

Gilead Presbyterian Church
March 7, 2021 3rd Sunday in Lent, Year B

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.

WELCOME

OPENING MUSIC "Come Unto Him" by J.H. Maunder
Mary Temple, organ arr. by Benton Price
from the Cantata "Olivet to Calvary"

OPENING SCRIPTURE Psalms 19:14

Leader: Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, O LORD, our rock and our redeemer.

HYMN Psalms 19 arr. by Pat McGeachy
(to the tune of *You Are My Sunshine*)

The heavens are telling God's endless glory; the stars and planets proclaim God's worth. There is no language, there is no speaking, yet their voice is heard through the earth.

God's law is perfect, the soul reviving; God's testimony makes children wise. My heart rejoices in holy precepts; God's commandments enlighten my eyes.

Let every thought that my heart is thinking, and every word that my lips unlock, be in your eyesight always accepted, my Redeemer and my Rock.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion and mercy, look with favor upon us as we confess our sins. Our faith is weak in the face of crisis. Our hope collapses when we are threatened or maligned. We seek our own safety and abandon those you love. We trust in objects we can create and control. We speak much and risk little. But you, O God, have given your promise that you will never forsake us. Forgive our failure to take you at your word. We pray in the name of the one who is the Word, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER, ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† THE OFFERING and **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.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 20:1-17

¹ God spoke all these words: ² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses the Divine name. ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's spouse, or male or female servant, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10:17-23

¹⁷ As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ The fellow said to Jesus, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

SERMON

Thou Shalt Be Free

Rev. Martin McGeachy

THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

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 THE BREAD AND CUP
COMMUNION MEDITATION "O Sacred Head/Ah, Holy Jesus"

John Vangor, guitar

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.

**HYMN "How Gentle God's Commands" Philip Doddridge
(to the tune of *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*, Blue Hymnal #438)**

**How gentle God's commands, How kind God's precepts are!
Come, cast your burdens on the Lord, And trust God's constant care.**

**Beneath God's watchful eye the saints securely dwell;
That hand which bears all nature up Shall guide Thy children well.**

**God's goodness stands approved, Down to the present day;
I'll drop my burden at God's feet, and Bear a song away.**

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE "Hyfrydol" arr. by Gerhard Krapf
Mary Temple, organ

*The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Mary Temple,
in celebration of Jenny and Lucy Temple's birthdays.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ 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. 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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Mary Temple, Music Director
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

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www.gileadchurch.org**

