

Welcome, Call to Worship and Opening Prayers for Sunday, May 3, 2020

Welcome

Welcome to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton for this worship on Sunday, May 3, 2020. My name is Mark Lewis, the Interim-Moderator of St. Paul's. I hope this time of worship will be meaningful for you, and I pray for the day when we can be together in person again.

Call to Worship

Lord God, we praise and adore you because you are always with your people. You were with the Israelites when they were thirsty in the desert; you were with Daniel in the lions' den; with David in the valley of Elah; with Jonah in the belly of the great fish; with Paul in the dungeon; and you are with us in our time of isolation. We are never alone. We are always in your presence. Let us feel your presence now, O God, as we come to you in worship.

Opening Prayers

God of all creation, source of all love, we come before you through your son Jesus Christ, who is the beginning and end of all our hope. We lift all our praise to you because you made each one of us, you know every part of our being, and you love us even though we are sometimes unlovable. Holy God we come to you from our places of isolation today, and we are thankful to be united in spirit with our whole community, and with a whole world filled with people who love you. Today we are worshipping you from our living rooms, family rooms, kitchens, and maybe even while lying in bed. But wherever we are, we are in a holy place, we are in your presence, you are the Good Shepherd, who loves us dearly, and we pray that our worship will be acceptable to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying together:

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 and ever. Amen