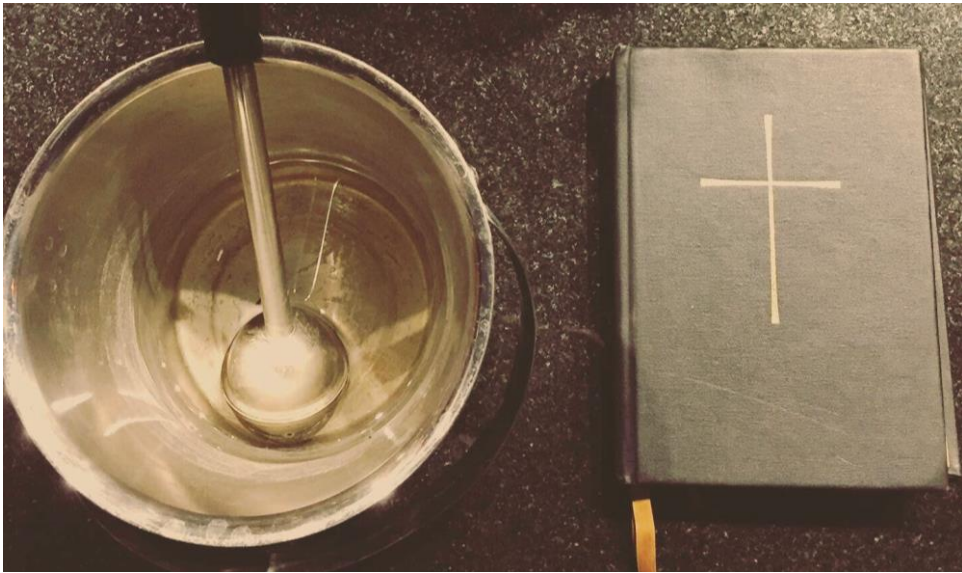




Order of Worship

March 8th, 2020



Pestlied Liturgy

(A Prayer Service for Communal Suffering and Distress)

*This liturgy was written by the Rev. Dr. Scotty J. Williams
and was celebrated in St. Gallen, Switzerland at
All Souls Protestant Church which is now dissolved.*

LITURGY

March 8, 2020

Pestlied Liturgy

PRELUDE

“Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten”

WELCOME

† PRAYER OF APPROACH

Pastor: Through times of joy, when all is well.

People: The Lord our God will guide us.

Pastor: And through times of pain, when all is lost.

People: The Lord our God will guide us.

Pastor: Through forty days of fasting now.

People: The Lord our God will guide us.

Pastor: And through all things and days to come.

People: The Lord our God will guide us.

Pastor: Let us pray....

ALL: Almighty, eternal, and merciful God, we gather here in troubled times, and with ourselves we offer prayers for countless others around the world. We bring You all our fears and ask that You would comfort us. We bring You all our cares and ask that You would strengthen us. We bring You all our pains, and ask that You would heal us. And Lord, we bring You thanks and praise, and trust in You with hopeful hearts. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

† SONG OF APPROACH

"If Thou But Trust In God"

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful
 3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine

heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be -
 hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Keep - er's
 own part faith - ful - ly. Trust the rich prom - is - es of

tide thee, to bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
 plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our
 grace; so shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er

God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.
 in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways dear.
 yet for - sook at need the soul se - cured by trust in - deed.

† OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 46

God Is Our Fortress

Lector: Please join me in a responsive reading of Psalm 46:
 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in
 trouble.

*People: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
 though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,*

Lector: Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains
 tremble at its swelling.

*People: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
 the holy habitation of the Most High.*

Lector: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
 God will help her when morning dawns.

*People: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice,
 the earth melts.*

Lector: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our
 fortress.

*People: Come, behold the works of the Lord, how He has brought
 desolations on the earth.*

Lector: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the
 bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

*People: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among
 the nations I will be exalted in the earth!"*

Lector: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our
 Fortress. This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† S OF ADORATION SONG

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here
Come bow before Him now
With reverence and fear

**In Him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here**

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire,
With splendor He is crowned

**How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around**

Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister His grace

**No work too hard for Him,
In faith receive from Him
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place**

4

“Be Still”

† PESTLIED

5

Stanza I

In the Beginning of the Sickness

Pastor: While comforting those who had the Plague Zwingli also caught it, and as he wrestled with the fear of death, he rested in two promises. The promise that Jesus Christ has broken the power of sin and death, and the promise that all things will work together for the good of those who love the Lord. As his end stood at the door and left him with uncertainty, Zwingli believed these things were true and found the courage to carry on. In this time, where many people are wrestling with the fear of death, may we rest within these promises and let their truth encourage us.

Help, Lord God, help in this trouble!
I think that death is at the door.
Stand before me, O Christ, for You have overcome it.
To You I cry: “If it is Your will,
Take out the dart that wounds me,
Nor lets me have an hour’s rest or repose.

Will You, however, that death take me
In the midst of my days, so let it be.
Do what You will, nothing shall be too much for me.
Your vessel am I, take me or break me altogether.
For You take away my spirit from this earth,
You do it, so that my spirit may not grow worse,
Or spot the pious lives and ways of others.

(Silence)

† CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor: Gracious Lord, we commit ourselves entirely to You, On Whose mercy and love we depend alone, and Whose eternal truth we trust entirely. Therefore, in thanks for Your mercy, love, and truth we confess this day together saying....

ALL: We have sinned against You and one another in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as we love ourselves; we have not always had in us the mind of Christ. Lord, forgive us, we pray, and free us from the power of sin. And renew in us the grace of Your Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

(Confess in Silence)

† SONG OF CONFESSION

“Ubi Caritas”

Ubi caritas et amor.

Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

Translation: Where charity and love are, God is there.

† CONFESSION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: To all who confess themselves to be sinners, and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, I declare this sure promise: *If we confess our sins, Christ is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (1 John 1:9)

Therefore, in light of this sure promise, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all of our sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous!
Thanks be to God!

† CONFESSION OF FAITH based on the 2nd Helvetic Confession

Pastor: Let us confess our faith together saying:

ALL: We believe in one God, Who created all things, and is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And we believe in the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, as the Word of God and rule of faith.

We believe that God should be worshipped alone through the power of the Spirit and in Jesus' name.

And we believe in the holy universal where sins are forgiven, grace abounds, and eternal life is given to all.

Amen.

† PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor: Friends, the peace of the Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Pastor: Please take this time to offer the peace of Christ to those around you.

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
 Leave to thy God to order and provide;
 In every change, He faithful will remain.
**Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
 Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
 To guide the future, as He has the past.
 Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
 All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
**Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 His voice Who ruled them while He dwelt below.**

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
 And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
 Then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,
 Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.
**Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay
 From His own fullness all He takes away.**

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
 When we shall be forever with the Lord.
 When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
 Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
**Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
 All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

Pastor: As he felt the pain of Plague and wrestled with the fear of death, Zwingli also fought the devil within the world and within himself. He had seen the devil in how people treated the suffering; how they abandoned them to die alone, while running off to save themselves. And he had seen the devil in his ministry as people's priest; how he sometimes used his office as a way to show how "good" he was. Zwingli also saw that his strength was failing and was not enough, so he rested in the strength of God to overcome the devil's work. In this time, where many people find their strength is failing, may we rest within the strength of God and know that He will fight for us.

Console me, Lord God, console me!
 The illness increases;
 Pain and fear seize my body and soul.

Come to me then with Your grace, my only consolation.
 It will surely save all
 Who set their heartfelt desires and their hopes on You,
 And who besides despise all gain and loss.

Now all is over. My tongue is dumb;
 It cannot speak a word; my senses are blighted.
 Therefore, it is time that You conduct my fight hereafter,
 Since I am not so strong, that I can bravely resist
 The devil's work and treacherous hand.
 Still my spirit will constantly stay with You,
 However he may rage.

(Silence)

† SONG OF STRENGTH

“Before The Throne of God Above”

Before the throne of God above
 I have a strong and perfect plea.
 A great High Priest whose name is love
 Who ever lives and pleads for me.
 My name is graven on His hands,
 My name is written on His heart.
 I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
 And tells me of the guilt within.
 Upward I look and see Him there
 Who made an end of all my sin.
 Because the sinless Savior died,
 My sinful soul is counted free.
 For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
 My perfect, spotless Righteousness.
 The great unchangeable I AM,
 The King of glory and of grace.
 One with Himself, I cannot die,
 My soul is purchased by His blood.
 My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God.
With Christ my Savior and my God.

† PESTLIED

Stanza III

In Recovery from the Sickness

Pastor: For Zwingli his story of suffering has a happy ending, but others were not so fortunate to survive the Plague as he did. Since then it has been the same as new sicknesses have come about; some people recover and live on while others get the opposite. As he thought of the one-third who had fallen in Zürich and their families, he looked to the promises and strength of God and came to believe that all would be well. In this time, as we think upon the sickness that is now causing so much unrest, may we rest within this hope and know that all will be and all is well.

Healing, Lord God, Healing.
 I think I am already coming back.

Yes, if it please You, Lord, that no spark of sin
 Rule me no longer on earth,
 Then my lips must speak Your praise the more
 And Your teaching more than ever before,
 In every way, with simplicity and without craft.

Although there is a time where I must die,
 Perhaps with greater pain than what has passed,
 Since I came so near to death's door;

So will I still bear joyfully,
 For the sake of the reward
 The mocking of this world by Your help,
 Without which nothing can be perfected.

(Silence)

† SONG OF HOPE

“All Must Be Well”

Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well
Free and changeless is His favor, all is well

Precious is the blood that healed us
Perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us
All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well
Ours is such a full salvation, all is well

Happy still in God confiding
Fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding
All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, all is well

On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well

Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well
Free and changeless is His favor, all is well

Precious is the blood that healed us
Perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us
All must be well

† WORSHIP IN GIVING

If you are our guest today, please feel under no compulsion to give, but if you choose to give we thank you and pray that you are blessed.

† DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures

here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

† PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

about COVID-19

Pastor: Friends, as we face this troubled time, where a new sickness (COVID-19) affects the world, let us pray to the Lord with all our hearts, souls, and minds saying....

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the family, friends, and colleagues of the late Dr. Li Wenliang, who first warned the world of the virus, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the places most affected by the virus, and the places where it is now appearing. We think especially of our city, St. Gallen, where the first case was discovered last week, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the medical scientists and researchers who are working hard to find a vaccine, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all leaders in government, who are seeking the comfort and well-being of those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who are infected and in quarantine, and for those who fear infection as they go about their daily lives. We take a moment of silence to think of all people who have died and their families.....(silence).....let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: And for the Church as it seeks to be a witness of hope. May we follow Zwingli's example and Christ's greater example of service and love, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious Father, in Whom the family in heaven and on earth is named, we thank You for our fellowship as this time of worship nears its end. Lord send us out into the world to sow love where there is hatred, pardon where there is injury, faith where there is doubt, hope where there is despair, light where there is darkness, and joy where there is sadness. And as we go forth into a restless world may we console others as You console us, understand others as You understand us, care for others as You care for us, and love others as You love us. We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your precious Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, as one God, both now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

† SONG OF SENDING

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Bears all its sons a - way;
 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home!
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fence is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 They fly for - got - ten as a dream Dies at the o - pening day.
 Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our e - ter - nal home. A - MEN.

† THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: As our time of prayer comes to an end, let us pray the prayer
that Jesus taught His followers to pray....

ALL: 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.

BENEDICTION

(The people join hands)

Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.

And may the Lord lift up the light of His countenance
upon you, and give You His peace, both now and forever.

† CONGREGATIONAL AMEN

Threefold (Danish) Amen

A - men. A - men. A - men.