

Gilead Presbyterian Church

February 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday, Year B 7:30 p.m.

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.

OPENING MUSIC

"Coming Home"
Mary Temple, piano

by Michael Scott

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 58:5-8

Leader: Is this the fast that I choose, says the Lord, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Is this a fast acceptable to the LORD?

People: Is not this the fast that the Lord has chosen: to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, to share our bread with the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, and clothing for the naked?

Leader: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

BLUE HYMNAL #326

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;

**Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.**

4. Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,

**One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Spirit Divine, we welcome you into our hearts and minds. Guide our thinking, feeling and acting, that in our worship and praise we might sacrifice ourselves to you, letting go of all that stands in the way of our living lives of grace, mercy, and peace. Guide us in reflection, penitence, and renewal, that we might begin our Lenten journey toward resurrection in the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12-17

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴ Who knows whether the LORD will not

turn and relent, and leave behind a blessing, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the newlyweds leave their room, abandon their canopy. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Psalm 51

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned, O Lord, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit; a humble and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. SILENT PRAYER
AFFIRMATION OF FORGIVENESS**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹ "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from God in heaven. ² "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your God who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵ "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to God who is in secret; and God who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶ "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your God who is in secret; and your God who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

SERMON

"Set Free"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

People: God of our lives, out of the dust of creation you have formed us and given us life. May these ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death, but reminders that by your gift of grace in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, we are granted life forever with you. Amen.

(The congregation is invited to mark their foreheads with the sign of the cross.)

BLUE HYMNAL #370 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

- 1. Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou biddest me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**
- 3. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

CLOSING PRAYER

BLUE HYMNAL #276 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

- 3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

**POSTLUDE "Jesus Walked that Lonesome Valley" arr. by Strohman & Schaum
Mary Temple, piano**

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- ▶ Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held via Zoom on Feb. 21, 2021 at 11am.
 - ▶ Zoom Prayer, each Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. The link is in the weekly bulletin email.
 - ▶ Zoom Lenten Devotional Study each Thursday during Lent at 7:30 p.m. The link is in the weekly bulletin email, with Daily Scripture Devotions for Lent.
- † *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.*

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

9 Church Street
Carmel, NY 10512
(845) 225-4586