

**Worship Notes for April 26, 2020**  
**Orrville Trinity UMC**

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Since we're unable to gather in-person again this weekend, here are some resources to make it easier for you to worship at home with your family or a small group of people. Please be sure to take all the special distancing precautions! Blessings in our RISEN Christ! Pastor David

**Opening Prayer**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. We come convinced of many things but trusting very few. Holy God of limitless surprises, meet us here in this place as we touch that which we cannot see that which we have not dared to hope. Amen.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES – Psalms 3-7**

**Psalm 3 (Common English Bible, CEB)**

*LORD, I have so many enemies!*

*So many are standing against me.*

<sup>2</sup>*So many are talking about me:*

*“Even God won't help him.” Selah*

<sup>3</sup>*But you, LORD, are my shield!*

*You are my glory!*

*You are the one who restores me.*

<sup>4</sup>*I cry out loud to the LORD,*

*and he answers me from his holy mountain. Selah*

<sup>5</sup>*I lie down, sleep, and wake up*

*because the LORD helps me.*

<sup>6</sup>*I won't be afraid of thousands of people*

*surrounding me on all sides.*

<sup>7</sup>*Stand up, LORD!*

*Save me, my God!*

*In fact, hit all my enemies on the jaw;*

*shatter the teeth of the wicked!*

<sup>8</sup>*Rescue comes from the LORD!*

*May your blessing be on your people! Selah*

**Psalm 4 (Common English Bible, CEB)**

*Answer me when I cry out, my righteous God!*

*Set me free from my troubles!*

*Have mercy on me!*

*Listen to my prayer!*

<sup>2</sup> *How long, you people,  
will my reputation be insulted?*

*How long will you continue  
to love what is worthless  
and go after lies? Selah*

<sup>3</sup> *Know this: the LORD takes  
personal care of the faithful.*

*The LORD will hear me  
when I cry out to him.*

<sup>4</sup> *So be afraid, and don't sin!  
Think hard about it in your bed  
and weep over it! Selah*

<sup>5</sup> *Bring righteous offerings,  
and trust the LORD!*

<sup>6</sup> *Many people say,  
"We can't find goodness anywhere.  
The light of your face has left us, LORD!"*

<sup>7</sup> *But you have filled my heart with more joy  
than when their wheat and wine are everywhere!*

<sup>8</sup> *I will lie down and fall asleep in peace  
because you alone, LORD, let me live in safety.*

### **Psalm 5 (Common English Bible, CEB)**

*Hear my words, LORD!*

*Consider my groans!*

<sup>2</sup> *Pay attention to the sound of my cries, my king and my God,  
because I am praying to you!*

<sup>3</sup> *LORD, in the morning you hear my voice.  
In the morning I lay it all out before you.  
Then I wait expectantly.*

<sup>4</sup> *Because you aren't a God*

*who enjoys wickedness;  
evil doesn't live with you.*

<sup>5</sup> *Arrogant people won't last long  
in your sight;  
you hate all evildoers;*

<sup>6</sup> *you destroy liars.  
The LORD despises people who are violent and dishonest.*

<sup>7</sup> *But me? I will enter your house  
because of your abundant, faithful love;  
I will bow down at your holy temple,  
honoring you.*

<sup>8</sup> *LORD, because of many enemies,  
please lead me in your righteousness.  
Make your way clear,  
right in front of me.*

<sup>9</sup> *Because there's no truth in my enemies' mouths,  
all they have inside them is destruction.  
Their throats are open graves;  
their tongues slick with talk.*

<sup>10</sup> *Condemn them, God!  
Let them fail by their own plans.  
Throw them out for their many sins  
because they've rebelled against you.*

<sup>11</sup> *But let all who take refuge in you celebrate.  
Let them sing out loud forever!  
Protect them  
so that all who love your name  
can rejoice in you.*

<sup>12</sup> *Because you, LORD, bless the righteous.  
You cover them with favor like a shield.*

### **Psalm 6 (Common English Bible, CEB)**

*Please, LORD,  
don't punish me when you are angry;  
don't discipline me when you are furious.*

<sup>2</sup> Have mercy on me, LORD,  
because I'm frail.  
Heal me, LORD,  
because my bones are shaking in terror!

<sup>3</sup> My whole body is completely terrified!  
But you, LORD! How long will this last?

<sup>4</sup> Come back to me, LORD! Deliver me!  
Save me for the sake of your faithful love!

<sup>5</sup> No one is going to praise you  
when they are dead.  
Who gives you thanks  
from the grave?

<sup>6</sup> I'm worn out from groaning.  
Every night, I drench my bed with tears;  
I soak my couch all the way through.

<sup>7</sup> My vision fails because of my grief;  
it's weak because of all my distress.

<sup>8</sup> Get away from me, all you evildoers,  
because the LORD has heard me crying!

<sup>9</sup> The LORD has listened to my request.  
The LORD accepts my prayer.

<sup>10</sup> All my enemies will be ashamed  
and completely terrified;  
they will be defeated  
and ashamed instantly.

### **Psalm 7 (Common English Bible, CEB)**

I take refuge in you, LORD, my God.  
Save me from all who chase me!  
Rescue me!

<sup>2</sup> Otherwise, they will rip me apart,  
dragging me off with no chance of rescue.

<sup>3</sup> LORD, my God, if I have done this—  
if my hands have done anything wrong,

<sup>4</sup> if I have repaid a friend with evil

*or oppressed a foe for no reason—*

<sup>5</sup> *then let my enemy  
not only chase but catch me,  
trampling my life into the ground,  
laying my reputation in the dirt. Selah*

<sup>6</sup> *Get up, LORD; get angry!  
Stand up against the fury of my foes!  
Wake up, my God;  
you command that justice be done!*

<sup>7</sup> *Let the assembled peoples surround you.  
Rule them from on high!*

<sup>8</sup> *The LORD will judge the peoples.  
Establish justice for me, LORD,  
according to my righteousness  
and according to my integrity.*

<sup>9</sup> *Please let the evil of the wicked be over,  
but set the righteous firmly in place  
because you, the righteous God,  
are the one who examines hearts and minds.*

<sup>10</sup> *God is my shield;  
he saves those whose heart is right.*

<sup>11</sup> *God is a righteous judge,  
a God who is angry at evil every single day.*

<sup>12</sup> *If someone doesn't change their ways,  
God will sharpen his sword,  
will bend his bow,  
will string an arrow.*

<sup>13</sup> *God has deadly weapons in store  
for those who won't change;  
he gets his flaming arrows ready!*

<sup>14</sup> *But look how the wicked hatch evil,  
conceive trouble, give birth to lies!*

<sup>15</sup> *They make a pit, dig it all out,  
and then fall right into the hole that they've made!*

<sup>16</sup> *The trouble they cause  
will come back on their own heads;*

*the violence they commit  
will come down on their own skulls.*  
<sup>17</sup> *But I will thank the LORD  
for his righteousness;  
I will sing praises  
to the name of the LORD Most High.*

## **PRAYER**

Lord, hear us as we call out to you this morning; listen to our heart-felt prayers. We bring our confession before you, and wait for your response.

We know that you do not tolerate deliberate sin; you take no pleasure in wickedness. We know that you hate evil, and will not abide those who pervert and destroy what is good.

We also know that, despite our best intentions, we often do not measure up to the standard you have set for us, that our attitudes and actions often fall far short of what you desire. And so we offer you our confession. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *(silence)*

We praise you, God! Despite our mistakes and failures, you welcome us into your presence. Because of your unfailing love, we can draw close to you, and receive your forgiveness and mercy. Help us to move forward with joy and confidence, knowing that you go with us. Continue to reveal yourself to us, and lead us in your paths. Amen.

## **(Pause for moment of silent prayer)**

Let us pray as Jesus taught: Our Father...

## **QUESTIONS TO PONDER (Notes adapted from Brian D. Russell's "The Psalms – Book 1")**

Each of the psalms has a slightly different focus. Reread each one, and discuss the questions below:

### **Psalm 3**

The Lord invites us to pray in the midst of overwhelming circumstances. How does this psalm teach us to pray when surrounded on all sides by overwhelming obstacles?

### **Psalm 4**

Our cries for help assume that the Lord is dependable in his relationship with us. Why is it difficult to trust God during difficult and challenging times? What does the psalmist teach us about faith?

### **Psalm 5**

Security comes through reverence—a humble recognition of God’s greatness and our deep need for him. Reflect on how Psalm 5 may help us in times when we find ourselves falsely accused.

### **Psalm 6**

The Psalms model the necessity of confessing our sins and failings to the Lord. How has the psalmist’s sin affected him? How does Psalm 6 teach us to pray when we have sinned?

### **Psalm 7**

The Psalms teach us to imagine and pray for a world of justice in the midst of injustice. How does the psalmist’s view of God’s righteous actions encourage us in our times of need?