

Worship in the time of COVID-19

An order of worship for Nov 15, 2020

The Season After Pentecost

Welcome by Pastor Kristen

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8, 12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;

5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

6 in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

“Open Now Our Hearts to Wisdom” (Psalm 90) by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

**Open now our hearts to wisdom
Keep us numbering our days
Generations long behind us
Honored you, their dwelling place
As a blink our life’s duration
Just a dream of yesterday
Dust to dust our lovely lifespans
Age to age your perfect grace**

**We are children of our planet
We will all be quickly gone
Though we thrive with breath and heartbeat
We can never know how long
Open now our hearts to wisdom
Keep us numbering our days
Gladly mindful of eternity
Let us live a holy pace**

**You have been our sanctuary,
Faithful God, from age to age
Open now our hearts to wisdom
Keep us numbering our days
You a haven for our forebears
With the promise of your grace
Of our lives, God, make a legacy
For our children’s children’s faith**

Children’s Sermon

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that

day to surprise you like a thief; 5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Sermon

Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory (Video from Aug 23 service)

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's
story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us
courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his
ways!**

**From the fears that long have
bound us**

**free our hearts to faith and
praise.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us
courage**

**for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,**

**3 Cure your children's warring
madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish
gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us
courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's
goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's
goal.**

**4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us
courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

Prayers of Intercession

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders, that they might make wise decisions. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders seek to combat this global pandemic. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. We pray especially for all who have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic-- those who have been sick, those who are grieving the dead, those who are overwhelmed by stress, and those who are suffering from the economic effects of the pandemic. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us join together in praying 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation (Video from July 26 service)

1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing,
reaping,
silent growth while we are
sleeping,
future needs in earth's
safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our
neighbor,
God's will is done.

Blessing

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound
us,
for the truths that still confound
us,
most of all, that love has found
us,
thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

And have fun doing it.

We will! Amen!

BY THE NUMBERS

Check Register Balance 11/14/2020

\$8,777.84

Operating Bank Loan: \$4,912.27

PPP Loan Balance:\$16,984

Offering:11/8/2020

Current: \$2,395

Benevolence: \$32

Improvement: \$85

Announcements:

Christmas gifts for Bremwood Lutheran Home: This year, due to the pandemic, Bremwood Lutheran Home has requested that instead of Christmas gifts for their residents, they would prefer Wal-mart gift cards. If you would like to donate, you can drop off gift cards at the home of Mary Adams. You may also donate money through the church, marking "Bremwood" on your donation. Financial gifts for Bremwood must be received by December 14.

Jesup Ministerial Thanksgiving Service: The Jesup Ministerial Alliance will be putting together a virtual Community Thanksgiving Service this year. Stay tuned for further details. If you would like to give an offering to the Jesup Ministerial Fund, which is used for those in need in our community, you may give through the church, marking "Ministerial Fund" on your offering.

Homebound members: Mary Jo Sullivan is at Grand View in Oelwein

Military members: Jordan Leach is in the Air Force and is currently stationed in Sheppard AFB in TX. If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) or (827-6626). We'd like to remember them in our prayers.

Confirmation classes for 7th & 8th graders: Confirmation classes will be happening on Zoom for the next few months and will occur on Wednesdays, at 7pm. Here is the link for the class: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85008908531?pwd=cXVlczRpS1JEbm13SFJDYzRDa2lzZz09> Meeting ID: 850 0890 8531 Passcode: 788472

****Pastoral Care:** Pastor Kristen is available for pastoral care by phone at 563-212-1366.

Covid-19: The numbers for Covid in Buchanan County, and pretty much everywhere else in Iowa, are skyrocketing right now. Our county test positivity is currently at 22.7%, and it seems like it will be a while before that number drops below 10%. As a reminder, our metrics for holding worship in person vs. online are:

If one (or more) of the below criteria are met, we will return to online only until the numbers return to within our designated ranges:

- Greater than 10% 14-day average positivity rate in Buchanan County, as measured by the Iowa Coronavirus website OR
- 6 or more active positive cases in the Jesup community school district, as communicated every Friday by the superintendent of schools OR
- 20 new cases per day in Buchanan County for 2 or more days in a 7-day period, as measured by the Iowa Coronavirus website.

At this point, we plan on worship being online only (and by mail for those with no internet) until further notice. Hopefully the numbers will drop again soon.

In the meantime, please remember to love your neighbor by wearing a mask, washing your hands, and social distancing.

Peace,
Pr. Kristen