

Order of Worship for February 21, 2021  
First Sunday in Lent  
Virtual Worship



"In Our Hands" by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

## **We Approach God**

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Votum, Sentences, and Salutation

Order of Worship

One: God meets us in the night—

**All: Before the sun rises,  
Before the wound heals,  
Before there are answers,  
Before there is closure.**

One: God meets us in the light—

**All: Where joy is effervescent,  
Where laughter is contagious,  
Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,  
And where people gather around the table.**

One: God meets us at the threshold—

**All: At the edge of the water,  
At the beginning of the wilderness,  
At the start of something new,  
On the edge of faith.**

One: And if God meets us in all those places,  
Then surely God meets us in between—

**All: Staying with us through the wilderness.**

One: We are not alone. God is all around.

**All: Let us worship the God of the here and now.**

Hymn: “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

One: God who meets us where we are—  
There is nowhere we can go that you are not.

**All: You were with Jesus at his baptism.  
You were with him in the wilderness,  
And even in between, you were there,  
Saying aloud, “This is my beloved.”**

One: We know that you are with us too—  
In the good, the bad, and everything in between—  
But so often we act like we are alone.

**All: Instead of coming to you with our hurt,  
We hold it in or cast it onto others.  
Instead of coming to you with our joy,  
We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.**

One: How can we long for a deeper relationship with you

While living like you are nowhere to be found?

**All: Forgive our self-centered ways.**

**Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.**

One: You are the God who meets us where we are.

**All: Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Kyrie (spoken in unison):

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

Words of Assurance

Summary of the Law of Love

Gloria Patri

### **We Hear God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

Children's Message

Sermon: "Again & Again, God Meets Us"

### **We Respond to God's Word**

Song of Response: "Again & Again"

Confession of Faith

We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here,  
Bigger than the sky and in the smallest details,  
All at once and in every moment.

We believe that God meets us where we are—  
In heartbreak and high hopes,  
Around crowded tables and in quiet homes,  
In joy and in suffering,  
In loneliness and in connection,  
In sanctuaries and in living rooms,  
In marches and in waiting rooms.

We believe that nothing we do or leave undone  
Can distance us from God's love.  
God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.  
Again and again, God meets us where we are  
And invites us into wholeness.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Passing of the Peace (stretch your hands toward your screen if you're on video, praying God's peace on the assembly.)

Invitation to the Offering

Offerings may be made in three ways:

- Electronic transfer using Zelle to [frc1850@aol.com](mailto:frc1850@aol.com)
- Online giving at <https://tithely.com/give?c=1289239>
- Checks made out to First Reformed Church may be mailed to 18 Farragut Ave., Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706

Offertory: "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley / Nobody Knows"

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

*Our time of prayer concludes with the Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

Closing Song: "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

Blessing and Benediction

*The space will remain open for conversation and catching up in our "virtual coffee hour."*

### **Announcements**

**Lent Study Group:** You haven't missed it! Our Lenten study group will convene this Wednesday at 12:30 for our first meeting, and will continue weekly on Wednesdays until April 3. We will be reading together Amy-Jill Levine's book *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. In this book, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story through the theme of "risk." She shows us how the text raises ethical and

spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. Sign up for the study by emailing Pastor Emily: [revemilybrown@gmail.com](mailto:revemilybrown@gmail.com).

**Annual Meeting:** Our annual congregational meeting will take place via Zoom on February 28 at 11:30am. All members and regular attendees of First Reformed Church are encouraged to attend. The meeting will include reports, passing a budget for 2021, and electing members of Consistory. One deacon, Isabel Noguera, will be ending her term, and we are seeking congregants who feel called to serve in this way. If you are interested in serving as a Deacon, please reach out to any of the Deacons or Elders, or Pastor Emily.

**Pulpit Exchange with Woodlands Community Temple: March 5 & 7:** On Sunday, March 7, we're delighted to welcome Rabbi Mara Young as our guest preacher! Mara has been serving as Associate Rabbi at Woodlands Community Temple, and will succeed Rabbi Billy Dreskin when he retires in June. Pastor Emily will preach for WCT's Shabbat service on March 5 at 8pm. The service is streamed to Facebook. Services take place at [facebook.com/wctemple](https://facebook.com/wctemple). You do not need Facebook in order to join in. Just go to the page and scroll down and you'll see the live service. We hope you'll join in both services as we get to know our neighbors!