

Worship in the time of COVID-19

An order of worship for Nov 8, 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. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Psalm: Psalm 70

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O Lord, make haste to help me.

2 Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me

turn back because of their shame.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

Psalm Song-- Come Quickly to Help Us (Psalm 70) by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Come quickly to help us; we look to you

Have mercy upon us

Come quickly to help us, Faithful and True

We trust in your love

Children's Sermon

Scripture: Amos 5:18-24

The prophet Amos spoke the word of the Lord: 18 Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; 19 as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. 23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Sermon

Hymn: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart; consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.
- 2 Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.
- 4 Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go, to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give, that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

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.

Holy God, enliven our worship, that it might move us to compassion for others, especially those who are most vulnerable. Sustain the church as it works for true justice and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. We especially pray for leaders at every level of government; those who are newly elected or appointed, those who are re-elected, and those whose terms will be ending. Grant wisdom to decision-makers at every level, and guide them to make decisions for the good of all people, especially those who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, watch over our county, state, and nation as the Covid-19 pandemic increases in intensity. Guide us to make wise decisions that help us care for others. Protect hospital workers, educators, essential workers, and all

who have risk factors that make Covid-19 especially dangerous for them. Guide the work of scientists, researchers, and public health experts who are seeking treatments, cures, and vaccines for Covid-19. Bring healing to those who are ill, comfort to those who have lost loved ones, and relief to those who are suffering from the economic effects of the pandemic. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. 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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Song: Let Streams of Living Justice

1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,

the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;

abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.

2 For healing of the nations, for
peace that will not end, for love that
makes us lovers, God grant us grace
to mend.

Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,

light our colors with your sun.

3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.

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.

Thanks be to God.

And have fun doing it.

We will! Amen!

BY THE NUMBERS

Check Register Balance 11/6/2020

\$11,436.87

Operating Bank Loan: \$4,912.27

PPP Loan Balance:\$16,984

Offering:11/1/2020

Current: \$755

Benevolence: \$57

Improvement: \$135

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 18%, 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