

Opening Prayers for Sunday, May 17, 2020

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, Ontario on Sunday, May 17, 2020. My name is Mark Lewis, I am the Interim-Moderator of St. Paul's and I am glad that you are with us today. I want to dedicate today's worship to all people who are struggling with loneliness or fear in this time of isolation. I pray that you will feel God's Spirit around you in worship today. I am thankful that Blair Havers, Director of Music, is here with us at the console of the four-manual Cassavant organ, and that soprano soloist Beth is here to lift our worship with the gift of music. I also wish to express our thanks to Branden Moffat who is here to record the service, and will then edit and upload it for us. This is an important ministry and we appreciate Branden's work.

Call to Worship (1 Peter 2:4-5, 10)

Come to the Lord, the living stone rejected by the people as worthless, but chosen by God as valuable. Come as living stones, and let yourselves be used in building the spiritual temple. At one time you were not God's people, but now you are God's people. At one time you did not know God's mercy, but now you have received God's mercy.

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Almighty Creator and Sustainer, we come to you in the name of Jesus our Saviour, lifting all praise and adoration to you. When we were slaves you sent Moses to save us from the land of Egypt. When we were afraid you sent David to deliver us from the Philistines. When we were down in the grave you sent your son, Jesus, to deliver us from death. And now we find ourselves again in a time of peril. The whole world has become a dangerous place. Simple contact with our family and friends has become a hazard. Deliver us again, O Lord. Deliver us by the wisdom of medical professionals. Deliver us again by the wisdom and thoughtfulness of our leaders. Deliver us again by helping each person to act with good judgement with respect to physical distancing and isolation. We place all our faith in you, 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*