

**A SERVICE OF MUSIC AND PRAYER**  
**November 5, 2020, 7 pm**  
**First Lutheran Church, Havre, Montana**



*After a contentious and bitter election season, we come together on this night in a spirit of humility, unity, and hope. This is not a time to publicly celebrate or to mourn. We come together to seek forgiveness for the ways we have judged others, to receive the abundant mercy of our God, to hear God's Word through Scripture and song, and to lay before God the prayers that lie closest to our hearts.*

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, **the light no darkness can overcome.**  
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, **and the day is almost over.**  
Let your light scatter the darkness **and illumine your church.**

**GATHERING HYMN – Dearest Jesus, at Your Word**

**#520**



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from  
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,  
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;  
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -  
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and  
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.  
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.  
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

## **CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For self-centered living,

and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For longing to have what is not ours,

and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For misuse of human relationships,

and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For jealousies that divide families and nations,

and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God,

and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For hurtful words that condemn,

and for angry deeds that harm:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,

and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace.

**Amen.**

## CENTERING HYMN – *Come and Fill our Hearts*

#528

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system of music has two lines of lyrics underneath. The second system of music also has two lines of lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.' and 'Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia! Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!'.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, source of all liberty,  
before whom every earthly ruler must bow and bend the knee,  
we lay our nation before you.  
Breathe upon us your Spirit of wisdom and discernment.  
Grant to all who have attained public office the mind of Christ,  
who came not to be served but to serve,  
and to give his life for the freedom of the oppressed.  
Hold before us those who face uncertain futures,  
or who have no voice in our political process.  
Uphold and safeguard election officials in their work.  
Spare us from the crushing weight of cynicism.  
Give us grace to speak courageously, but with love,  
without which our words are noise and we are nothing.  
Gather us together under the cross,  
where, in all of our difference, we can stand as one people,  
redeemed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

### Isaiah 40:6-11

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 121**

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills —  
from where will my help come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup>**He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup>**The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.**

### **Ephesians 4:31-32**

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

*Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.*

### Matthew 5:1-9 (The Message)

5<sup>1-2</sup> When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

<sup>3</sup> “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

<sup>4</sup> “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

<sup>5</sup> “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

<sup>6</sup> “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

<sup>7</sup> “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

<sup>8</sup> “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

<sup>9</sup> “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

*Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.*

### CENTERING HYMN – *Come and Fill our Hearts*

#528

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### CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER WITH MUSIC

*We are a diverse community, and our individual responses to this season vary. At this time, you are invited to look through the following prayers and find the prayer that calls to you. Try to linger over the words rather than rush through them. You are also welcome to use this time to follow your prayer wherever it may lead. As we pray individually, the piano and organ shall fill the space with song.*

**Conflict**

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Hear us as we pray.

**Bitterness**

Lord God, when we are assaulted by the troubles of life, and the deep waters of anger threaten to overwhelm us, do not let us sink. In your great compassion, hear us and help us. Deliver us from anger's power over us. Lead us out of bitter silence and hurtful words so that we may speak the truth in love. Heal every heart set on vengeance, and show us the way to honesty and reconciliation. Hear us as we pray.

**Restlessness**

Merciful God, our Father, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you stand within the shadows, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within our hearts. Then deal with us as seems best to you, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear us as we pray.

**Reconciliation**

Holy God, out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit that we might live as one new humanity in Christ, dismantling the walls that divide, ending the hostility between us, and proclaiming peace those who are near and to those who are far away. Hear us as we pray.

**For Those in Authority**

Almighty and everlasting God, guide the president of the United States, all Senators, all members of Congress, our governor, our council members, and all others in authority over us, that they may be just in purpose, wise in counsel, and unwavering in duty. In the administration of their solemn responsibilities, may they uphold the honor of our nation and secure the protection of our people. Hear us as we pray.

**Discernment**

We pray to you almighty God, in this time of national discernment. You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Do not let us fail in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need. Help us in our confusion and guide our actions. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril. Hear us as we pray.

## **Gratitude**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we humbly thank you for your goodness to us and to all that you have made. We praise you for your creation and preservation, for keeping us and all things in your care, and for all the blessings of life. Above all we bless you for your immeasurable love in redeeming the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with thankful hearts we praise you, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service and by living in your gifts of holiness and righteousness all our days. Hear us as we pray.

## **Closing Prayer**

**O Lord, you are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end, and you alone are the source of all goodness. Draw us close to you, and grant peace in our land and throughout your whole creation. In your holy and precious name we pray, Amen.**

## **BELLS – *There is a Balm in Gilead***

## **OFFERING**

*We take a goodwill offering for the Havre Community Food Bank to knit us together in our common purpose of praising God through acts of service. The plate and bins are in the narthex.*

## **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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
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.**

## **CHARGES TO THE PEOPLE**

Go out into the world in peace; have courage;  
hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people;  
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## SENDING HYMN – O God of Every Nation

#713



1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,  
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,  
3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease  
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;  
from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,  
from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;  
when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,  
from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,  
when hope and cour-age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;  
till dawns the morn-ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,



in love and mer-cy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.  
de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.  
with faith that none can al - ter, your ser-vants un - der - gird.  
and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

## SENDING BLESSING

Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore. **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

*You are welcome to stay in the sanctuary as long as you would like.*

*Organ – Linda Griggs*

*Piano – Vickie Jacobsen*

*Bell Choir led by Sue Ost*

*Keep watch, dear Lord,  
with those who work or watch or weep this night,  
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.*

*Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield  
the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.*