

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY
Weekly E-Mail Greetings from Rev. Lacy Sellars

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – June 28, 2020

Call to Worship (Psalm 89: 1-4)

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

‘I will establish your descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.’”

“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”

Trier manuscript, 15th Century; Lyrics by Ambrose of Milan
Deleen Davidson, Soprano – Elsen Portugal, piano

O splendor of God’s glory bright,
From light eternal bringing light;
Thou light of life, light’s living spring,
True day, all days illumining.

Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
Shower down Thy radiance from above,
And to our inward hearts convey
The Holy Spirit’s cloudless day.

O Lord, with each returning morn
Thine image to our hearts is born;
O may we ever clearly see
Our Savior and our God in Thee!

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, our loyalties have been divided and we have taken your grace for granted. You seek us out, but we attempt to go our own way. You provide, but we hoard. You free us from enslavement to sin, but we neglect to be instruments of righteousness. You welcome us as we are, but we refuse to receive others in your name. Forgive what we have been, amend what we

will be, awaken us to the new thing you are doing within us and around us. Send your Spirit to shape us in ways that better reflect the one we claim to follow, Jesus Christ.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, it is sure that our sins are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 10: 40-42

“Even a Cup of Cold Water”

[Click here for worship video.](#)

Prayers of the People

By Jill Duffield (abridged)

Lord God, we bow in prayer, humbled by the reality that you want to spend time with us. You receive us and care for us, no matter where we have been, what we have done, or how often we have neglected your will. Such knowledge is too wonderful for us, such grace beyond comprehension.

Awed by your mercy, we seek to respond with bold faith. Strengthen our resolve to follow where Christ leads. In a world overflowing with anger and division, send us to be ambassadors of reconciliation. In the wake of injustice, use us as instruments of righteousness and healing. As creation groans for relief, make us bearers of hope and catalysts of life-giving change.

When our faith is tested and we do not feel up to the demands of discipleship, remind us that you provide. Send your Holy Spirit to spark our imagination and embolden our witness so that none of your little ones are hungry or thirsty.

We ask you to provide healing to the sick. We look to you to ease the suffering of those hurting in body, mind, and spirit. We plead on behalf of the long oppressed and for those still waiting for justice. We yearn for you to guide all of those in positions of leadership to make decisions that reflect your will. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught to pray, *Our Father...*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Terri McKissack's mother, Ann Marshall, is now at the Rehabilitation Unit at National Park Medical Center. Terri thanks the church for your prayers.
- Carroll Bridges died peacefully early Thursday morning, at home. Pray for sympathy and comfort for Pat and their three children and families.
- Peggy Leonhard requests prayers for her mother in Porte Vallarta, Mexico who had hip-replacement surgery on Wednesday. The surgery went well and she hopes to be home Saturday.
- Leon and Priscilla Davis ask for prayers for their daughter, Donna, in Little Rock who contracted COVID-19 and is recovering at home.
- Linda Glover will have a MRI Friday morning. Pray for good results. Also pray that she recovers from a fall.
- Gail Baum requests prayers for her daughter, Betsy, who is an ICU nurse in Houston. She has been reassigned and is no longer working in the COVID-19 unit. Pray also for Gail's grandson who is a firefighter and EMT in Atlanta.
- Beverly Black thanks us for our prayers for her son, Kevin, who works in the ER at CHI Hospital, Hot Springs. Pray that he remains healthy.
- Pray for Bill Randall, Sr. at Brookfield Memory Care, Marilyn Davidson at West Shores Retirement Center, and Grayce Leonhard at a local senior care home.
- Pray for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that adjourns June 27, in an abbreviated session by video conferencing.
- Pray for Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City, and Elkins Presbyterian Church, Elkins.
- Pray for all military personnel, both domestic and abroad, who protect and defend our freedoms, and for all first responders who provide our safety and security.