

## Sunday, March 29, 2020

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent and*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the Covid 19 Lockdown*

### Gathering the Community

Please spend a moment in preparation for worship.

*Become quiet. Notice your breath.*

*Give thanks for your breath: You, breathing in God's world,  
God breathing in you and through you.*

Welcome & Introduction to the service

*Welcome to worship on the this Sunday morning: "physically distanced" but "close in spirit". Across the world, people of all faiths are worshipping today from their homes, in front of their laptops, sitting with sacred words, lighting candles, kneeling on rugs...sacred buildings are beautiful, gatherings in person are so important, but when that cant happen, we can still worship together, in Spirit.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

You may want to light a candle or tealight in your home.

*We light this light in the name of Creator who said "Let there be light" -and there was light.*

*We light this light in the name of Christ, who said:*

*"I am the light of the world, whoever walks in my footsteps will not be in darkness". We light this light in the name of Holy Spirit, who is our inner light and the light of God's presence in the world. Be still for a moment and become aware of God's light within you, your home, our community, and all around the globe.*

A moment of Silence

Call to worship:

Breath Prayer: (Psalm 46:10)

be still and know that I am God.

be still and know that I am

be still and know

Be still

be.

Prayer Words:

*(Morning Prayer by Rosalind Selby, UK)*

Loving and Holy God,

it is such a privilege

to bring our honest prayers to you,

to open the Scriptures and discover not only that ordinary women and men,

but also Jesus himself, offer to you the gritty 'stuff' of their lives –

it gives us the permission we need to be that honest

not just 'polite' prayers,

... and even ... not just the heartfelt prayers that come out of the needs we

experience and that we perceive in the lives of others –

but the questions and challenges

and anger and hurt

of our very human emotions

bursting from our hearts and minds and flung out at you.

Thank you for listening to these too.

And thank you for being in this day with us – with me – in whatever unfolds.

Whatever this day brings,

your will be done;

even if I'm struggling,

your will be done;

because I cannot believe otherwise

than that you will the good

of every single one of your children –

including me. Amen.

*Do you know this hymn? We tend to sing it in January but I find it a good fit for these times:*

"A Light is Gleaming" (Voices United #82)

### Hearing the Story



Time with the young and young at heart:

**"Miss Rumphius" a children's book by Barbara Cooney.** You can hear it read when you go on the internet copy this link into your computer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrjPzbuxLJU>

Summary: Alice has enjoyed her younger years, traveled far and has had an exciting life. Now in her older years she thinks about how she can give back. She makes a promise to "Make the world a more beautiful place" Then a seed of an idea is planted and blossoms into a beautiful plan.

The "real" Miss Rumphius" is apparently responsible for swaths of lupins long the high and byways of Maine.



Think about it: *With this much extra time given these days: what might give your life purpose now? How can you give back?*

The Psalm for this week is : **Psalm 86:1-7**

In “The Voice” translation, 2012

O Eternal One, lend an ear to my prayer and answer me,

for I am weak and wanting.

**2 Safeguard my soul, for I remain loyal to You.**

**Save me, Your servant, who trusts in You, my God.**

**3** O Lord, please be merciful to me,  
as all day long I cry out to You.

**4 Bring joy into the life of Your servant,  
for it's only to You, O Lord, that I offer my soul.**

**5** O Lord, You are good and ready to forgive;  
Your loyal love flows generously over all  
who cry out to You.

**6 O Eternal One, lend an ear and hear my prayer;**

**listen to my pleading voice.**

**7** When times of trouble come, I will call to  
You because I know You will respond to me.

This is the witness of Israel

**Thanks be to God for the Word.**

Reading the Gospel: **Mark 12:1-13** Parable of the  
the ruthless tenants

Then he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>2</sup>When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. <sup>3</sup>But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>4</sup>And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. <sup>5</sup>Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. <sup>6</sup>He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>7</sup>But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ <sup>8</sup>So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. <sup>9</sup>What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup>Have you not read this scripture:

“The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;[a]

<sup>11</sup> this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

<sup>12</sup> When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

Translation: New Revised Standard (NRSV)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church  
**Thanks be to God.**

Message: (see separate page)

## Responding to the Word

Offering our Gifts

*Your financial gifts via PAR or regular mail are much appreciated and needed now as the bills keep coming in, but so are your time and talent!*

*Thank you.*

Prayers of the people:

Gracious God, you are ever present, but never more than when your people are in times of crisis.

We give you thanks for all the new learnings of the past week...*(name some)*

We give thanks for the people we have spoken with, who have reached out to us, who we have touched with our gestures of care...*(here encounters of the past week may be remembered)*

We give thanks for the blessings in our lives ...  
*(remember and name, aloud or in your heart)*

We ask for help with the challenges we are facing right now....

We pray for family, friends and neighbours....

We pray for humanity in this time of crisis, may we come together, may we be in solidarity, may we nurture your vinyard -land and people- in humility..

*(insert further prayers as you wish)* -close with the

**Lord's Prayer**

**Preparing for Service during the week**

Announcements & Notices (see separate letters)

Blessing: (adapted from Iona prayers)

Now may the Spirit of God, who brooded over the waters and brought order out of chaos, find a home in our hearts. May God settle our minds as we rest at home, and inspire our minds as we walk outside and breathe fresh air.

From where we are, to where You need us, lead us on, dear Lord.

\* Commissioning and **Sung Blessing:**

**[ More Voices # 218]**

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.

May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.

May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

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This morning's bulletin is dedicated by Claire and family in loving memory of husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, Dennis Buchanan.

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**Rev. Elisabeth may not always be in the office -but she is here for you!!**

**Let her know what you think of these worship services, and what else you'd like to see!**

**Announcements:**

Shiloh would appreciate donations of previously loved LEGO blocks for Oak (3.5 yrs old)

Anna Alberta would appreciate a call if someone who goes to Halifax can pick up her specialty groceries which are sitting in Boss Plaza , 56 Supreme Court(which apparently is still open because its only groceries).

Janet Swansburg writes.. If you have a bicycle, or a helmet you would like to donate for a church project or even if you would like more information about our project proposal, please call Janet at ----- . And please tell all your friends not to throw out their old bicycles ....

Joanne Buckmaster has Hymn books to give away. Please give her a call if you could use one in this challenging time.

A phone list by area has been distributed via email and in person, so that you can find the United Church folks closest to you.

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Pictorial Directory available for \$10.00 from the office via Rev. Elisabeth. Can be delivered or sent by mail

**Welcome!  
St. George & St. Andrew  
United Church Annapolis Royal**



*Open Doors (not so much right now...)*

*Open hearts (you bet!)*

*Open minds (we're trying...)*

**MARCH 29, 2020**

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