Our mission is to learn the way of Jesus together as we invite others to join us at His Table.

**Our Common Practices** 

#### We Gather

We gather for worship more often than not. We gather in smaller groups to connect, learn, and grow.

We create hospitable space for one another.

#### We Grow

We attend the means of grace daily. (i.e. We attend to the presence of God through Scripture reading and meditation, prayer on behalf of others and myself, breath prayer, spiritual reading and study...).

We nurture our faith.

We attend to relationships that promote growth. We develop and learn as human beings made in the image of God.

#### We Give

We are a generous people who give our time and resources to the mission of God and the world.

We tithe as the means through which our community enjoys fiscal health so as to minister generously.

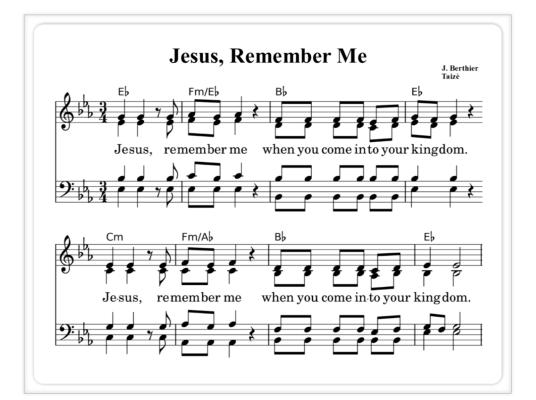
#### We Go

We follow Jesus into the world as His healing presence.

We help the vulnerable among us.
We go into the world offering Jesus' invitation to gather at His Table.

# A Breath Prayer for the Lenten Season:

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me."



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Order of Worship 22 March 2020 The Fourth Sunday in Lent

## We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music Welcome Call to Worship Worship Reading

## We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Sermon Series: Singing in the Dark
Sermon: "Singing in the Dark"
Scripture Reading: Psalm 23; John 10.11-15

### We Come to the Table

Passing the Peace of Christ
Song of preparation
Prayer of Consecration
The Lord's Prayer
We Eat and Drink Together
Prayer of Thanksgiving

## We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Gossiping the Good Stuff
Doxology
Blessing and Sending

## Worship Reading from Psalm 23

#### Pastor:

The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want.

He makes us lie down in green pastures;
he leads us beside still waters; he restores our souls.
He leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

#### Everyone:

Even though we walk through the darkest valley, We fear no evil; for God is with us!

## Sermon Reflection Guide

## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

## John 10.11-15

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.

## **Question for Everyone**

(1) Truth be told, I'm really enjoy social distancing. (10) If I have to be in my house just one more day, I am going to lose my mind! Where are you on this range?

#### Comfort for the Anxious Heart

Sometimes we just need to hear a trusted voice saying, "It's going to be alright." But when it comes to comfort, it matters a great deal as to who's providing the comfort. Words of comfort have different degrees of potency depending on the source. Do you agree? Who are the

trusted voices in your life? What might you do to stay connected to the people you trust?

#### A Non-Anxious Presence

People who embody a non-anxious presence have learned to live an unflappable life under duress. They don't freak out. They offer balance and wisdom. And, they have a great deal to teach us. Think about the people you know who demonstrate a non-anxious presence. What enables them to be a non-anxious presence? What might you learn from them?

#### Stillness

A still and quiet heart is not the fruit of magic. It is the fruit of the Spirit of Christ within us nurtured through attention to the presence of Christ among us. To practice stillness is to linger with the God who calls me to "be still and know." Anxiety, anger, reactivity, impulsivity all resist the grace of God's stillness. Stillness and a non-anxious presence are the fruit of radical trust in God's sovereign care and our willingness to remain under the domain of God's sovereign care. Has your Lenten observance changed due to the pandemic? What spiritual practices (both solitary and communal) might you need to remain sane in the time of Corona?

#### Wash Your Hands!

Just because God loves you doesn't mean that you shouldn't be washing your hands or keeping a safe distance from others! And just because Jesus saved you doesn't mean that you should embrace a cavalier posture of invincibility. David does not indicate that God makes us impervious to sickness or disease or any sort of dark valley experience. The promise isn't that God will keep you from hardship but will sojourn with us through the hardship. Response?

#### Isolate and Accuse

The primary tool of the Accuser is to isolate and then accuse, to lead us away from the sheepfold and then go after us. In isolation the serpentine stench of cynicism begins to invade our hearts if we are not very careful. We are especially vulnerable when we are isolated from the sheepfold, from the gathered community. What are your plans to protect yourself and those you love from the Accuser's voice?