



Sermon Series on Prayer
Sundays, Feb. 21-Apr. 4

Sunday, March 21, 2021 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jessica Bollinger

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Rachel Carosiello

Hymn

As the Deer

TFWS #2025

*As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.*

Call to Worship

Rev. Rachel Carosiello

Leader: Let us never give up praying for justice,
All: or the oppressed in this world will one day ask us 'Why?'
Leader: Let us never give up praying for fairness,
All: or the hungry of this world will one day ask us 'Why?'
Leader: Let us never give up praying for healing,
All: or the sick in this world will one day ask us 'Why?'
Leader: Let us never give up praying,
All: for to give up is to deny our faith in a God who answers prayer.

Extinguishing the Lenten Candles

Leader: *[offers a meditation on the fifth Sunday of Lent]*

[Time of silence for listening.]

Leader: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of war and oppression in the world.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our inmost being, only to find you already there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the work of justice and peace. Amen.

Offertory

The Old Rugged Cross
(arranged by Marilyn Ham)

Jessica Bollinger

Looking for our giving options?

You can give online by opening your camera app and scanning the QR code below or give as you leave in the offering plates at the back of the Sanctuary.



Scripture Reading

Luke 18:1-8

Randy Turner

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Message

Pray Persistently

Rev. Rachel Carosiello

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Rachel Carosiello

Hymn

O Praise the Name

*I cast my mind to Calvary, where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet. My Savior on that cursed tree.*

Chorus: *O praise the name of the Lord our God! O praise His name forever more!
For endless days we will sing Your praise, O Lord, O Lord our God.*

*Then on the third at break of dawn, the Son of heaven rose again.
O trampled death, where is your sting? The angels roar for Christ the King. **Chorus***

*He shall return in robes of white, the blazing Son shall pierce the night.
And I will rise among the saints, my gaze transfixed on Jesus' face. **Chorus***

Benediction

Rev. Rachel Carosiello

Save the Date for Holy Week Worship!

- **Maundy Thursday Worship**—Thursday, April 1, 6:30PM
(in-person at Northside UMC & on Facebook Live)
- **Good Friday Worship**—Friday, April 2, 6:30PM
(in-person at Saint Paul UMC & on Facebook Live)
- **Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship**—Sunday, April 4, 7:00AM
(ONLINE ONLY on Facebook Live)
- **Easter Sunday Worship**—Sunday, April 4, 11:00AM
(in-person at Northside UMC & on Facebook Live)