

Morning Worship ~ October 4, 2020

As you enter the Zoom meeting, you're invited to enjoy the music playing in the background and visit with one another while we wait to begin. If you join us after 10am, please enter the room quietly and mute your microphone. As long as you can hear Pastor Kendra, you will be able to participate in worship.

Please note that if you are able to join us on video but not print up the liturgy, the liturgy will now be shared on the Zoom screen as we worship!

Today is the third in-person worship in the Sanctuary. Zoom worship will continue to be offered.

*Be sure to check the Fair Street Weekly for updates and announcements for the week!

*For prayer requests, joys and concerns please email pastorkendra1@gmail.com by Saturday night, or you can text her on her cell phone. You will also be able to send them in the chat conversation that will be to the right of the video screen on Sunday.

Please note: after today's worship service, the Sanctuary will be closed the entire week. There will be a cleaning period on Wednesdays and cleaning and disinfecting on Saturday prior to Sunday's worship.

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As we come together for worship on Sunday, we will once again gather around the Table for **communion** in a socially distant and safe way, in hopes that this will continue to allow us to feel connected as we share in this means of grace together. **You are invited to have a cracker or small piece of bread and a small cup of juice or water with you.** After the sermon, I will lead us through the communion liturgy, speak the words of institution and we will share in a meal together. It is in the sacrament of Communion, in which we believe that the bread and cup are signs and symbols of the work God has already accomplished, and we will come together to remember this gracious gift of love.

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God Gathers the Church

GATHERING AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God who frees us invites us to worship.

The God of law welcomes our loyal response.

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

God is present with us, eager to speak to us.

Our Creator is here to test us and to keep us from sin.

The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

God's decrees are sure, making wise the simple.

We tremble before God, yet are not afraid.

We are ready to listen to God's word.

May our awe before God be pure and enduring.

May our thoughts and our words be acceptable to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have no righteousness of our own. We have bent and ignored your law. Your commandments inform us but do not transform. We give lip service to your law but seek to avoid its implication for our lives. We recognize some of our errors, but many are hidden from us. We devote our energies to accumulating possessions that function as idols in our lives. We depend on them more than we honor you. Save us, we pray, from great transgressions and help us to reorder our days. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GUIDE FOR GRATEFUL LIVING

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY: Philippians 3:4-14

Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

Rev. Kendra VanHouten

The Church Responds to God

SHARING IN COMMUNION TOGETHER

THE SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE WITH OUR GIFTS: While the social distancing makes it a challenge to worship in person, and serve alongside one another, ministry is still happening. We ask that you consider either mailing in your offering contribution or sending it online through our secure website: <https://fairstreetreformedchurch.org/>, and click on the [support us](#) page. Your offering supports the work and ministry of the church as we continue to seek for ways in which we can love our neighbor, with no exceptions, even from a distance.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)*

BENEDICTION