

**Gilead Presbyterian Church**  
**August 2, 2020; 18<sup>th</sup> 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                    "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"                    by Peter Scholtes  
Mary Temple, organ; Penny Cameron, piano

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 #361                    "How Firm a Foundation"**

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
  
3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
  
5. "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

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 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 PROCLAIM THE WORD

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 32:22-32

<sup>22</sup> In the course of the night, Jacob arose and took his family and his entire caravan, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok River. <sup>23</sup> After Jacob had crossed with all his possessions, he returned to the camp, <sup>24</sup> and was completely alone; and there, someone wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> Seeing that Jacob could not be overpowered, the other struck Jacob at the hip, and the hip was dislocated as they wrestled. <sup>26</sup> Then Jacob's contender said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go until you bless me." <sup>27</sup> "What is your name?" the other asked. "Jacob," he answered. <sup>28</sup> Then the other said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel—'Overcomer of God'—for you have wrestled with both God and mortals, and you have prevailed." <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked, "Please tell me your name." But the other said, "Why do you ask me my name?" And blessed Jacob there. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob named the place Peniel—"Face of God"—"because I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup> The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of the injured hip. <sup>32</sup> Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because Jacob was struck on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:4-9

Come to Christ, a living stone, rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual structure, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

<sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in it will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup> The stone is precious for you who have faith; but for those who do not believe,  
"The stone that the builders rejected has become the very cornerstone,"

<sup>8</sup> and at the same time, "an obstacle and a stumbling block."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may sing the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into the wonderful, divine light.

SERMON

"Crossing the Bridge"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

## WE SEAL THE WORD

MUSIC

“Bridge Over Troubled Water”  
Mary Temple, piano

by Paul Simon

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

## 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.

**PURPLE HYMNAL #453**                      “Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”  
*(see the insert on the next page)*

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

## Open Your Ears, O Faithful People 453



1 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple; o - pen your  
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have



ears and hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O  
ears, now let them hear; they who would learn the



roy - al priest - hood; God has come to you.  
way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

## Refrain



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!  
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!  
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!  
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!  
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!

In the writings of the prophets, the ear is valued above other senses, and the essential declaration of Jewish faith is *shema Yisrael*, "Hear, O Israel" (Deuteronomy 5:1, 6:4-9; Jeremiah 2:4). "To hear" is no small thing, for this verb assumes what is truly heard will also be obeyed.