



**The First Presbyterian Church of Potsdam
February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent**

THOUGHT FOR REFLECTION

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

- William Shakespeare

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Please join in and speak in unison all **bolded** parts.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In this place, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

Many: God’s love endures forever!

One: Despite our attraction to the shadows, and in spite of our fears,

Many: God’s love endures forever!

One: When our hands are empty and we have no music in our souls,

Many: Spirit, come fill us with glad songs, we pray, that we might know your love.

GATHERING PRAYER

Mender of our Broken World, restore our spirits as we accept that we are worthy of receiving your love. Draw us near to you when we begin to love ourselves. And heal our wounds as we begin to love one another. We pray these things with Jesus’ love in mind. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

#408 (see PDF)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, Eternal Love, for our attraction to fear and our bending to dismay. Lead us into the light of your grace in our darkest moments, we pray. Shower us with your love, hope, and peace, that we might rise above our trepidation and live in the light. We pray these things with the help of the Holy Spirit, amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 4:7, 11-13 (NRSV)

SERMON with Rev. Katrina Hebb

HYMN “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” #286(see PDF)

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**Ground of all being, Mother of Life,
Father of the Universe,
your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.
May there be food today for the human family
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us in our times of conflict
but lead us to new beginnings.
For the light of life, the vitality of life
and the glory of life are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “They’ll Know that We are Christians by our Love” #300 (see PDF)

POSTLUDE

Thank you very much for joining us in today’s remote service.
May God’s health and peace find you in these uncertain times.

Worship Leader: Rev. Katrina Hebb
Music Leader: Dr. Keilor Kastella
Technical Assistance: Renee Stauffer

Clerk of Session: Suzanne Waters
Session Members: Terry de la Vega, Alicia Newcombe, and Renee Stauffer

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