



**Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church**  
Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A  
<http://www.lectionarypage.net/index.html>  
22 March 2020

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**Greeting**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
welcome home, children of God. The Lord be with you.

**Announcements**

1. In response to CDC recommendations to help delay the spread of the coronavirus, all of Timber Ridge's church-related gatherings, including Sunday morning worship, have been suspended.
2. Each Sunday, worship resources and a message from Pastor Chris will be posted on Timber Ridge's Facebook page and website. They will be provided in another format to those who do not have internet access. Though we cannot gather together for worship, we can worship in our homes in ways that recall and celebrate our unity and community. We remain surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses!
3. Begin worship by observing a few moments of silent reflection to quiet heart and mind before God and to notice ways God's presence and faithfulness have been made known to you in the last week. Please email or call Pastor Chris to add what you have noticed to the prayer list so that we all might be edified and encouraged.

**Call to Worship (*Psalm 103:8*)**

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love.

**Opening Prayer**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the mercy you so freely offer us, through the grace of our baptism—safe passage through the sea, justice rolling down like water, deliverance from sin and death forever. By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured out upon us in baptism, teach us to love and serve you faithfully and reconcile us to you and to one another as members of one living body; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Minute for Mission**

(We continue to prepare for the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, which is normally received on Easter Sunday. The Minute for Mission for today is posted separately.)

## **+ + + LITURGY OF THE WORD + + +**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days of Lent and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Scripture Reading:**

John 9:1-41

**Sermon:** There's Social Distancing and Then There's Social Distancing

### **Prayers of the People**

(Our prayers matter. Take some time for intercessory prayer.)

(Timber Ridge's prayer list is provided on the last page of this document. In addition, the "Additional Resources" for today includes a link to 20 suggested prayers to pray during this pandemic.)

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To you, O God, we entrust these prayers, knowing that you alone can provide grace to help in our time of need.

### **Lord's 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.

## **+ + + LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST + + +**

### **Offering** (*Philippians 3:7-8*)

What was true for the Apostle Paul is also true for us:

All that we seek to accomplish, all that we strive to achieve, all that we claim to possess—all of this amounts to nothing without knowing and trusting and following Jesus.

## **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

God of compassion, we are overwhelmed by your love, which goes to the cross for us, endures the grave, and leads us to new life. By your Spirit, strengthen our souls to be brave and bold in Christ's service. Amen.

## **Blessing**

May the peace of God guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

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Contact information for Rev. Dr. Christine T. Bohn, Interim Pastor:  
cell # (423) 329-5822 [when in Greeneville]; home # (423) 487-5400; no texts.  
email addresses: bohnchristine@rocketmail.com or pastorchris@trpctn.org.

Session: Charles Brumley (2020; clerk of session), Marilyn Brumley (2021; receiving treasurer), Hannah Crocker (2020), April Marengo (2022), Beth Morrell (2022), John Morrell (2021).

Sandra Carter is the disbursing treasurer.  
Charlie Harmon is the choir director.  
Beth Morrell is the assistant choir director.

Our prayer is that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:17-19).

**++ Food Bank: March ++**

Instant potatoes or rice

**++ Samaritan's Purse: March ++**

Quality crafts

## **+ + + INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST (3/22/19) + + +**

### Prayer Requests

Charlie H. - health  
Vicki T. – health  
Ashton – health concerns  
Negetha - health & well-being  
Ethan S. – court hearing postponed  
Tenisha - health  
Margie L. - health & well-being  
Edwina C. - health & well-being  
Tony B. - health & well-being  
Doyle E. - health  
Zelma's sister Judy - health  
James W. - health  
Ed B. (Beth's dad) - health/well-being  
Ken & Inge H. - health  
Alexis S. - continuing health issues  
Family & friends grieving deaths  
Kortnee – serenity and patience  
Eloise (Phil's aunt) - on hospice  
Benjamin – recovering from surgery  
Robert – recovering  
Brian – receiving treatment  
Ronnie C. – receiving treatments  
Julie T. (Chris' niece) – receiving treatments  
Brown (friend of Sandra) – receiving treatments

### Praise Reports

Gratitude for sunshine and Sonshine  
Nancy R. reports that she is doing well.  
Julie T. is responding well to treatment.  
Rylie T. has a diagnosis.  
Zeke's knee is recovered and he's running up and down the mountain again.  
Last week's sermon on COVID-19 and our responsibility and privilege to remain faithful

Vicki's mom – health concerns  
Joanne H. – health  
Alexis – improving  
Lee (Negetha's nephew) – healing  
Classmate of Blair's – non-Hodgkins lymphoma  
Local person facing deportation to Philippines, where home was destroyed by recent earthquake  
Robin and her dad – health (both)  
14-year-old – had surgery 3/20  
Young man – injured while working on vehicle  
Caregivers  
All aspects of the coronavirus pandemic, especially those who are ill, those who are mourning, those who are afraid, those who have been displaced, those whose jobs or activities have been disrupted, those who were already in crisis before this crisis even started, those locked down in residential facilities and prisons, those whose jobs put them at increased risk, those involved in health care, and those who have leadership responsibilities

Please email or phone new prayer requests and praise reports, as well as updates, to Pastor Chris so that they can be added to this list. Thanks!

## 5 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

Look around you this morning. Go ahead, look around. Isn't it good to be in the house of God today? I bet that some of us, when we were growing up, were told that there were certain ways to behave in the church building, because it is God's house. Maybe it was not to run, or to keep our voices quieted, or maybe we were taught to invite others in. This is God's house.

In Isaiah 58, the author is addressing a people who have returned to Jerusalem, where the Temple—God's house—was in shambles. I imagine it was a heartbreaking scene. And in that rubble, the prophet challenges the people, not to rebuild the building or to restore their religious rituals, but to care for the hungry, the weak and the vulnerable—the prophet called the people to become the house of God. Look around you again. The people here, today, our church—we are the house of God, too. We are called to become, as Isaiah promised long ago, “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in.”

Together, we become the household of God. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional or spiritual—and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat.

When the wind and water wipe homes away, or bombs destroy the dwellings of the innocent, or people lack safe and affordable housing, One Great Hour of Sharing extends a roof.

When conflict and war cause famine, or the environment endangers the land of farmers, or those who work the fields are not paid enough to feed their families, One Great Hour of Sharing welcomes them to the table.

When water becomes scarce, or when it must be accessed by walking long and dangerous distances, or when the pipes or sources become poisoned,

One Great Hour of Sharing rushes in as a spring of life-giving water.

God's house is a place where needs are met and the broken systems that cause those needs are addressed. Across this country and around the world, Presbyterians are responding to the call we hear in Isaiah. We are gathering together as God's people and becoming a household with the suffering and vulnerable. We are celebrating God's goodness and grace and giving to One Great Hour of Sharing.

We are the house of God. Let us welcome those without a home into God's house. Let us invite those without enough to eat to God's table. Let us invite those who thirst to the spring of God's fountain. May we be called, as Isaiah said, “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in.”

*Let us pray:*

*Draw all people together, gracious God,  
and make us your house.*

*Let our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing  
create a home  
and a wholeness for people in need,  
so that the whole  
human family will know your love.*

*Amen.*

## Additional Resources for Sunday, March 22, 2020

1. *OpenDoors*, a global ministry to and for the persecuted church around the world, shares seven lessons from persecuted Christians about living in circumstances that fuel fear.

[www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/ease-coronavirus-fears-7-lessons-from-persecuted-christians/](http://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/ease-coronavirus-fears-7-lessons-from-persecuted-christians/)

2. *Christianity Today* has an article by Jen Pollack Michel entitled “20 Prayers to Pray During This Pandemic.”

[www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/march-web-only/covid-19-coronavirus-20-prayers-to-pray-during-pandemic.html?utm\\_source=ctweekly-html&utm\\_medium=Newsletter&utm\\_term=14624577&utm\\_content=703100842&utm\\_campaign=email/](http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/march-web-only/covid-19-coronavirus-20-prayers-to-pray-during-pandemic.html?utm_source=ctweekly-html&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_term=14624577&utm_content=703100842&utm_campaign=email/)

3. *Presbyterian Outlook* provides a guide for family worship for Sunday, March 22, 2020.

<https://pres-outlook.org/2020/03/family-worship-for-march-22-2020/>