

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT February 21, 2021

# **APPROACH**

Let the depth and sonority of the Prelude lead you into a spirit of worship, contemplation, and celebration.

#### **PRELUDE**

Préambule, Op. 31

Louis Vierne
(1870-1937)

# Doug Savin, organist

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The end of Lent, I can foretell, when trumpets play and church bells ring. The ends of Lent, I know less well. What does this Lent intend to bring?

Will I be changed by a forehead smudge? Will I forgive a long-held grudge? Am I supposed to sit and pray? Am I to mourn these forty days? Shall I respond to Lenten calls and don my sackcloth overalls?

Perhaps the best I'll make of Lent is simply use its time between To arrive at where I'm being sent accompanied by One unseen. To come to where

Not so much the what I do,

Not so much the where I walk,

Not so much the why I go,

As learning more the doing.

As loving more the walking.

As living more the going.

I know Lent's end, all bright and fair, when lilies white infuse the air.

The ends of Lent, what might they be? What ends might God unfold in me?

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# **GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jill Randles, liturgist

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

## THE INVITATION TO WORSHIP GOD

Jill Randles, liturgist

- L: As a deer longs for the cooling streams, so our souls long for You, O God
- C: My soul thirsts for the living God
- **L:** How lovely is Your dwelling place, Almighty God.
- C: My soul longs for Your courts.

My heart sings to You, our Living God.

**L:** God leads in paths of love and faithfulness.

ALL: Life expands and deepens when we trust in the God

who created and nurtures us.

Gracious God, here is our Lenten hope:

walk beside us in this journey,

and keep us open to Your word for us.

Hymn singing is vital to our community life. Although distanced from one another, we can be united through song.

Join in singing the hymns with the recorded voices of our Choir and organ.

# HYMN OF REJOICING 487

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find,

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this,

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song through all the ages long
May Jesus Christ be praised!

# **CALL TO CONFESSION**

This is what Scripture tells us:

The saying is sure and worthy of our full acceptance:

if we confess our sin. God is just and will forgive us our sin.

Dear Friends, we know the proof of God's amazing love is this:

while we were sinners Christ died for us.

Because we have faith in God, we dare to approach with confidence.

May we join together in the Prayer of Confession as printed in your bulletin:

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Jill Randles, liturgist

Loving and Gracious God,

We have strayed from your ways like lost and wandering sheep.

Too often, have we followed the devices and desires of our own hearts.

Too much, have we focused our need to control and dominate.

Too little, have we loved with Your love and sought our neighbor's good.

Gracious God, as we enter this Season of Lent,

we ask for new hearts to love You and Your creation.

Help us to walk as children of the light,

to serve as instruments of healing,

to recognize and celebrate Your activity among us.

Then we will know that we are known by you,

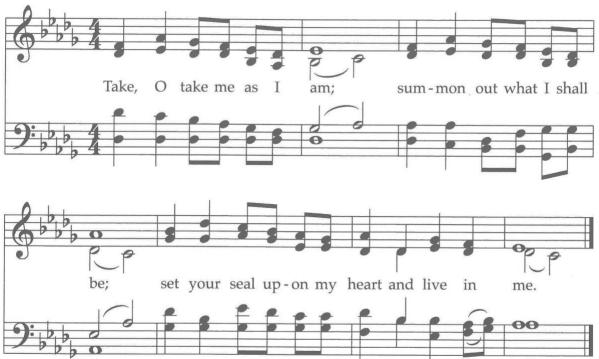
and the foundation of your knowledge is love.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# REFLECTING ON OUR CONFESSION (sing twice in contemplation)

Take, O Take Me as I Am

Iona Community



# ASSURANCE OF OUR PARDON

L: When times are tight, we need to hear Good News.

Scripture proclaims it for us with a mighty voice:

"Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun."

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

# **RESPONSE TO OUR FORGIVENESS** (*sing twice with joy*)



### **ANTHEM**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

spiritual setting by Jester Hairston (1901-2000)

Sung and recorded by the Sanctuary Choir of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, during a past service of worship

I want Jesus to walk with me all along my pilgrim journey,

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When my heart is almost breaking Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble Lord, walk with me.

When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

#### THE WORD

#### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Rev. Jack Hodges

O Thou Eternal Wisdom,

whom we partly know and partly do not know;

O Thou Eternal Justice,

whom we partly acknowledge but never fully obey;

O Thou Eternal Love,

whom we love a little but fear to love too much.

Open our minds that we may understand,

Work in our wills that we may obey,

Kindle our hearts that we may love you and all that is yours.

For we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# THE WITNESS OF THE SCRIPTURE

THE PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Rev. Jack Hodges

L: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

will say to the LORD,

"My refuge and my fortress;

my God, in whom I trust."

A thousand may fall at your side,

ten thousand at your right hand,

but it will not come near you.

C: Because you have made the LORD your refuge,

the Most High your dwelling place,

no evil shall befall you,

no scourge come near your tent.

L: For he will command his angels concerning you

to guard you in all of your ways.

C: On their hands they will bear you up,

so you will not dash your foot against a stone.

L: You will tread on the lion and the adder,

the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

C: Those who love me, I will deliver;

I will protect those who know my name.

L: When they call to me, I will answer them;

ALL: I will be with them in trouble,

I will rescue them and honor them.

With long life I will satisfy them,

and show them my salvation.

- L: This is the word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:12-15

Rev. Jack Hodges

12 At once the Spirit made him go into the desert, 13 where he stayed forty days, being tempted by Satan. Wild animals were there also, but angels came and helped him.

14 After John had been put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God.

15 "The right time has come," he said,
"and the Kingdom of God is near!
Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!"

**SERMON** 

Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety

Rev. Jack Hodges

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD THE HYMN

# **HYMN OF RESPONSE**



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please use the chat forum to enter your prayers and we will share those as a part of our communal worship.

O God, in your mercy.

Hear our prayers.

### PURPLE RIBBON LIST

02/13/2021	Seymour Hall	56	Male	Black
02/12/2021	Jayvon Montgomery	52	Male	Black
02/12/2021	Kamari Williams	25	Male	Unknown

Each ribbon represents a life lost to homicide in Baltimore City. We name them each week and hang a purple ribbon on the outside of Park Ave. to remind us to pray for the perpetrators of these acts of violence, and to remind us of our calling to challenge the systemic injustices of our time.

## THE OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND SUBSTANCE

Jill Randles, liturgist

See invitation to give in the Chat Box on Zoom and Facebook Live.

If you wish to give via Paypal, you will need to open a new tab on your browser.

If you need assistance please request help from either of our E-Ushers:

Allie Pyan alexandra.pyan@gmail.com or Sabrina Schlosser Schumann ssschuma@gmail.com

If you would like to give your offering by mail, please send to the church office at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, 210 West Madison Street, Baltimore MD 21201. Offerings will be processed weekly.

### AT THE OFFERTORY

Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,

Make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Words from Psalm 5:8, 4:9

DOXOLOGY 591 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

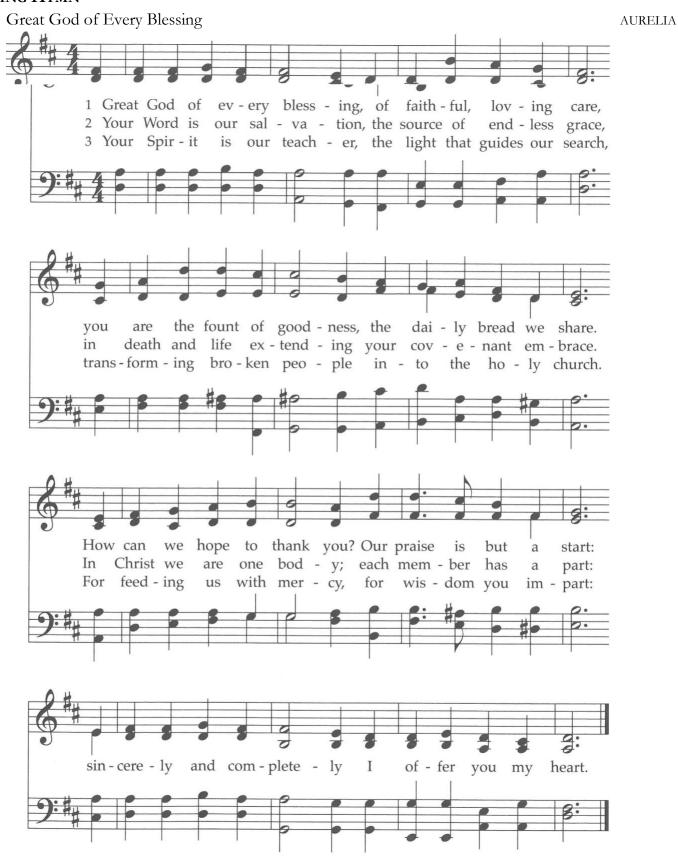
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

### **DEPARTING TO SERVE SENDING HYMN**

# SENDING HYMN



# **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

# **POSTLUDE**

Prelude in C Major, BWV 545

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

# GO FORTH IN JOY AND PEACE

Until we assemble again - whether in-house or virtually - as worship concludes, may we go forth to serve God in our daily lives.

# **ONLINE FELLOWSHIP**

# **LEADING WORSHIP TODAY**

Rev. Jack Hodges, preacher Jill Randles, liturgist Jason Kissel, organist

# Quartet

Meredith Piplani, soprano ~ Nick Dogas, alto Don Juedes, tenor ~ John McLucas, baritone

The Sanctuary Choir of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, anthem recording

Doug Savin, organ prelude

# **STAFF**

Jason Kissel, DMA, Minister of Music & Organist
Taylor Brooks, tech support
George Meagher, Sexton
Wanda Morgan, Office Administrator/Wedding Coordinator

The church office is open 8am-4pm Monday-Friday Office: 410-728-5545 Fax: 410-728-0722 information@firstfranklin.org

February 3, 2021	\$ 4079.00
February 16, 2021	\$ 3766.06
February PayPal	\$ 1328.00

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

Because of the recent upsurge in COVID cases, and in order to provide a consistent schedule, Session has decided to suspend worship in the sanctuary for the end of February. Virtual worship will continue using the Zoom and Facebook platforms. While we regret this step back from inperson worship, we believe it is necessary to protect the health of our guest preachers, others facilitating worship, and worshippers. Session will review this decision by the end of February.

# REV. JACK HODGES, GUEST PREACHER

Jack Hodges is a retired Presbyterian minister and a member of Baltimore Presbytery. He is one of First & Franklin's three Parish Associates. He has served four congregations from relatively large (978) to small (21) and held three interims. He is the General Presbyter Emeritus of Cascades Presbytery in Oregon, past member of the boards of the national Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Foundation, San Francisco Theological Seminary Alumni Association, the Jinishian Memorial Program, and does mission and strategic consulting under the name of The Kairos Group. He currently serves on the alumni Board of Governors of Occidental College in Los Angeles. Jack and Diane have made Baltimore their home, closer to their two children and their families.

### THIS SEASON OF LENT

As we worship, Christians are mindful of the mighty acts of God, especially as they are seen in the birth, life, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The pattern in which we proceed from event to event and from remembrance to remembrance is called The Christian Year. Today in the First Sunday in the season of Lent, the period of preparation prior to the celebration of Easter. The season's name comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten" which means "the lengthening of the daylight hours." Ever since the early church, this Season has been a time for learning and growing in our understanding of the depth and meaning of the Christian Faith. The color of the season is purple. Lent extends for 40 days, excluding Sundays, and leads us through Holy Week to Easter Sunday which is April 4th.

### RESOURCES TO HELP YOU OBSERVE LENT

- Scripture in Context Three of the four gospels record Jesus' experience in the wilderness. Explore the three passages in this brief study. Click: <a href="https://www.firstfranklin.org/resource-to-help-observe-lent/">https://www.firstfranklin.org/resource-to-help-observe-lent/</a>
- Read a Book Living into Lent, by Donald K. McKim, pub. Westminster Press. Materials for each week in Lent through the Saturday of Holy Week. Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer, by Eugene H. Peterson, pub: Harper

## **SESSION UPDATE**

Session continues to meet every two weeks to manage the business of the church. At its last meeting, a decision was made to continue with virtual-only worship through the month of February.

The church's financial situation is substantially unchanged. A robust stock market and reduced spending has left the value of our endowment relatively unchanged over the past few months. However, our

financial advisors believe the market will weaken, and spending will rise with an interim pastor in place, so it is important that congregational giving remain strong. Please give as you are able.

Session is also finishing up plans for a revised committee structure. Details should be available after the next meeting on February 2nd.

An Interim Pastor search committee has been formed, the position has been advertised, and one interview has already been scheduled. The committee hopes to conduct several other interviews and have a recommendation ready for Session's consideration by mid-February. Depending upon the commitments of the selected candidate, we hope to have an interim in place by the end of March.

### FIVE FINGER PRAYER

How many of you learned the Five Finger Prayer guide as a kid? Did you know you can submit Prayer Requests to us from our website 24/7? Click this link to go right to the page. These prayers will be added to our weekly prayer list. We welcome your submissions. Contact Form/Prayer Requests - First & Franklin

# IN NEED OF PASTORAL ASSISTANCE?

With our current Pastor vacancy, if you need pastoral assistance, please call the church office (410) 728-5545 (Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm) and we will direct your concern to an Associate Pastor for follow up.

# **LITURGISTS NEEDED!**

We will be transitioning back to the use of lay liturgists for Sunday Worship. Liturgists can serve virtually via Zoom as long as they have a stable internet connection.

**Open Dates:** April 11, 18, 25.

Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve. Thank you for considering it.

# THEOLOGY ON TAP | THEOLOGY ON TAP | March 4, 2021 | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Join us for a study through Peter Enn's book, "How the Bible Actually Works".

"Controversial evangelical Bible scholar, popular blogger and podcast host of The Bible for Normal People, and author of *The Bible Tells Me So* and *The Sin of Certainty* explains that the Bible is not an instruction manual or rule book but a powerful learning tool that nurtures our spiritual growth by refusing to provide us with easy answers but instead forces us to acquire wisdom."

If you are interested in joining this study, please email Sarah Lloyd (<u>saramcgawlloyd17@gmail.com</u>) and let her know that you're interested. The book is available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and your local bookstores. If affording the book will be a hurdle, please let us know so we can arrange to help you.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89721303699?pwd=UDhCNURFODRUc3R0UGUySXZ4a2s2dz09

Meeting ID: 897 2130 3699

Passcode: 219616 One tap mobile

- +13017158592,,89721303699# US (Washington DC)
- +16465588656,,89721303699# US (New York)

# Dial by your location

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 897 2130 3699

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbQ2mZgTb2

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR OFFERINGS

As we all recognize real concerns for our friends who will experience hardships through this disruption in regular routines, so too, we need to be mindful that your weekly contributions are critical to helping us maintain the financial obligations of the church. Payroll, mortgages, electricity and the rest are needs we must continue to cover, and your continued support of your pledges will be even more important while we are tele-worshiping. In addition to accepting your pledges by mail to the church office, we have recently added a PayPal link to the top of our new website which will allow us to process donations with this link: **GIVE**. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

#### **CUBA UPDATE**

In spite of the pandemic, our sister church in Cuba and we have been able to continue sharing news, greetings, and prayer requests through emails, Baltimore Presbytery connections, meetings with other U.S. partner churches of Taguasco Presbyterian Church, and two live Facebook Messenger visits. The town of Taguasco and the province of Santi Spiritus have had several cases of COVID. The government reacts quickly and church services and small gatherings are prohibited whenever there is a chance of any spread.

Taguasco Presbyterian Church has been shuttered and reopened for small gatherings several times this year. Their feeding and laundry programs for the seniors have also been closed, but our small band of faithful friends have found ways to continue their care for those who are in need. In the past, lunches and informational programs were offered at the church several days a week, with food delivery for those who could not travel. But now there is not enough food and rationing is in effect. People are lining up at the markets daily hoping to find food. Our sisters and brothers somehow gather enough food to cook and deliver hot lunches for the seniors. Walking to deliver so many lunches was overwhelming, so they have invested in a moped to transport the food.

Read more: <a href="https://www.firstfranklin.org/cuba-update/">https://www.firstfranklin.org/cuba-update/</a>

# YOU'RE INVITED: *Too Many Names* Virtual Watch Party and Panel Discussion | February 26, 2021 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join Family Survivor Network, Inc. as we celebrate the legacy of our founder, Corneilius Scott. Our documentary, Too Many Names, centers FSN's work in West Baltimore.

Help us celebrate the premiere of Too Many Names with a virtual watch party and panel with the people on the ground continuing the work Corneilius started! To view the trailer click here: **TOO MANY NAMES TRAILER** 

Also, learn more about how we do what we do, by reading our newest health care report, <u>There's Healing Happening Here: Reimagining Community Health and Wellness</u>. It provides our interpretation of what community health can look like in light of the historical barriers of traditional healthcare that have left the Black community underserved.

It's Free to Attend -- Click: **REGISTER** 

Please consider donating to FSN: **DONATE** 

### FOOD PANTRY AT FIRST & FRANKLIN

Another 18 bags were handed out last week. We want to make sure people understand that they do not have to give large amounts. Buying an extra box of pasta or donating \$10 if that is what works for you is impactful and welcome.

If you have the resources to do so, please consider donating non-perishables (see list below) or financial contributions. Please also consider joining us on Saturdays from about 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We continue to staff a food pantry in Reid Chapel **every** Saturday from 12:00-2:00 p.m. There is a growing flow of neighbors with whom we are building relationships. We have built connections with residents at Westminster House for whom we drop off additional bags of food for those who cannot make the walk to Reid Chapel.

In each grocery bag we pack food for breakfast, jelly and peanut butter (a good source of protein) for lunch, the makings for a balanced dinner such as beans and rice, pasta and sauce, canned meat, soup, vegetables, and fruit, and a paper goods. We like to add a little fun food, such as popcorn or cookies, for everyone enjoys a treat.

Contributions of shelf stable foods can be brought to Reid Chapel every Saturday between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. If shopping is difficult for you, monetary donations earmarked food pantry may be sent to the church and we will shop for you.

We are currently low on: canned meats, pasta, soup, powdered milk, rice, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, and paper towels

# Here is the list of foods we try to provide:

Apple sauce, canned fruit and dried fruit

Rice and beans

Peanut butter and jelly

Cereal or oatmeal and canned or powdered milk

Tuna fish and other canned meats

Spaghetti or pasta and tomato sauce

Soup, Canned vegetables

Popcorn and cookies

Paper towels, Toilet paper

How else can you help? We need volunteers to help collect and distribute food every Saturday. Sabrina Schumann is coordinating the volunteers. You may reach her by email at <a href="mailto:ssschuma@gmail.com">ssschuma@gmail.com</a> or phone 240-481-6929. You can also help by spreading the word to those you know who are facing food insecurity.

Thank you,

The Peacemaking Committee

### THE SPIRE SERIES

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT -- The Spire Series Committee is pleased to share the YouTube link to the 2020 Virtual Candlelight Christmas Concert. This final version includes details that were unavailable during our initial broadcast, including subtitles, enhanced imagery and closing credits.

We hope that having access to the beautiful music and scenery of the Christmas season at First & Franklin will brighten your days ahead. Please share this link with friends & family, too.

https://youtu.be/nwbooAwK9Ug

# MORNING PRAYER | 7:00am

Please join us online: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

Zoom Event Click: MORNING PRAYER

#### **DID YOU MISS A SUNDAY?**

Or did you want to re-visit a particular sermon from our congregational life?

Please visit: <u>Sermons</u>

# Prayers from 2/14/2021

Prayers for Wanda Morgan, our Church Manager, who is recovering from a medical event last week. We are grateful to her for all she does for this church community.

Prayers for my friend Gui who is battling depression. [John]

Prayers for healing and understanding among the different factions in our country. [Betty]

Prayers for our country as we move forward. [[ack]

For all in our community who are suffering from lonliness. Who do you sit near in church – and are they joining us each week? If not, let's reach out with a phone call.

For the family of Sacha Taylor, who died this week after a medical emergency. Mother to three young children. She was able to be a donor and her corneas, kidneys, heart and liver will all be a blessing to those in need. [Beth & Laura]

Prayers for Randy after a fall on the ice last week.

Prayers to the Mt. Vernon community. And for the folks in our Food Pantry who helped give away 18 bags of groceries this week to those in need. [Randy]

Prayers for the family of Janet Henderson, on Baltimore Dakota Steering Committee, who died of Covid. [Marla]

Prayers for our brothers & sisters in Cuba. [Betty]

Prayers for Laura's 48 year old brother, John, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Grateful for a pertinent, powerful and inspiring sermon, Rev. Hollaway! [Chris, Jason, Susan, Bob & Martha]

For all in our church community who are unable to join us each week – may we all reach out to those we do not see each week. [Beth]

Prayers of thanks for our entire staff – Wanda, George, Taylor, Jason, Deborah and all our volunteers who help to keep the church moving forward. [Beth]

# **Prayers from 2/7/2021**

Prayers for Doug Savin's Mom who passed away last week. Prayers for his Dad as he moves forward.

Prayers for Baltimore during this CeaseFire weekend. [Allie]

Prayers for our brothers & sisters in Cuba. [Betty]

For our Nation's government, in particular this week as we seek to balance unity with accountability. [John]

Prayers for Laura's 48 year old brother, John, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Prayers for the Mt. Vernon Community and those working the food pantry where we gave away 23 bags on Saturday to those in need. [Randy]

Thanksgiving for a wonderful and timely sermon. May we all continue to speak truth to power. [Onyeka]

For the daughter of Shelley Bouse who underwent cancer sugery. [JYoung]

Prayers for Janet Henderson, on Baltimore Dakota Steering Committee, who is hospitalized with Covid. [Marla]

For all in our church community who are unable to join us each week – may we all reach out to those we do not see each week. [Beth]

Prayers of thanks for our entire staff – Wanda, George, Taylor, Jason, Deborah and all our volunteers who help to keep the church moving forward. [Beth]