

03-10-2024 Worship Service

Morning Prayer – Pastor Lois Harder

O God, whose love is never-ending, we come to you with humble and grateful hearts. We acknowledge that you are the Creator of all that is, the God of the Universe – and the God who hears and knows the contents of our hearts and minds. You are the God who sent your Son and your Holy Spirit to be with us in all places and at all times. Help us to live and move and have our being in you, confident that you ARE with us!

We're grateful for the safe and happy arrival of Tate Matthew to the Miller family. We ask for your continued watch over them as they adjust to this newest member; bless each one – Chrystiana, Bryant, Emmett and Nolan. Give rest and patience and whatever is needed.

We thank you, God, for the recent announcement that Jody Schmidt will be the next Principal of the Elementary school in Goessel. We ask your blessing on her, on the faculty and staff and the students as this transition happens.

We pray for those who may be traveling this week, or who otherwise have a break from the regular rhythm of their schedules. May they be rested and rejuvenated to finish out the semester of classes and activities. Thank you, God, for the generosity that was shown this past week with 14 care packages going out to the college students, filled with goodies and reminders of our congregation's love and care for them. May they know your love through ours.

Gracious God, you know the needs among us – those who are ill, battling long-term illnesses or those recovering from viruses, procedures, colds or other “bugs”. We pray for your hand of healing on each one and we ask you to tend their needs. We pray for those whose minds or spirits are restless or unwell; grant your Spirit of Peace and wholeness. We pray for those whose grief interrupts life, or distracts them from experiencing the fullness of your joy. Send your Spirit of comfort, letting them know that you are with them and they are not alone.

O God, we acknowledge that 59 years ago there was horrifying violence on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama as people marched peacefully, insisting that they be treated with dignity and fairness. We thank you God for the courage of people who, so recently, marched and endured violence done to them without responding with violence, for we believe this is what your son Jesus came to teach and to live – the way of nonviolent resistance. As we remember them, may we be inspired and encouraged to learn Jesus' ways of peace and to follow his path.

There are so many people in places all over the world who are enduring war, violence, injustice and grief. You hear their cries, God, and we believe that your longing is for wars and violence to cease, for injustice and grief to be answered with justice and comfort. May your people gather up our courage and convictions, led by your Holy Spirit, to tend the needs of this world. Bless those who are already doing this work – through organizations like MCC and many others, to show creative peacemaking and compassion. Give them stamina and continued faithfulness to trust and follow you.

We thank you for Peter's presence here with us this morning and we ask for your blessing on him as he brings us the message of peacemaking through the story of Abigail. May your Spirit move in ways that inspire each of us to be more faithful as we follow you. Amen.

Benediction –

Go now, inspired by the story of Abigail and her creativity and humility. Grant us wisdom and courage – lest we miss your kingdom's goal! Amen.