

~ The Fourth Sunday of Lent ~
March 22, 2020

Order of Worship for First Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center

Prelude ~ “Variations on Wondrous Love” by Samuel Barber

Welcome

Opening Lenten Prayer

God of all hope, we come before you today so deeply aware of the world’s grief and pain, fear and anxiety—and our own. Comfort us, we pray, with the sure knowledge that our Lenten journey culminates in Easter joy. Amen.

Call to Worship

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

We desire to live in God’s house

and to seek God in his holy temple.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Teach us your ways and make straight our paths

in this hour of worship and always.

—based on Psalm 27; John 4:23

God’s Greeting

Grace, mercy, and peace are yours, from God the Father Almighty,
from the Lord Jesus, and from the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading ~ John 14:1-7

Sermon

Song of Response ~ “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Prayers of the People (adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Almighty and everliving God, we are taught by your holy Word to offer prayers and supplications and to give thanks for all people. We humbly ask you mercifully to receive our prayers. Inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all who confess your holy Name may agree in the truth of your holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We pray that you will lead the nations of the world in the way of righteousness; and so guide and direct their leaders, especially our President and Governor, that your people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace. Grant that our leaders may impartially administer justice, uphold integrity and truth, restrain wickedness and vice, and protect true religion and virtue.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Give grace, heavenly Father, to all pastors, elders, and deacons, that by their life and teaching, they may proclaim your true and life-giving Word, and rightly and duly administer your holy Sacraments. And to all your people give your heavenly grace, especially to this congregation, that with reverent and obedient hearts we may hear and receive your holy Word, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Prosper, we pray, all those who proclaim the Gospel of your kingdom throughout the world, and strengthen us to fulfill your great commission, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all that you have commanded.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We ask you in your goodness, O Lord, to comfort and sustain all who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude ~ "Variations on Wondrous Love" by Samuel Barber

Organist: Carrie Groenewold