to someone else's care, but the Lord is worthy of our trust.

As difficult as these times are, they are times for trust. Helpless situations invite us to pray, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

Who better to trust than the One who brings resurrection? What better hands than those that give new life? What better words than those given to us by our Savior, "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit?"

As you prepare for Good Friday's message of "It Is Finished," and Easter Sunday, please take a few moments to read the suggested daily scriptures.

IT IS FINISHED - NEW

It is finished.

John 19:30

"It is finished," could easily be spoken in a negative sense. We say things like "I'm ruined." "It's all over." "There is no way I could recover from this." "I give up."

Jesus used these words differently, not in defeat, but in triumph. "It is finished," meant that his saving work was completed by his sacrifice on the cross. It is as if he said, "I've done it all. I'm it. My work is the ultimate, the final, the full. Sin is ruined. Death is over. Victory is here!"

Only Jesus has the authority to use these words to rebuke sin and evil. Only Jesus can say, "It is finished," and a new life begins.



Today, consider your secret sins, sins that need to be finished. Then claim Jesus' victory as your own, embracing the forgiveness and the fresh start that are yours, new every morning.

Monday, April 6	It's All Over 1 John 5:1-5
Tuesday, April 7	Ultimate Triumph John 16:33
Wednesday, April 8	Death Is Dead 2 Chronicles 20:15
Thursday, April 9	A New Kind of King John 18:28-40
Friday, April 10	The Ups and Downs Hebrews 2:9-18
Saturday, April 11	At Last John 14:1-4
Sunday, April 12	Alleluia! Christ Is Risen! Matthew 28:1-8