

**A Family and Personal Prayer Service for Such a Time As This**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**For the Week of March 22, 2020**  
**Dearborn Congregational Church**

*-To be used for Sunday worship while worship together is not possible, and to be used daily as an act of worship and devotion. Hymns can be found in your family hymn book or on YouTube. Use these offered or choose your own daily.*

**Hymn**                      **Joy to the World**

**Opening Prayer – Psalm 63**

A Psalm of David when he was in the Desert of Judah.

- <sup>1</sup> You, God, are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you,  
my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land  
where there is no water.
- <sup>2</sup> I have seen you in the sanctuary  
and beheld your power and your glory.
- <sup>3</sup> Because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.
- <sup>4</sup> I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
- <sup>5</sup> I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;  
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> On my bed I remember you;  
I think of you through the watches of the night.
- <sup>7</sup> Because you are my help,  
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
- <sup>8</sup> I cling to you;  
your right hand upholds me.
- <sup>9</sup> Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;  
they will go down to the depths of the earth.

<sup>10</sup> They will be given over to the sword  
and become food for jackals.

<sup>11</sup> But the king will rejoice in God;  
all who swear by God will glory in him,  
while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

Litany – Our God is Able ( adapted from Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Oh God, we are reminded today of Your infinite Love for all people:

**All races**

All colors

**All political affiliations**

All religious persuasions

**All social classes**

All economic statuses

**All nations.**

We confess our tendency to think that we are the best, our perspective the most righteous.

**Forgive us our arrogance, Oh God.**

We confess our tendency to judge others, and to condemn those we find unworthy.

**Forgive us our impertinence, Oh God.**

We see others with criticism.

**You see us all with love-filled eyes.**

We see only in part.

**You see the world with infinite wisdom.**

We see the external.

**You see the heart.**

Mold us to Your way.

**Form us to Your heart.**

Shape us with love.

**Make us new with grace.**

Our way is not of violence and empire, but in the power and beauty of the cross.

**Our faith is not in politics, but in the transforming love of Christ.**

May we work diligently to help meet the needs of those You love, both physical and spiritual.

**May our eyes be opened to the value and worth of each person we meet.**

May Your kingdom come, Your will be done

**On earth as it is in heaven. Amen**

**Gospel Reading – Matthew 5:1-12**

**Family and Personal Moments of Reflection –**

*What is God speaking into your lives at this critical time of national crisis?*

**A Prayer in a Time of National Crisis**

God of all ages,

in your sight nations rise and fall, and pass through times of peril.

Now when our land is in trouble, be near to judge and save.

May leaders be led by your wisdom;

May they search your will and see it clearly.

If we have turned from your way,

reverse our ways and help us repent.

Give us your light and your truth, let them guide us;

Through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our

Savior. Amen. (from the United Methodist Book of Worship)

The Lords Prayer

Hymn        O God, Our Help In Ages Past

**Blessing -**

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Continue to pray daily for each other, our church, city, nation, and the world. A new prayer service for Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> will be in your email box soon.*

*Pastor Blair*