



# Service for the Lord's Day

Service of Remembrance  
January 19th, 2021

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, Virginia  
[www.westminsterva.org](http://www.westminsterva.org)  
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As you prepare for this time of reflection and prayer, come into a place of quiet and peace with a candle for lighting. Read the words aloud so that they resound in your ears and in your heart and fill your home with their hopefulness and healing. If you are with others, you might share the readings. Where there is music indicated, you might sing a favorite hymn of comfort or play a recording of choral or instrumental music that brings you peace.

## Opening Words

Our God is our help and refuge, a very present help in times of trouble.

## Words of Hope from Scripture

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear,  
though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake,  
though the waters roar and foam.  
The Lord of Hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

## Psalm 46:1-3,7 and Romans 14:7-9

We do not live to ourselves,  
and we do not die to ourselves.

If we live, we live to the Lord,  
And if we die, we die to the Lord;  
So then, whether we live or whether we die,  
We are the Lord's.  
For to this end Christ died and lived again,  
So that he might be Lord of the dead and the living.

## **Gathering Prayer**

Holy One, you are our comfort and our strength in times of sudden disaster, national crisis, or social chaos. Surround us now with your grace and peace through storm or earthquake, fire or pandemic. By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, sustain those who work to rescue, to heal, to lead and to rebuild, and fill us with the hope of your new creation, through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

## **Music and Silent Reflection**

### **Prayer of Lament**

God of the ages, you have always been faithful to your people. Come to us now, we pray!  
Give comfort and courage to those who are suffering.  
Give strength and skill to those who are working to save and to heal.  
Give us your peace that passes all understanding in this time of grief and sorrow,  
And open our eyes, hearts and minds to the movements of your Spirit, that we might be

**(You may light your candle now.)**

By day and by night we pour out our prayer to you, O God of mercy and might. We are crying for comfort, yearning for safety, longing for your peace. Come quickly to help us, O God; save all who call for deliverance.

We weep for the victims of Covid....

We grieve with those who have lost a beloved child, parent, sibling, lover, friend, neighbor...

We cry for those who have witnessed horror....

We remember the deaths of those we know and love...

And we pray for ourselves, O Lord.

Restore our hope and mend our hearts, even as we weep with grief and tremble with anger.

Give us strength to support the broken-hearted,

Fill us with your grace to be confident in your presence here and in the places of deepest pain.

Shine your light to find our way through the shadows that we might be bearers of your light and doers of justice.

Merciful God, your Spirit hover over us and all our troubled world, interceding for us with sighs too deep for words. Stay with us as we wait for healing, for help, for peace.

Gracious God, you have been faithful to your people from generation to generation and upheld us with your sustaining grace. You sent the rainbow after the storm, you brought manna when we were hungry, and in the darkness of death, you rolled the stone away. You have kept your promise to covenant with us. Replenish our strength and stir up our hope as we look for signs of your coming reign even now. Fill us with your peace that passes understanding – the deep peace of Jesus Christ, our Savior, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

## **Music and Silent Reflection**

### **Benediction**

May the Lord God our shepherd guide you to green pastures and still waters and restore your soul.

May Jesus Christ our Savior walk with you through dark valleys, so that you will fear no evil.

May the gracious Holy Spirit anoint you with goodness and mercy all the days of your life.

And may you dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.