

**Gilead Presbyterian Church**

**September 13, 2020; 24<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**

OPENING MUSIC                    "Children of the Heavenly Father"                    Swedish Melody  
Penny Cameron, piano and Mary Temple, organ                    Arr. by Fred Bock

WELCOME

OPENING SCRIPTURE                    Psalms 149:1-4

Leader: Praise the LORD!

**People: Assemble the faithful and sing to the LORD a new song!**

Leader: Let us be glad and rejoice in our Maker!

**People: Praise God our Creator with dancing, melody and music!**

Leader: Our God takes pleasure in our song, and adorns us with deliverance.

**BLUE HYMNAL #478                    "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"**

**1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; To His feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.**

**2. Praise Him for His grace and favor To His people in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**From our sins, mistakes, and unrepentance, God of forgiveness, deliver us.**

**From our quarreling, anger and arrogance, God of humility, deliver us.**

**From our division, segregation and apartheid, God of love, deliver us.**

**From our violence, hatred and rage, God of peace, deliver us.**

**From our greed, selfishness and unkindness, God of grace, deliver us.**

**From our despair, apathy and cynicism, God of hope, deliver us.**

**From our fear, faithlessness, and anxiety, God of strength, deliver us.**

**God, you are our All in All. Bring us into the Light. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER  
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† THE OFFERING

### 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 Romans 14:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge someone else's worker? It is for the employer to decide whether the worker has succeeded or failed—and the worker will succeed, for our God has the power to make it so.

<sup>5</sup> Some judge one day to be more sacred than another, while others judge all days to be equally sacred. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup> Those who observe special days, do so in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup> We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup> For it is written, "As I live, says the Heavenly Creator, every knee shall bend to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 18:21-35

<sup>21</sup> Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "**Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven.** <sup>23</sup> **"For this reason:**

**The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a ruler who wished to settle accounts with the royal officials. <sup>24</sup> When reckoning was begun, one who owed the crown ten thousand talents was brought in; <sup>25</sup> and, as the debtor could not pay, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, together with family and possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the official knelt in homage, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'** <sup>27</sup> **And out of pity, the ruler released the debtor and forgave what was owed. <sup>28</sup> But that same official, just upon leaving, came upon a colleague who owed the official a hundred denarii; and seizing the debtor by the throat, said, 'Pay what you owe.'** <sup>29</sup> **The**

debtor fell down and pleaded, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'<sup>30</sup> But the official refused; and went and threw the colleague into debtor's prison until payment could be met.<sup>31</sup> When the other court officials saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their ruler all that had taken place.<sup>32</sup> Then the ruler summoned that official and said, 'You worthless wretch! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.'<sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your colleague, as I had mercy on you?'<sup>34</sup> And in anger the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt was paid in full.<sup>35</sup> So our Ruler in heaven will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

SERMON

"Stop Torturing Yourself"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

### WE SEAL THE WORD

**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.

### WE BEAR THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**BLUE HYMNAL #347** "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

1. "Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us, Lord, to pray,  
But You alone can grant us grace To live the words we say.

3. In blazing light Your cross reveals The truth we dimly knew:  
What trivial debts are owed to us, How great our debt to You!

4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls And bid resentment cease.  
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace be with you. Amen.

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† We accept offerings through the "Online Giving" link on our website, [www.gileadchurch.org](http://www.gileadchurch.org), or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.

#### GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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