

Gilead Presbyterian Church

October 4, 2020; 27th 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 "Lead On, O King Eternal" by Henry Smart
Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ Arr.by Fred Bock

WELCOME

OPENING SCRIPTURE Psalms 19:1-4

Leader: The heavens are telling your glory, O God.

People: The firmament proclaims your handiwork.

Leader: Day after day the stars and planets tell your story.

People: All of creation cries out in praise.

Leader: The song is heard to the very ends of the earth.

BLUE HYMNAL #489 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

- 1. Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace.**

- 2. Gracious God, I come before Thee,
Come Thou also down to me;
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heaven on earth must be;
To my heart O enter Thou,
Let it be Thy temple now.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER Elder Bill Brett, Lay Reader

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you have planted us like a vineyard on a fertile hill. You cleared away the stones, planted us with choice vines, and kept watch over us by night and day. But we have not yielded the good fruit that you expected or desired. We are overgrown with sin, choked with violence and injustice. Forgive us, we pray. Uproot our evil, prune away our sin, and shower upon us the gift of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Psalms 19:1-14

- ¹ The heavens are telling your glory, O God,
and the firmament proclaims your handiwork.
- ² Day after day they tell your story,
and night after night declare their understanding.
- ³ Without speech, without words;
without even an audible voice;
- ⁴ yet their cry echoes through all the world,
and their message to the ends of the earth.
In the heavens the sun has pitched a tent,
- ⁵ it comes forth with the grandeur of a wedding procession,
and like an athlete runs its course with joy.
- ⁶ Its rising is from one end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the other end of them;
and nothing is hid from its warmth.
- ⁷ Your Word, O Yahweh, is perfect, refreshing the soul;
your decrees are sure, making wise the simple hearts;
- ⁸ your purposes, O God, are right,
and gladden our inward being;
your commandment is clear,
giving light to our eyes;
- ⁹ Holding you in awe, Yahweh, is purifying, it endures;
your decrees are steadfast, and all are just.
- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
the purest fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

11 In them your faithful find guidance;
in keeping them there is great reward.
12 But who can detect one's own failings?
Clear me from the hidden faults I do not see.
13 Keep back your faithful one from presumption;
so that my faults never control me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:33-43

[Jesus said], ³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then the owner leased it to tenants and went away to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, the owner sent aides to the tenants to collect the produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized the aides and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again the owner sent aides, this time more than the first; but they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally the owner sent the family heir to them, saying, 'They will respect my heir.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the heir, they said to themselves, 'Look here, let us kill this heir and steal the inheritance.' ³⁹ With that they seized and killed the heir outside of the vineyard. ⁴⁰ Now, [Jesus said], upon return, what will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to Jesus, "That owner will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will see to it that there are grapes at the harvest time."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was our God's doing, and it is marvelous to behold?'"

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the realm of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces fruits for it.

SERMON

"Open Up"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

WE SEAL THE WORD

BLUE HYMNAL #324

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

- 1. Open my eyes, that I may see Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**
- 2. Open my ears, that I may hear Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, Everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

For those joining virtually, all are invited to partake of bread and wine, or any substance that feels appropriate, or prayerfully take in the sacrifice of the Lord symbolically.

INVITATION, PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP -- John Vangor, guitar

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 #324

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

The flowers today are donated by Mary Temple to the glory of God and in celebration of the birthdays of Tina Annunziato, Martin McGeachy, and John Temple III.

† *We accept offerings through the “Online Giving” link on our website, 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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