



ROCKFORD DISTRICT WORSHIP SERVICE Summer 2020

PRELUDE: “He Is Our Peace” (Rev. Sun-Ah Kang)

WELCOME: (Pastor Donna Hoffman)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 107 – Selected Verses (CEB)

- ¹ “Give thanks to the LORD because he is good,
because his faithful love lasts forever!” (Rev. Uziel Hernandez)
- ² That’s what those who are redeemed by the LORD say, the ones God
redeemed from the power of their enemies, (Pastor Libby Rutherford)
- ³ the ones God gathered from various countries,
from east and west, north and south. (Rev. Keith Kelsey-Powell)
So they cried out to the LORD in their distress, and God brought them out safe
from their desperate circumstances. (Pastor Leslie Stanford)
- ⁴ Some of the redeemed had wandered into the desert, into the wasteland.
They couldn’t find their way to a city or town. (Pastor Chuck Wolbers)
- ⁵ They were hungry and thirsty;
their lives were slipping away. (Rev. Keri Rainsberger)
- ⁶ So they cried out to the LORD in their distress, and God delivered them
from their desperate circumstances. (Rev. Marilyn Nolan)
- ⁷ God led them straight to human habitation. (Pastor Gary Rich)
- ⁸ Let them thank the LORD for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all people, (Pastor Mark Gilmore)
- ⁹ because God satisfied the one who was parched with thirst,
and he filled up the hungry with good things! (Rev. Tiffany Garcea)
- ²⁹ God quieted the storm to a whisper;
the sea’s waves were hushed. (Pastor Eddy Eddie)
- ³⁰ So they rejoiced because the waves had calmed down;
then God led them to the harbor they were hoping for. (Pastor Sung-Eun Kim)
- ³¹ Let them thank the LORD for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all people. (Rev. Joey Garcea)
- ³² Let them exalt God in the congregation of the people
and praise God in the assembly of the elders. Amen. (Rev. Nicole Snyder)



OPENING PRAYER (Pastor Jeff Brace)

HYMN “God Will Take Care of You” UMH #130 (Scott & Lisa Stich)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (Responsively)

O God, we come before you troubled and helpless. Troubled by the enormity of challenges before us and helpless at our abilities to fix them. But perhaps feeling small is the best reminder for us to pray. (Rev. Mike Jones)

Prayer is how we actively practice believing, so simply, so confidently, that you God have the whole world in your hands. It’s our prayer where we “bring up all of our requests to God in our prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks.” (Phil. 4:6–7) (Pastor Siegfried Schwirblat)

WE PRAY:

For the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. For those in need of regular therapies and treatments that must be rescheduled or postponed: God, help them to stay patient and positive. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Rev. Catiana McKay)

All: *Hear our prayer*

For our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease. Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured. For the homeless, unable to practice the protocols of social distancing in the shelter or the streets: Protect them from disease and grant them their human necessities. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Rev. Kyungsu Park)

Hear our prayer

For our local, state, and federal governments: God, help our elected officials as they allocate equitably the necessary resources for combatting this pandemic to all. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Pastor Donna Hoffman)

Hear our prayer

For our scientific community, leading the charge to understand this disease and communicate its gravity: God, give them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Rev. Howie Snyder)

Hear our prayer



For those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious, and helpless: God, provide them every necessary support. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Rev. Brenda Byrne)

Hear our prayer

For families with young children at home for the foreseeable future: God, help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support. Also, for parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children: God, present them with creative solutions. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Rev. Jim Bell)

Hear our prayer

For business leaders making difficult decisions that affect the lives of their employees: God, give these women and men wisdom, and help them to lead self-sacrificially. And for the workers in a variety of industries facing layoffs and financial hardship: God, keep them from panic, and inspire your church to generously support them. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Deacon Sharon Rice)

Hear our prayer

For frontline health care workers, we thank you for their vocational call to serve us. Give them compassion for every patient in their care. God, keep them and their families safe and healthy. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Rev. Jonathan Singleton)

Hear our prayer

For High School, college and university students, whose courses of study have changed, whose placements are delayed or canceled, and graduation ceremonies are uncertain: God, show them that while life is uncertain, their trust is in you. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Rev. Cal Haines)

Hear our prayer

For pastors and church leaders faced with the challenges of social distancing: God, help them to creatively imagine how to pastor their congregants and communities and to love them well. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Rev. Doug Carroll)

Hear our prayer



For our Churches, in every neighborhood, community, and city in the Rockford District, May your Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified around the world. *Lord in your Mercy...* (Rev. Melissa Meyers)

Hear our prayer

God, we trust that you are good and do good. Teach us to be your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down his life for the sake of love. Glorify his name and your “peace that exceeds all understanding will keep our hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus”. Amen (Rev. Jane Eesley)

THE LORD’S PRAYER Worship & Song #3079 (Pastor Kim Chapman)

CHILDREN TIME (Rev. Violet Johnicker)

CHILDREN’S CHOIR “Behold” (Praise Kids Choir, Christ UMC- Rockford)

INVITATION TO OFFERING (Pastor Montel Putney)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 4:35-41 (CEB)

35 Later that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.” (Rev. Pam Rossmiller)

36 They left the crowd and took him in the boat just as he was. Other boats followed along. (Pastor Eric Reniva)

37 Gale-force winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so that the boat was swamped. (Pastor Brenda Morris)

38 But Jesus was in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him up and said, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re drowning?” (Pastor Roger Bronkema)

39 He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, “Silence! Be still!” The wind settled down and there was a great calm. (Pastor Jeff Brace)

40 Jesus asked them, “Why are you frightened? Don’t you have faith yet?” (Pastor Rich Ottens)

41 Overcome with awe, they said to each other, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!” (Pastor Don Plock)



This is the Word of God for all the People
Thanks Be to God (Pastor Dawn Barr)

SERMON “With Jesus in the Storm” (Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, District Superintendent)

CLOSING SONG “Praise You in the Storm” (The Hayag Family)

BENEDICTION (Rev. SungJa Lee Moon)

POSTLUDE (Rev. Howard & Rev. Nicole Snyder)

Thank you for worshipping with us!!

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