

JESUS

FAMILY

MISSION



EMMANUEL COVENANT CHURCH
A T H O M E

MAY 3, 2020

LITURGY & PRAYERS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, O Holy Spirit.
Come as Holy Fire and burn in us,
Come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within,
Come as Holy Light and lead us in the darkness,
Come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance,
Come as Holy Power and enable our weakness,
Come as Holy Life and dwell in us.
Convict us, convert us, consecrate us
Until we are set free from the service of ourselves,
To be your servants to the world. Amen.

FROM: COVENANT HYMNAL #918

AN OPENING PRAYER

O God, whose Word is not just a one-way conversation, talk with us today and hear us as we pray. Free us, that we might listen for Your voice. For in Christ Jesus, You have called us into a friendship which influences all other relationships. Help us to see beauty where we might be tempted to see ugliness, in ourselves as well as others. May we find Your joy there. As You have lifted us off our knees, help us to lift others up, for we all were created in Your image. Re-create in us a new heart, O God, one that beats in tune with Your own. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1

Keep me safe, O God,
for I have come to you for refuge.

I said to the Lord, "You are my Master!
Every good thing I have comes from you."
The godly people in the land
are my true heroes!
I take pleasure in them!
Troubles multiply for those who chase after other gods.
I will not take part in their sacrifices of blood
or even speak the names of their gods.

Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing.
You guard all that is mine.
The land you have given me is a pleasant land.
What a wonderful inheritance!

I will bless the Lord who guides me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
I know the Lord is always with me.
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.

My body rests in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead

or allow your holy one
to rot in the grave.
You will show me the way of life,
granting me the joy of your presence
and the pleasures of living with you forever.

PSALM 16 (NLT)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

A COMMUNION READING

O God, your steadfast love has been ours for generations.
Through Christ, you brought us out of the abyss of death
And into the light of eternal love.

With joy and thanksgiving, we proclaim our salvation,
Remembering Christ's death and resurrection, until he comes again.
As we break bread and share the cup together,
May Christ be present with us,
And may the Spirit bind us together
As Christ's body in this world. Amen.

FROM: COVENANT HYMNAL #944

A CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, our Master,
Whose heart was moved with compassion
Toward the weak and the oppressed,
And who was more willing to serve than be served;
We pray for all conditions of people:
For those lacking food, shelter, or clothing;
For the sick and all who are wasting away by disease;
For the blind, deaf, and lame;
For prisoners;
For those oppressed by injustice;
For those who have lost their way in society;
For the corrupted and fallen;
For the lonely and depressed;
For the worried and anxious;
For all living faithfully in obscurity;
For those fighting bravely in unpopular wars or causes;
For all who are serving diligently and dependably;
For those who stand in the valley of indecision;
For those who are suffering the consequences of misdeeds repented of;
For all family circles broken by death;
For those faced by tasks too great for their powers.
Let the power of Jesus' spirit be strong within us,
And those for whom we pray. Amen.

FROM: COVENANT HYMNAL #923

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace, now and forever. Amen.

God loves you, and so do I!

SCRIPTURE READING 2

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

(Some manuscripts include here, wholly or in part, paralyzed—and they waited for the moving of the waters. From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease they had.)

One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ”

So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”

The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well

JOHN 5:1-15 (NIV)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What is something you noticed for the first time?

What questions did you have?

Was there anything that bothered you?

What did you learn about loving God?

What did you learn about loving others?

What is the pool of Bethesda in your life? What is it you position yourself near hoping to be made well?

What does Jesus' question, "*do you want to get well?*" mean to you? What areas in your life are you needing some healing in?

What are barriers you put up for yourself in believing Jesus?

What are barriers you have seen put up that keep others from experiencing Jesus?