



First Presbyterian Church of Milford  
101 S. Walnut St.  
Milford, DE 19963

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 22  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
First Presbyterian Church of Milford

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The session has decided that worship will be conducted "in a new way" through April 5, at least. This will include offering worship online as well as hard copies of the weekly worship bulletin and homily to those without internet access. Your elders will meet again during Holy Week to reassess the situation. We will keep you all posted!*

*Many thanks to the Deacons for making phone calls to the congregation. If anyone needs assistance with errands or anything else, please let a church officer or me know and we will respond as best we can to get your need met.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear,  
though the earth should change,  
though the mountains tremble  
with its tumult...**

"...Be still and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations.  
I am exalted in the earth."

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

## OPENING PRAYER AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, who created us in your own image,  
we are grateful for all that you have done for us,  
for all that you are doing in us,  
and for all that you will do through us.  
Open our eyes to see your presence among us,  
moving in powerful ways at all times  
and in all places.**

**Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways—  
ways that will change us and challenge us  
to become the people you created us to be.  
Grant us the power and the courage  
to come out of the darkness  
and into the light of Jesus Christ,  
that we may serve you by serving others.  
We love you with all our heart, soul, mind,  
and strength.**

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain,  
we would rather shut our eyes and be blind  
than see things as they really are.  
Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world,  
and give us the strength to bring your light  
to those who walk in darkness.  
Help us see others as you see them,  
and forgive us when we do not trust you enough  
to open our eyes to the possibilities before us.  
Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God,  
and lead us in the footsteps  
of the Light of the World,  
who reveals your glory in his life,  
his teachings, and his love.  
In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness  
and to guide us through our lives.  
Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace.  
The goodness and mercy of God  
are given to us each and every day of our lives.  
God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love,  
and leads us to the place

that Christ has prepared for us.  
Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:  
In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 8:28

*<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good<sup>[a]</sup> for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*

John 9:1-5

**A Man Born Blind Receives Sight**

**9** As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We<sup>[a]</sup> must work the works of him who sent me<sup>[b]</sup> while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

SERMON – BOOT CAMP FOR THE SOUL: Redefined

## THE OFFERING

*Please remember that, even though we are not meeting in person, the financial needs of First Presbyterian Church continue. You may make your financial offering by check and mail it to the church in c/o P.O. Box 172, Milford, DE, or you may donate online using the "Give" button found on the home page of the church website, [www.fpcmilford.org](http://www.fpcmilford.org). Thank-you for your generosity.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys and Concerns –

- *Congratulations and blessings to Carl and Helen Swanson, who celebrate their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on Sunday!*
- *Please remember Mike and Jackie Griffin in your prayers. They are fine in Florida, and pray that they stay that way.*
- *Denny Mogan is a member of Wicomico Presbyterian Church who has 2 young children and was recently diagnosed with ALS. Please keep Denny and his family In your prayers.*
- *Be sure to let me know if you have joys or concerns which you would like me to pray for privately, or which you would like to share with the congregation for corporate prayer.*

Let us pray.

Lord God, In the midst of global pandemic, life still marches on with all of its joys and challenges. We pray for Denny and all those who struggle with illness unrelated but probably complicated by the threat of coronavirus. We pray for those whose conditions will continue long after this bug is contained, and ask that

you be with and bless them in immeasurable ways. We pray for Mike and Jackie and all those who are away from home during these trying times. Keep them in your care while they are away and as they return home. We thank you for the joys of life and the brightness they bring to difficult times. We thank you for Carl and Helen's anniversary, and even though we can't get together to celebrate in the usual ways—with toasts and hugs and cake—may they know our love and happiness are with them.

Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who are ill with coronavirus now, and who are afraid for their own health and for the welfare of others. We pray for all who are caring for the sick and caring for the caregivers. We pray for those who are working diligently to keep our society going as best it can under the circumstances—truck drivers and first responders, parents and pharmacists, grocery clerks, sanitation workers, just to name a few. We thank you for the myriad ways people are expressing their love and concern for one another, and we pray that this attitude of generosity may spread and remain for as long as necessary and even beyond. May this challenging time make us better people. Better disciples. More dedicated servants.

In the name of Jesus, who still teaches his disciples to pray, saying:

*Our Father...*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Many thanks to Ann Whitman for providing music for this online service, and to John Mitchell for serving as videographer. If you do not have internet access and would like to receive a DVD of this service, please contact John.*



LENT IS A TIME FOR QUIET  
REFLECTION AND CONTEMPLATION