



**Gilead Presbyterian Church  
May 30, 2021**

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      "Let There Be Peace on Earth"      by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson  
Penny Cameron, piano

OPENING SCRIPTURE      Isaiah 55:11-12

Leader: The word of God sings forth into the earth!

**People: The word of God brings forth the purposes of Love.**

Leader: We go out forth in joy and are led back in peace.

**People: All of creation bursts forth in song and celebration!**

**BLUE HYMNAL #561      "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"**

1. My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountainside Let freedom ring.

3. Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees Sweet freedom's song;  
Let mortal tongues awake, Let all that breathe partake,  
Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING PRAYER, UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord, forgive the lack of remembrance and sacrifice in our lives. We confess that we have too often lived unto ourselves, taking our comforts and freedoms for granted, and working only to preserve what pleases us. Grant that we may, as Christians of grace, sacrifice ourselves for others in our daily lives, and therein remember you and honor those who have given their lives for us.**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**THE GLORIA**

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

## TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Almighty God a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. *Isaiah 55:10-13*

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Loving God. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Almighty will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. *John 15:12-17*

### SERMON

"Avoiding the Thorns"  
Rev. Martin McGeachy



### MEDITATION

"I Believe"  
Penny Cameron, piano

by Ervin Drake & Al Stillman

### PASTORAL PRAYER

**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 #564                      “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”**

- 1. O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!**
  
- 3. O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness And every gain divine!**

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BLESSING                      “God Bless America”      Words & Music by Irving Berlin**

**God bless America, land that I love  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with the light from above  
From the mountains to the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam  
God bless America, my home sweet home—  
God bless America, my home sweet home!**

**POSTLUDE**

**“You’re A Grand Old Flag”  
Penny Cameron, piano**

**by George M. Cohan**

*Thank you to our videographers, Alexis and Stephanie Gould.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ▶ The Food Pantry can use donations of non-perishable foods, as well as diapers (children & adult), and bags. Leave in the outside bin or call Martin for appointment.
- ▶ Zoom Prayer each Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. The link is in the weekly bulletin email.

† *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)

