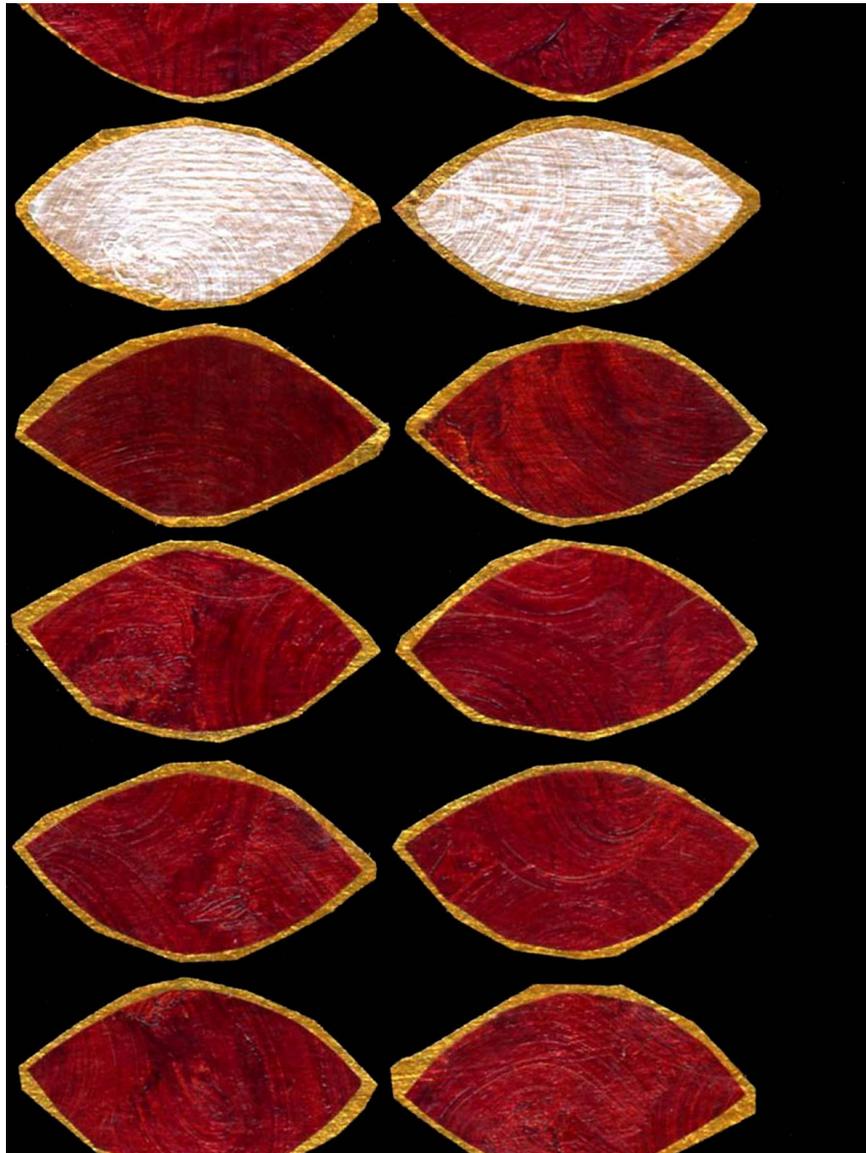


Worship Guide for First Baptist Church on Fifth

Sunday, March 22, 2020 + Winston-Salem, NC
The Fourth Sunday of Lent



Jan Richardson, *Mud In Your Eye*

This Worship Guide is for you: for the worship of God today, for words and practices and images to sustain you through the week, for engagement with your families and communities, for hope in even the deepest places of despair.

May these songs we sing, the scriptures we read, the practices we engage, the prayers we offer all be pleasing to God -- today and all the week ahead!

Blessings on your worship, beloved community!

Body Prayer

- Clenched Fists:* Bringing to mind the anger, frustrations, anxieties, fears, and griefs in your week
- Open Hands:* Letting go, listening to God, making yourself available to God
- Hands Lifted:* Preparing yourself to worship God who is gift and giver
- Arms Wrapped:* Embracing yourself with the reminder that for you, God's beloved, grace abounds. You are enough!
- Hands Extended:* Joining our spirits with others in friendship and shared companionship on the journey; we are never alone!
- Hands to Heart:* Gathering up all things so that you can God in spirit and in truth

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Passing the Peace

Turn to those around you -- other people in your house, your pets, your neighbors outside, your friends online -- and share these words:

May the peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!

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New Testament Reading

John 9:1-41

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Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Written by our own Rev. Patricia Greene

Prayer of Confession

One: Aching to be fully reconciled to the God who first spoke so long ago breathing light and life into this world, let us in honesty and vulnerability open our hearts to God.

All: We confess, O God, that we have allowed fears to overwhelm us. We have turned inward, propelled by anxiety, rather than seeking creative ways to reach out. We have found ourselves blinded by bleak messages that swirl around us and have failed to see the gifts you continue to give. We have allowed the chaos of our world to make a home inside of us.

One: Remind us that your never-ending song of love and hope is still playing in this world. And remind us that we are a part of it.

All: Help us to open our hearts to your creative spirit that guides us. Give us eyes to see your light that shines in the midst of every shadow, and give us the courage to share that light. As we find ourselves stumbling along a new road, remind us that we do not walk this journey alone. Help us to carry within us a spirit of gratitude and peace that cannot be shaken.

(Silent confession)

Words of Assurance

One: We worship a God who sees and knows us completely and loves us still. This God hears us when we pray and meets us with mercy and forgiveness. Our God never gives up on us and always calls us forward.

All: Thanks be to this God!

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Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
Thou my soul's shelter, and Thou my high tower
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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Psalm 23 Lectio Divina

Instructions from the Illustrated Ministry guide for the Week of March 22

See coloring sheet at the end of this Worship Guide

Prepare to listen. Find a comfortable sitting position and take a few moments to prepare your heart, mind, body, and soul to listen to the Word of God. This might mean doing some breathing exercises to quiet your mind and slow your body down, lighting a candle, or saying a prayer.

Slowly, read Psalm 23 aloud. Notice any words, phrases, sentences that stand out to you or resonate with you now. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

Read Psalm 23 aloud again. Draw your focus to the words, phrases, or sentences that stood out to you. Reflect on and be curious about why they resonate with you. You can even write or color in the phrases on the provided coloring page. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

Read Psalm 23 aloud again. As you hear the words, phrases, or sentences that stand out to you, offer up any emotions, feelings, thoughts you have to God as a response of prayer. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

Read Psalm 23 aloud one last time. This time, reflect on what was meaningful to you as you read or listen to the scripture. Allow for a few moments of quiet, and then offer a prayer to God as you end your Lectio Divina time.

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Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Written by Pastor David Williamson

On this day when we are separated from one another physically,
yet bound together inextricably through your Spirit, we pray for one another:
And in our prayer we voice the concerns of our Beloved Community
and of the global community, for our collective needs are great.
But our needs will never surpass your abundance,
and our insufficiency will never surpass your completeness.
And so we open wide our hearts to you and to the suffering of the world.

Throughout our world there is unrest, uncertainty, and unsettledness.
The valley of the shadow of death that began in China and that now ravages Italy

waits at the shores of countries around the globe, including our own.
Remove all fear and remind us of your abiding presence.
Even in the midst of hopelessness, bring hope;
and may it please you to use us as your messengers.
As borders close, keep our hearts open.

For medical personnel in our church, our city, and throughout our country,
we pray for strength, wisdom, courage, and compassion,
that they may not grow weary in their calling.
They are your gift to us, they are the Christ among us,
bringing sight to the blind and relief to the suffering.
Sustain them, O God, in your mercy.

For those who are discouraged and despondent,
we pray for healing of mind, body, and spirit.
Even as disease ravages the bodies of some,
for many of us, it is the mind that suffers from an invisible illness.
Remove all fear, doubt, and anxiety,
and let your peace rule our divided hearts.

For those who will die this day:
May the light of your perpetual peace shine upon them.
May your goodness and mercy pursue them
all the way to the end of this life and into the next.

Jesus warned us that the time is short,
that we must work while there is light, for night is coming.
And so we offer ourselves and all that we are for the healing of the world.
We pray in the name of the one who is our Light in this season of darkness,
even Jesus Christ who taught us to pray saying:

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. Amen.

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Homily

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Blessing of Mud

Written by Jan Richardson from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

Lest we think
the blessing
is not
in the dirt.

Lest we think
the blessing
is not
in the earth
beneath our feet.

Lest we think
the blessing
is not
in the dust,
like the dust
that God scooped up
at the beginning
and formed
with God's
two hands
and breathed into
with God's own
breath.

Lest we think
the blessing
is not
in the spit.

Lest we think
the blessing
is not
in the mud.

Lest we think
the blessing
is not

in the mire,
the grime,
the muck.
Lest we think
God cannot reach
deep into the things
of earth,
cannot bring forth
the blessing
that shimmers
within the sludge,
cannot anoint us
with a tender
and grimy grace.

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Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

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Doxology

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

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Benediction



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

PSALM 23 ACTIVITY

Write out your own version of Psalm 23 or draw out your own scenes of what Psalm 23 means to you.

Psalm 23

(translation from *The Inclusive Bible*)

YHWH, you are my shepherd
I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in
green meadows;
You lead me beside restful waters;
You refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures
For the sake of your Name.
Even if I'm surrounded
by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger,
for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff,
They give me courage.
You spread a table for me
In the presence of my enemies,
And you anoint my head with oil
My cup overflows!
Only goodness and love
will follow me
all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in your house,
YHWH,
For days without end.

