

Worship Guide for First Baptist Church on Fifth

Sunday, March 29, 2020 + Winston-Salem, NC

The Fifth Sunday of Lent



Unbind Me | Lauren Wright Pittman

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. Images used with permission from our Lenten devotional guide, *Wilderness*, created by A Sanctified Art.

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!

Invitation to Worship | 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
- Breathe:* Infusing your body with the breath that brings life.

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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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Hymn: *How Firm a Foundation*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"

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Old Testament Reading
Ezekiel 37:1-14

Artwork to the left
Valley of Dry Bones | Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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Psalm Reading
Psalm 130

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Call to Prayer
Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: Be strong, take heart.

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Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Written by our own Rev. Holly Solomon

Prayer of Confession

Father, we come to you today in a posture of confession and ask that you hear our hearts and our words as we confess our doubts, our desires, and our unwillingness to believe.

We confess that we have been bound to things which are not good for us and that we have held onto them even when we knew we should let them go.

We confess that we have put our hopes in all the wrong things, expecting people and possessions, money and jobs, health and wellness to take care of us rather than relying on your provision each and every day.

We confess that we have not believed you when you said you would take care of us, redeem us, and offer only what is good for us.

We confess that we have questioned you, your motives, and your will for our lives on more than one occasion.

We confess that we have not believed in your power.

We confess that we have not reflected your glory.

And today we pray, Father, help us in our unbelief.

As we confess how we have allowed our lives to become bound to that which is unimportant, help us see those things for what they really are.

Hear our confession today, O Lord, and show us the way to true repentance.

Words of Assurance

Brothers and sisters, let us rest in the power of our confession and the glory of God's forgiveness. Let us leave here today determined to walk in the truth that Jesus is the resurrection and the life and that as we believe in him, we will have eternal life. Amen!

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New Testament Reading

John 11:1-45

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Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Written by Pastor Amy McClure

Pastoral Prayer

Faithful and present God,

We are so grateful that you hear our prayers at all times, even in the midst of uncertain times and in all the seasons of life.

During this season, we grieve not being together to hug each other, to shake hands, to look into another's eyes to see their joy, their sadness, their pain. We grieve not being able to hear each other's voices as we lift our own voice to you to sing songs of praise and worship. And yet, you are still very much present with us in our own homes, in our moments of quiet, in our moments of chaos, and in those quiet moments where the only voice we hear is our own.

In this season of COVID-19, we pray for those who are filled with fear and uncertainty as they sit in quarantine, not knowing if they have been exposed to the virus. We pray for those who are gripped with anxiety around their own health and basic needs. We pray for those who are unable to visit their loved ones in retirement communities, nursing homes, and hospitals. Give us a spirit of peace and understanding.

For all of our medical professionals who are working tirelessly and sacrificing time with their own families, we pray for their strength, their energy, their mental health, and we pray they will be protected from COVID-19.

We continue to pray for those who are losing their jobs daily. For all those who are being labeled "non-essential," we pray you will remind everyone they are valued, loved, and needed in this world. We praise you that you created all people as essential and needed in our lives.

We pray for parents who are figuring out how best to care for and educate their children. We pray for moments of calmness, for peace in the home, for moments to better connect as families, and to find joy in the small and unexpected moments of being at home.

For our educators who are dreaming new ways to teach and connect with students, we pray for their energy levels to be sustained, their creative juices to flow freely, and their patience with themselves, the school system, and the families they serve.

For all the people who live alone and are struggling with depression, loneliness, and anxiety, we pray they will be reminded that they are never alone and never forgotten. As always, we pray you will continue to help us see each other the way you see us, even if through a TV screen or a computer monitor, and to love each other the way you love us, even if that means learning to love each other in new and creative ways.

Help us to be the bearers of light in our world by the ways we protect and love each other as we keep our distance and respect the lives of all people. Thank you for loving us just as we are every day - even when we are grumpy, frustrated, silly, playful, and restless. Thank you for your promise that you are always with us. We rest our minds, bodies, and souls in that promise and give thanks for your son, Jesus, the one who unites our hearts and minds in all times and the one 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

This is My Body: Rise

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Hymn: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Breathe on me Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what Thou dost love,
and do what Thou wouldst do.

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Bearing Witness to God's Generosity

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Benediction



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH