

**Gilead Presbyterian Church**

**September 20, 2020; 25<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 "Love Was When" by Don Wyrzten  
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 #482 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"**

**1. Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!**

**All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near;**

**Join me in glad adoration!**

**2. Praise ye the Lord, who'er all things so wondrously reigneth,**

**Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!**

**Hast thou not seen How thy desires e'er have been**

**Granted in what He ordaineth?**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER Elder Mariah Warren, lay reader

**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 Deuteronomy 16:18-20

<sup>18</sup> You shall appoint judges and officials for yourselves, in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall render just decisions for the people. <sup>19</sup> You must not distort justice; you must not show partiality; and you must not accept bribes, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. <sup>20</sup> Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:1-12

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside; and after he sat down, and the disciples had gathered around, <sup>2</sup> he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of their struggle for justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON

"Justice, Justice, You Shall Pursue"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

### WE SEAL THE WORD

MEDITATION

What does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

## 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 #298** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

- 1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
Like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in God's justice,  
Which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
Are more felt than up in heaven;  
There is no place where earth's failings  
Have such kindly judgment given.**
- 2. For the love of God is broader  
Than the measures of the mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful,  
We would gladly trust God's Word;  
And our lives reflect thanksgiving  
For the goodness of our Lord.**

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace be with you. Amen.

*† 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

Rev. Martin McGeachy, Pastor  
Mary Temple, Music Director  
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

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[www.gileadchurch.org](http://www.gileadchurch.org)

