

PRAYING
WITH JOHN
FOR
DEAR LIFE



Service of Midday Prayer for Lent

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

First Presbyterian Church, Gathered Online

Opening Sentences

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Ps. 124:8

Maker of heaven and earth.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life.

John 3:16

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Hymn 836

Abide With Me

EVENTIDE

1. Abide with me: fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.
5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Prayer

God,
you sent your Son into the world
that we might live through him.
May we abide in his risen life
so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another
and know the fullness of joy. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Before the lesson:

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:68
Hear the word of the Lord.

John 15:1-17

The Word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14
And we have seen his glory. Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn 226

There in God's Garden

SHADES MOUNTAIN

1. There in God's garden stands the Tree of wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations.

Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.

2. Its name is Jesus, name that says, 'Our Saviour!'
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood
feed on its life-blood.
3. Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it; our despite has choked it.
Yet look, it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it,
nor fire consumed it.
4. See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the voice says, 'Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow.
I will give blessing.'
5. This is my ending; this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for; now I can possess it.
This ground is holy!
6. All heaven is singing, 'Thanks to Christ, whose Passion
offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon.
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!
Amen! My Master!

Dismissal

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

The God of peace be with us. **Amen.**
Bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**