

Gilead Presbyterian Church

August 23, 2020; 21st 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

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalms 124

arr. by Pat McGeachy

(to the tune of "Joy to the World")

- 1. Our help is in the name of God, who made the heavens and earth!
If it were not the Lord our God who stood beside us in the flood,
our life would have no worth, our life would have no worth,
our life, our life would have no worth.**
- 2. Blest be the Lord, who gave us not as prey of teeth to be!
We have escaped as birds may fly from fowler's nets that broken lie.
The Lord has set us free! The Lord has set us free!
The Lord, the Lord has set us free!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLUE HYMNAL #136

"Sovereign Lord of All Creation"

- 1. Sovereign Lord of all creation,
Ground of being, life and love;
Height and depth beyond description
Only life in You can prove:
You are mortal life's dependence:
Thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
Yours is every hour's existence,
Sovereign Lord of time and space.**
- 2. Jesus Christ, the One for others,
We, Your people, make our prayer:
Help us love as sisters, brothers,
All whose burdens we can share.
Where Your name binds us together,
You, Lord Christ, will surely be;
Where no selfishness can sever,
There Your love the world may see.**

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, we confess that we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE OFFERING

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

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of God's family; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with those not as well off as you; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for the highest ideals in the eyes of all people. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave that to God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says Yahweh." ²⁰ And God also says, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "**Who do people say that the Chosen One is?**" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "**Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For no mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven.**" ¹⁸ And I tell you, Peter, your name is now 'Rock,' and on bedrock like this I will build my church, and the gates of Death will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in

heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then Jesus sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

SERMON

"Naming God"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

WE SEAL THE WORD

MEDITATION

Names of God

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 #425

"Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining"

1. Lord of light, Your name outshining

**All the stars and suns of space,
Use our talents in Your kingdom
As the servants of Your grace;
Use us to fulfill Your purpose
In the gift of Christ Your Son:
Abba, as in highest heaven,
So on earth Your will be done.**

4. By the prayers of faithful watchers,

**Never silent day or night;
By the cross of Jesus, bringing
Peace to all and healing light;
By the love that passes knowledge,
Making all Your children one:
Abba, as in highest heaven,
So on earth Your will be done.**

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE