



Worship Guide for Sunday, May 3

Aldersgate United Methodist Church - Butte, MT

Our Morning Prayer

- from Chuck Kestle -

PRECIOUS LORD...

Thank you for another day to worship and to praise you. We are so grateful for blessings you have bestowed upon us and we look forward to the day when we gather together again in fellowship in our Church home.

We pray for people throughout the world who continue to struggle. For weeks we watched the world from behind closed doors on television screens that mediated the terror but made it no less horrifying. Leaders tried to offer hope, but the hope was mixed with anxiety and fear. Talking heads preached about the new normal, but they knew not what that normal would be. Charlatans preyed upon the gullible with miracle cures that did not heal.

Yet in you Lord we have faith, reason and real hope that surpass all human understanding. Your sacrifice invites us once again to reopen the doors of our hearts.

Your Spirit beckons us once again to seek the narrow gate of salvation. Your promise calls us once again to journey into the land of mercy and grace.

Encourage us Lord to see your presence through all the uncertainty.

Remind us Lord that we need the dark in order to see the light.

Show us Lord that your love still triumphs now and forevermore. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Good Shepherd calls his sheep by name. Listen, for our shepherd is calling. Let us share signs of genuine affection and Christian love, as we pass the peace of Christ. Peace be with you... and also with you! Amen.

Share a sign of peace this day...call a friend, write a card of greeting to another, bake something to share with one who may be hungry, light a candle of thanks!



Sharing Joys and Concerns

We come today with celebrations and burdens, all of which we life up to you, Oh God. We ask that you hold our intentions in your secure embrace and bless those in need of your healing power. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

Take a moment to speak the names of those you lift up today. Close your eyes and breathe in love and appreciation for their place in your heart. Make a list of all you are grateful for this day!

Our Scripture Reading

John 10: 1-10 (NRSV)

1“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.



A cup of blessing for you...

It's extremely difficult to be apart from one another and the traditions and rituals we celebrate together. We will begin exploring ways to be in communion together when we return to Aldersgate.

However, the vision of God's love poured out for you is very much alive in my prayers for you each week. I invite you to study the picture above...select a cup which speaks to you...invision your hands wrapped around the stem...lift up your needs - give thanks for another blessed day...and drink in peace.

Our *hearts* are in communion with one another and with God. Always!

Grace and peace to you...
Pastor Sue

Benediction

God, send us forth this day proclaiming the good news of Jesus and his forgiving, saving love. Let our lives be a witness to the overflowing grace and mercy of your love. We pray in the name of Jesus, our door to your blessed embrace.

- Amen

