



“Worship from Home” for February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany & Communion Sunday



Join us as we gather for live worship on Zoom **Sunday, February at 10:00am for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany and Communion Sunday**. Continuing through the first chapter of Mark's gospel, we encounter another miraculous healing, that of Simon's mother-in-law. In this story Jesus arrives at Simon's house and heals the feverish mother. She seems to immediately get back up, and even begins to serve Jesus and the audience. Pastor Mary Sue offers that there is a deep message for us all about the healing power of Jesus' touch. Further, within the passage we are shown a model, through Jesus' own demonstration, of how to take a moment away from the chaos for restoration of the self through prayer.

NOTE: We encourage the preparation of your elements for communion prior to beginning your time of worship today.

TIP: If you prefer to have the videos open in a new window, hold the “CTRL” key and click the link.

Worship Together on Zoom

At **10:00 am on Sunday morning**, we will worship together on Zoom, walking through an abridged version of the service below. If you wish to join us, **please log in at 9:50am** so that we have time to greet one another and take our virtual seats. Please [click here to join a Zoom videoconference](#), then enter the password: 243520. You can also call in to Zoom by phone: dial

1-669-900-6833 and when prompted, enter the meeting code 91476102408 and password 243520.

COMING TOGETHER IN SPIRIT

A Time of Centering

Choose a comfortable, quiet place free from interruption. Invite family members or friends to gather with you. If desired, have a candle, lighter, and Bible nearby. When you are ready, click on the first video.

Video: Prelude

"All Creatures of Our God and King" by Rice, performed by Chad Kemp

As you listen to the music, take time in silence to come fully into God's presence. If you choose, light a candle. Take slower, deeper breaths and notice how your body feels.

Opening Prayer by the Nancy Townley, *Ministry Matters website*

Read these words silently or say them aloud:

God of mercy and love, be with us this morning as we hear the stories of Jesus and his compassion. Remind us again that we also need to be people of hope and compassion in this world which seems so dark. You, O God, open the doors of blessings. You reveal to us the many ways in which Jesus reached out to others at their time of need. Inspire our hearts and lift our spirits this day, for we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Video: Opening Song

"I Know the Lord Has Laid His Hands on Me" performed by Andy Riggs

Video: Moment for Children of All Ages

"Jesus Healing the Sick" with Susan Namba and Family

Video: Special Music

"He Touched Me" performed by Andy Riggs

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer edited from a prayer by Bruce Prewer

Most holy Friend, you have sent us Jesus to mend that which is broken, to bridge that which is alienated, and to heal that which is diseased. In his name our troubled hearts speak to you, God, of those many people whose needs are great and whose comforts are few.

We speak to you of our concern for places where there is conflict, violence, and misery: war ravaged countries, domestic cruelty, bullying in school grounds, workplace intimidation, gang warfare on streets, or terrorist attacks.

Loving God, hear our prayers,
Holy Friend, save your people.

We speak to you of our concern for all displaced people: in refugee camps, fugitives from oppression, those crowded on unseaworthy boats, those in our detention centers, and for all separated families and traumatized children.

Loving God, hear our prayers,
Holy Friend, save your people.

We speak to you of our concern for neighbors, workmates, or members of our own families who are 'doing it tough;' the unemployed and the disabled, some fighting terminal illness, others in despair from broken relationships, some grieving a death, many caught up in predicaments for which there seems no obvious answer.

Loving God, hear our prayers,
Holy Friend, save your people.

We speak to you now loving God of ourselves: Help us, in our own small way, to be more like your compassionate Christ. Shape our thoughts, sift our feelings, supervise our efforts, bless our abilities, that we may get the best out of each day and give the best to those around us.

We ask this in the name of the greatest healer, Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:

*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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.*

LISTENING TO OUR STILL SPEAKING GOD

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39 (NRSV)

Open your Bible, or if you do not have one, read aloud or silently the words below:

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Video: Sermon

"Being Restored" by Pastor Mary Sue Brookshire (for [written transcript](#) click here)

SHARING AT THE TABLE

Each month, we offer two options for sharing in communion together. You are invited to join the Sunday morning Zoom gathering at 10:00am, where Pastor Mary Sue will lead communion in real time to all participants. You may also opt to view the communion video provided below. Please prepare your bread, crackers, juice, or whatever you have and join us for a celebration of Communion.

Video: Communion

Prayer of Confession by the Nancy Townley, *Ministry Matters website*

How amazing it is to us, O God of love, that you look into our hearts and forgive our wayward spirits. So many times, we have succumbed to the temptations of this world, seeking comfort in its fleeting enticements. We have turned deaf ears on the cries of those in distress and walked away from opportunities to give aid and comfort. Remind us again of how Jesus reached out to the multitudes who brought their problems and ailments to him. His compassionate touch not only healed their bodies but restored and renewed their spirits. Forgive our stubbornness and our selfishness. Give us hearts of compassion and spirits willing to serve you by serving others. We offer this prayer of contrition in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance by the Nancy Townley, *Ministry Matters website*

Hear the good news! In this very instant, God has touched our hearts and offered God's healing and forgiving love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah!! AMEN.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

In this time when we would normally collect our offering, consider what you are offering to God in this moment. If you would like to make a financial contribution to the ministries of POVUCC, online giving is now available by clicking [here](#).

Prayer of Dedication by the Nancy Townley, *Ministry Matters website*

How wonderful it is and what a joy we have to return to God these gifts as tokens of the many blessings God has given to us. Let these gifts and our lives be used in service to others, in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Video: Closing Song

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" performed by Andy Riggs

Words and music available here: <https://hymnary.org/hymn/NCH1995/474>

Benediction by the Nancy Townley, *Ministry Matters website*

Renewed by the power of God's unconditional love and forgiveness; strengthened by the witness of Jesus to be of service to others, we go from this place rejoicing in the opportunities to serve others in Christ's name. Go in peace, and may the peace of God always dwell within you. AMEN.

Video: Postlude

"I Will Praise Him" by Koerts, performed by Chad Kemp

During these final moments, take a moment to seek your own restoration through prayer.