

~ The Fifth Sunday of Lent ~

March 29, 2020

Order of Worship

for First Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center

Prelude ~ Two Chorale Preludes:

Johann Sebastian Bach

~ "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

~ "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

Welcome

Opening Lenten Prayer

Lord God, we come before you today not because we are deserving of your love and not because we have lived faithfully before your face. We come before you today because you have called us. You loved us before we could love you. You have given your Son for our salvation. For this we join all creation in blessing you, praising you, thanking you. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! You are great, and greatly to be praised. As we offer our praise, we long for you to mold us in the image of your Son, the true vine, whose death and resurrection give us hope. We pray this through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation ~ "Gather Us In," *Lift Up Your Hearts* 529, verses 1, 2, and 4

Call to Worship

In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and we dwell in him.

Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Come now, all who thirst,

and drink the water of life.

Come now, all who hunger,

and be filled with good things.

Come now, all who seek,

and be warmed by the fire of Christ's love.

God's Greeting

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

Amen!

Call to Confession

The psalmist calls us to confession:

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.
But truly God has listened;
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.
Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

—based on Psalm 66.16, 18-20

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings, our rebellion against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love, in failing to love one another and your world.

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.
Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light
and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hymn of Penitence ~ “Kyrie Eleison,” *Lift Up Your Hearts* 637, sung in Greek and English:

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Word of God that assures that we are forgiven:
There is now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.

—Romans 8:1

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading ~ John 15.1-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Choral Response ~ “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree,” sung by the choir of St. John’s College, Cambridge
during and Evensong Service in 1981.

Hymn of Response ~ “I Am the Holy Vine,” *Lift Up Your Hearts* 851

Prayers of the People

Offering ~ Online offerings can be given at <https://www.firstcrc.com/give-online/>

You can mail your offering to 321 2nd Street SE | Sioux Center, IA | 51250.

Offertory ~ “My Song Is Love Unknown”

Dick Sanderman

Sending & Benediction

Postlude ~ “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Hendrik Andriessen

Worship Leader: Pastor Kurt Monroe

Elder of Service: Derick Roos

Organist: Leendert van Beek

Song Leaders: Tammy and Naomi Lief

Scripture Reader: Arnola Roos

Prayer Leader: Onsby Rose

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-723392.

To listen to more music that corresponds to the service (including Keith & Kristyn Getty, with Fernando Ortega, singing “My Worth Is Not In What I Own,” which is what First’s choir would have sung today), you can go to a

YouTube playlist specially crafted for this service at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlIGcUUf5ece-F9egvxPtYc7KyociTbUg>.