

A Faithful Response to Covid-19  
A Service of Lament and Hope for the Churches of The  
Presbytery of West Virginia  
Recorded May 7-14, 2020

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WE GATHER TOGETHER IN SPIRIT

Welcome and Opening Words\* Kari Preslar

Invitation to the Light  
*Everyone is invited to light a candle as a reminder of  
God's presence with us.*

Sung Meditation Be Still My Soul

Gathering Prayer Maggie Rust  
*Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
you know our needs before we ask, and in our asking you  
prepare us to receive the gift of your grace. Open our hearts  
to your presence, that we might feel your spirit of healing and  
peace. When our grief has reduced us to sighs too deep for  
words, when we find ourselves overwhelmed by anxiety and  
fear, when we long for health and wholeness, may we take  
comfort in your care for us. May we find in you our refuge and  
strength, knowing that you share in our suffering, and have  
overcome the darkest days of death through the resurrection  
of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we pray. Amen.*

Congregational Hymn There is a Balm in Gilead

WE ARE FED BY THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD

Romans 8:18-19, 24-27 Ed Thompson

Reflections on compassion from Henri Nouwen Karen Kinney

Psalm 130 Agnes Brady

from "Ash and Starlight"  
by Arianne Braithwaite Lehn Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke

John 11:32-35 Pat Collier

"Pandemic"  
by Rev. Lynn Ungar Claire Butler

Matthew 5:1-12 Robin Ray

Prayer for a Pandemic  
by Cameron Wiggins Bellm Stephen Baldwin

John 14:1,18-19,27 Cinda Harkless

"When This Is Over"  
by Laura Kelley Fanucci Todd Wright

Romans 8:31-39 Susan Sharp Campbell

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Hymn It Is Well with My Soul

Prayers of the People  
Bill Dunfee, Kevin Geurink, Rebecca Mihm, Maureen Wright,  
John Yeager and Maggie Rust, Cantor

Sung refrain: *For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;  
truly my hope is in you.*

Hymn My Life Flows On

Benediction Dawn Adamy

\*NT Wright, "Christianity Offers No Answers about Coronavirus. It's Not Supposed To," Time Magazine, March 29, 2020.

"Pandemic" a poem by Rev. Lynn Ungar originally appeared on her personal Facebook page on March 11, 2020 and then was reprinted by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Nouwen, Henri J.M., *You are the Beloved: Daily Meditations for Spiritual Living*, G. Earnshaw, ed. Convergent Books. 2017.

Lehn, Arianne, *Ash and Starlight: Prayers for the Chaos and Grace of Daily Life*, Chalice Books. 2019.

"Prayer for a Pandemic" by Cameron Wiggins Bellm and "When This Is Over" by Laura Kelly Fanucci were originally shared by the authors on social media.

This special service is an offering of love from church leaders throughout the Presbytery of West Virginia:

Bluefield, First Pres -- Maggie Rust; musicians Becky Allen and Harold Brown

Bridgeport, Bridgeport Pres -- Robin Ray

Charleston, Bream Memorial -- Dawn Adamy; video editor Derek Hudson

Charleston, Village Chapel -- Todd Wright

Charlton Heights -- Falls View Pres—Kari Preslar

Fairmont, Fleming Memorial -- Rebecca Mihm

Frankford, Frankford Pres—Susan Sharp Campbell

Glenville, Glenville Pres—Karen Kinney

Huntington, Beverly Hills Pres -- Cinda Harkless

Huntington, Enslow Park Pres -- John Yeager

Kenova, First Pres—Pat Collier

Logan, First Pres -- Kevin Geurink

Nitro, First Pres -- Agnes Brady

Ravenswood, First United Pres -- Claire Butler

Ronceverte, Ronceverte Pres -- Stephen Baldwin

Vienna, Westminster Pres -- Bill Dunfee

Waverly, Waverly-Bethel Pres and Williamstown, First Pres-Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke

Presbytery of West Virginia staff -- Ed Thompson and Maureen Wright

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