

St Paul's Presbyterian Church [online](#)
Service of Worship Easter 5A May 10th, 2020
Worship prepared by Rev Sally Carter and the worship team

Welcome!

*Talofa lava, Kia orana, Bula vinaka, Ni Hao, Anyeong ha seyo, Kon'nichi wa, Malo e lelei,
Nau mai, haere mai, welcome!*



Pre-service music: *Jesu, Joy of Man's desiring, JS Bach*

**As we light this candle
We feel the warmth of your presence
And see the light of your hope
For us and for our world.**

Call to worship:

Come, people of God!
Take refuge in the Lord,
who listens when we cry out,
who rescues us when we call,
and who leads and guides us according to his
unfailing love.

***You are our God;
our lives are in your hands.***

Let's worship God together!

Hymn: Be thou my vision

Psalm 31:1-5, 15, 16 *read responsively*

31:1 In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

31:2 *Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.*

31:3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

31:4 *take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.*

31:5 Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

31:15 - 16 *My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.*

Reflection: Places of refuge - in times of trouble

This psalm is believed to have been written in a time of great sorrow and anxiety for King David. Surrounded by enemies,....the treachery and loss of his son Absalom. It is called a psalm of lament, a call out to God from the reality of suffering, struggle, despair.

What does David call God in this Psalm?

My rock....

My refuge.....

My fortress.....

I invite you to spend a few minutes allowing pictures and words to come to the surface as you hear these descriptions of God...in the midst of extremity.

You might like to write some of them down.....maybe listen to one of the songs below...

There! You have written a psalm or a prayer.

Song in response:

Nada te turbe (Nothing can trouble)

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,

Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,

God alone fills us.

or Rock of ages cleft for me

Prayer:

We take so much on our shoulders, God

Sometimes it's arrogance,

but sometimes it's because we just don't know what else to do.

There is so much need, so many wounded people,

There are so many challenges, and so many decisions.

We don't want to fall into a magical, "Harry Potter" faith,
in which we use prayers like wands, and avoid our responsibilities through childish
dependence on you.

But, we also don't want to live
as if what we believe is just an idea
with no real impact on our lives.

And so we pray for the strength and courage
to work for justice and healing
for those who are forgotten and hurting in our world,
and to strive to be fully engaged in our own lives;

But we also pray for the humility and wonder
to seek your Spirit's strength and wisdom,
and to invite others into vibrant relationship with you;

because the faith we need is not just a 'religious' veneer,
but a real confidence in a reality that is bigger than us.*followed by the Lord's Prayer*

Reading: John 14:1-14

Telling our story:

Reflection:

Hymn: Be still, my soul

Prayer from Corrymeela:

God who speaks from out of the whirlwind, and hears sighs too deep for words: as we come to terms with what we do not know – a timeline for return, a safe social distance –as we struggle to make sense of the world around us and imagine what life will be like, ground us in our kindness. May a gracious word begin our next encounter, a patient thought accompany our coming breath, so that with little left in our control, we may control ourselves with grace and faith and compassion.

Song: O Lord, hear my prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me,
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

Benediction:

If the God who raised Jesus from the dead is for us, who dare be against us?

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Step out into the world in humble confidence:

there is nothing about to happen that God has not foreseen,
and no situation where Christ will not be there ahead of you,
preparing a place and an opportunity for you.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Shine, Jesus, shine

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine

Fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze

Set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow

Flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth your word Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence

From the shadows into your radiance

By the blood I may enter your brightness

Search me, try me, consume all my darkness

Shine on me, Shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story,
Shine on me, shine on me.

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