



Faith Presbyterian Church
Video Online Service
March 29, 2020



Call to Worship

Prelude *“Meditation from Thaïs”* Massenet

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

We have been in the wilderness—

Discerning and working, seeking and dreaming.

We have been in the wilderness—

Grieving and wondering, praying and hoping.

We have been in the wilderness—

Longing and running, creating and waiting.

**We have been in the wilderness, but we have not been alone;
for God walks with us, every step of the way.**

So let us worship the God of our darkest nights and our brightest days.

Opening Song - “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

*You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing;
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”*

*You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.*

*You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.*

*You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.*

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

You invite us to plant a garden of love and harmony, but we grow weeds of prejudice and hatred. You invite us to sow joy and gratitude, but we scatter seeds of greed and envy. You call us to tend the soil of fear and denial, but instead we close our eyes and let the earth suffer. Forgive us. You invited us to plant a garden, and we lost ourselves in the wilderness. Clear our hearts.

Breathe life into these weary bones and grant us a fresh start.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Our God is a gardener who knows things grow.
First the old must be dug out, or dug under.
The ground must be prepared for new life to grow.
Seeds are planted, and then tended.
God will grow us like a garden.
New life is coming! Amen.

Minute for Mission One Great Hour of Sharing - Elder Sonny Coble

Children's Time - Heather and Richard Carter

Music *"There is a Balm in Gilead"*

Prophet Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

¹⁸ My joy is gone, grief is upon me my heart is sick. ¹⁹ Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") ²⁰ "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." ²¹ For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. ²² Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? **9** O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

Gospel John 11: 32-44

In this chapter, Jesus hears that his good friend Lazarus is very ill and in need of healing. Jesus doesn't set out right away. Once he and disciples set out, Jesus tells them that Lazarus is dead. When they get close to the village Bethany, Jesus learns that Lazarus has been dead four days, and Martha, one of his two sisters, comes out to greet him. She says to him, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and life."

32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **33** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. **34** He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." **35** Jesus began to weep. **36** So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **37** But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. **39** Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." **40** Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" **41** So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." **43** When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" **44** The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Sermon **"Grieving with Jesus"**

The Rev. Renée Rico

Response “The Wilderness is A Place Where We Are Brave”

Sara Are | sanctifiedart.org

First, we have to name it—
The heartbreak,
The addiction,
The shame,
The grief.

Whatever your wilderness is,
First we have to name it.

And once we’ve said those words out loud,
We let that truth hang in the air.
And we let ourselves feel what we feel,
For in this moment,
we are close to the surface.

And after a few deep breaths,
We begin the removing.
Piece by piece, we take our armor off,
For truth-telling days are
Soft skin kind of days.

And once we are armor-free,
Hearts on our sleeves
And tears in our throats,
We stand toe-to-toe
With the very hurt that wrecked us.
And we don’t try to swallow that pain away.

And there,
In all our beautiful God-given honesty,
We say to that monster,
“I have love on my side,
And her name is God,
And no wilderness can separate me
From that north star.”

And I believe
It will be the bravest thing you ever do.
And your knees might shake,
And you might lose your way,
But our God is a God of second chances,
So take my hand.
You are close to the surface.
Let’s be brave together.

Liturgy of Welcome to our Seminary Apprentice

*We welcome George Vander Meulen in a new role in our congregation
as our seminary apprentice for the next 9 months.*

Prayers of the People and the 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.

Closing Hymn “This is My Father’s World”

*This is my Father’s world,
And to my list’ning ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—
His hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father’s world:
Oh, let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world,
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav’n be one.*

Benediction

Postlude “The Lord is My Song” Taize