

To the church in Diaspora due to the Corona Virus, greetings from Pastor Jake & Kris Porter, our family and all of the church here in Hudsonville and elsewhere.

May we worship together on this day, March 22, wherever social distancing finds us.

Please gather on Facebook live at 9:30 am to listen to a sermon and to have a time of prayer and then you can follow the rest of this liturgy.

*(Prayers thanks to worldvision.org)*

### **Pledging our Allegiance:**

Hear O People of God. The Lord is our God! The Lord alone. Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your mind and with all of your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

### **Time of Teaching:**

Our scripture passage for today is Matthew 18

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18&version=NIV>

Aidan Dykstra reciting the verses:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Aiv-CrlyqknsqshlOlwoeUdbErxA1A?e=Zts6D5>

Please tune in to Facebook Live at 9:30 am on Jake's page. The sermon will also be uploaded to YouTube and handed out to those without access to the internet.

### **Prayer & Scripture:**

(please read in your home)

Prayer

Lord, as we gather together, may you be active and present, hearing our cries and prayers.

May we hear you in a new and different way, now that our daily lives are so different.

You are good, Lord and your love endures forever, your faithfulness to all generations.

Bless us and help us be your hands and feet, the very Body of Christ. Amen.

Psalm 121 A song of ascents

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you-- the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

### **Time of Singing & Praise**

Please feel free to sing along with the play list that was created, or sing some of your favorite hymns or songs. Sing sitting or standing or kneeling. And know that the God who created you is present and rejoices in the praises of His people.

Spotify Playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6nwx6foR48M5ZfKV6N6X1B?si=vV6ilpwVRSmdjBtreajljw>

In the Garden is a favorite song of one of our congregation. It was sung at their spouse's funeral.

### **Confession + Assurance:**

Take a few moments to confess to God the good and bad of this past week. It was hard and you probably didn't respond as God calls us to at points. Tell God, silently or aloud how much you need Him in this time of uncertainty and fear.

Assurance in Scripture:

2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

### **Time of Prayer:**

(tune in live, or follow these prayer prompts)

**Pray for people who are infected with COVID-19 or facing quarantine.**

*Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.*

*Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. —*Philippians 4:6 (NIV)*

**Pray for people at higher risk of developing the disease.**

*Dear Lord, we lift to You our concern for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID-19 — the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty and, for many, preventive isolation from loved ones.*

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. —*1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)*

**Pray for medical professionals, caregivers, and researchers responsible for fighting the new coronavirus.**

*God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers and first responders are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new coronavirus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job.*

*Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread.*

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. —*Psalms 23:4 (NIV)*

**Pray for leaders responsible for making decisions about the new coronavirus.**

*Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.*

He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers ... —*2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV)*

**Pray for families adjusting to new ways of life.**

*Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.*

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. —*Psalms 57:1 (NIV)*

**Pray for business owners and families facing financial stress.**

*Jesus, we thank You for Your faithfulness in how you have guided and equipped people in their jobs and have provided in the past. It can be scary and overwhelming not knowing how bills and obligations will be met or to not be able to provide for families. As people feel financial strain during the uncertainty, bring them comfort and peace, reminding them that You are there for them. Provide for them in their times of need.*

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. —*John 14:27 (NIV)*

**Pray for grocery store workers and delivery drivers.**

*Lord, we are so grateful for all the people who continue to work each day so that people are able to eat. We ask that You bless and protect them as they serve. Give them grace to handle disgruntled customers during supplies shortages. Keep their bodies healthy as they unload and stock boxes of supplies. Keep their cars and trucks running smoothly as they deliver needed supplies and food people have ordered online. And please protect them all from contracting the new coronavirus.*

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. —*Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)*

**Pray for the disease to stop spreading.**

*Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people decide to stay home instead of traveling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to [wash their hands properly](#). And while it may be heartbreaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members.*

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea ... —*Psalms 46:1-2 (NIV)*

**A Blessing:**

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance<sup>[a]</sup> upon you and give you peace.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nxn6tmVSljU>