

Gilead Presbyterian Church
July 26, 2020; 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, ability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME

MUSIC

"Just As I Am"
Zoe Temple, trumpet

by William B. Bradbury

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SCRIPTURE Psalms 105:1-4

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD! Praise God's deeds among the peoples.

People: Sing to God, sing praise, and tell of God's wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

People: Let us continually seek the LORD, and rest in the presence of the LORD.

BLUE HYMNAL #485 "To God Be the Glory"

1. To God be the glory, great things He hath done!

**So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done!**

2. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,

**And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done!**

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mystery, God of life, we imagine that we are capable judges of power and wisdom and goodness. We trust our own standards; we separate and categorize;

we mark the performance of others. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, transform our withered imaginations until we yield the judgments we trust to a love we cannot control. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE GLORIA

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE READING Psalms 105:1-11

O give thanks to the LORD! Praise God's name,
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

² Sing to God, sing praise,
and tell of all God's wonderful works.

³ Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ Seek the LORD, seek the LORD's strength;
seek the presence of the LORD continually.

⁵ Remember the marvels God has done,
the wonders performed and the judgments pronounced.

⁶ O descendants of Sarah and Abraham, God's faithful ones,
you children of Rachel and Jacob, God's chosen ones.

⁷ Yahweh is the LORD our God;
whose authority covers all the earth.

⁸ God remembers the covenant forever,
the promise God made for a thousand generations,

⁹ the covenant made with Abraham and Sarah,
the oath to Isaac and Rebekah,

¹⁰ confirmed to Leah, Rachel and Jacob,
an everlasting covenant with Israel,

¹¹ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 8:26-39 José Ojeda, Lay Reader

[The Holy] ²⁶...Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. ²⁹ For those whom God foreknew God also

predestined to share the image of the Only Begotten, in order that Christ might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom God predestined God also called; and those whom God called have also been justified; and those whom God justified have, in turn, been glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² Since God did not spare the Only Begotten, but gave Christ up for all of us, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will freely give us everything. ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's chosen? Since God is the one who justifies, ³⁴ who has the power to condemn? Only Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, and who now intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered."
³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors because of God who has loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SERMON

"Rhymes and Reasons"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

WE SEAL THE WORD

THE OFFERING and DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

WE BEAR THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLUE HYMNAL #310

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

- 1. Jesus, the very thought of Thee With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see, And in Thy presence rest.**

- 3. O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!**

- 5. Jesus, our only joy be Thou, As Thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be Thou our glory now, And through eternity.**

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE