

Gilead Presbyterian Church
August 8, 2021; 11th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 14, Year B
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B;

Departing from Lectionary; Fanny Crosby Sunday

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

Welcome to Gilead Presbyterian Church, a community of the universal love and light of Jesus Christ. I'm Pastor Martin McGeachy. We welcome all at Gilead... and especially today, we welcome YOU. May you be filled with the awareness of God all around and in you, wherever you are. Let us worship God.

PRELUDE "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" by Fanny Crosby & John R. Sweney
Mary Temple, organ

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.

(Psalms 19:1-4, edited; Martinized)

GRAY HYMNAL #106 "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

1. Praise him, praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!

Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim!

Hail him, hail him! Highest archangels in glory!

Strength and honor give to his holy name!

Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children.

In his arms he carries them all day long.

Praise him! Praise him! tell of his excellent greatness.

Praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song.

3. Praise him, praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!

Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!

Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever!

Crown him, crown him! prophet, and priest, and king!

Christ is coming, over the world victorious.

Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong.

Praise him! Praise him! tell of his excellent greatness.

Praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

► We're open! Because Putnam County has reached a substantial level of Covid variant cases, they've asked everyone to mask indoors, which has been our policy since we reopened. We want everyone to feel safe about coming here, so that we can fully live into our bold statement of faith, "we welcome all."

► Hymnals, purple blue or gray

► *We accept offerings through the "Online Giving" link on our website, gileadchurch.org, or mail checks .. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. Offering basket on the way out.*

► *Thank you for giving to the Food Pantry! Some items we can't always get from the Regional Food Bank include soap, baby wipes, diapers for both babies and adults, feminine hygiene products, canned and dry pet foods, pasta sauce, canned or dry beans, canned soup, granola bars. Donations can be left in the bin outside the glass doors. Monetary gifts are also happily accepted!*

OPENING PRAYER

Beloved God, we thank you for the opportunity to gather together again, joining our hearts and minds in worship and praise. Tell us the story of your love in this sanctuary, that we may be filled with the knowledge of your grace and righteousness, so that we in turn may go forth from here equipped to share the truth we have been given, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, Creator and Lover, we confess that we have not relied on you and your love. We have not rested in your providence or trusted in your grace. We have been anxious, joyless, unloving, and so busy with our own plans and schemes that we have failed to relax and enjoy the creation you have entrusted to our care. Help us to remember that you are our sovereign source of all that is, and all is Good in your name. Grant us the faith to trust in what we say we believe, that we might see you in ourselves, our neighbors, and the world around us, so that we can become one with you and all that you are.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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 "Too Many Daves" by Dr. Seuss
From The Sneetches and Other Stories

I've always loved silly stories. Ever since I was your age, I loved hearing them, reading them, and making up my own. And I love it when the characters have funny names. That's why one of my favorites, from when my mom read it to me, to when I read it to my kids, is "Too Many Daves" by Dr. Seuss...

That's fun, isn't it? And so silly. Not just because the names are funny, but it's crazy silly that a mom would give 23 sons the same name—and did you notice that not only do they have the same name, they all look just the same? Now that's silly! Every

one of us is different—no one looks just like us, unless maybe we have a twin sister or brother. And no one acts like us, no one thinks like us—we're all special.

Psalm 139:14-15 tells us that we are wonderfully made by God, every tiny piece of us put together by God who is an artist, and we are God's art-work.

In Jeremiah 1:5, God says Before you were even born I knew who you were, and I set you apart from the others to go and share all your gifts.

1 Peter 4:10 says that God has so many different kinds of gifts to give, and each of us is given our own special set of talents, skills, and loves, and God gave them to us to share with others... And since the gift is ours alone, no one else will get to know what it's like unless we share it.

Think about who you are, special, wonderful, and like no one else. That's your silly and wonderful, fun story to tell the world, your whole life long. Isaiah 49:1 says before you were born God called you by name—and God didn't give all of us the same name, like Mrs. McCave. Even though most of us know at least one or two people who have the same first name as us, when God calls our name, it's special just for us. So go be who you are, and the gift you are.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

¹ The spirit of the Most High God is upon me, because I have been anointed and sent by God, to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

² to proclaim the year of the Almighty's favor,
and the day of justice of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion--
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Almighty, to display the glory of God.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NRSV, inclusive) (Page 650 in your Pew Bible Old Testament)

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV) (Page 32 in your Pew Bible New Testament)

SERMON

"What's Your Story?"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

Mary, article

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Fanny Crosby and her story – note that she doesn't write "my story is that I'm blind, and I have struggles and limitations."

Martin's story – ministry to share that religion is a tool, not the thing itself, and that faith and life can be joyfully celebrated in between the crises—because that story keeps me from stumbling toward darkness

All of us have a unique story

You are the light—unless your book is closed; is your story darkness

Funerals this was their story—but until that day, your story is undergoing rewrites every day—forgiveness and starting again, anew creation, clean slate, blank page

Like a writer, when you hit on a good theme, keep it going. Maybe like Fast and Furious, if you are headed for God with the speed of a Lamborghini and a furious passion of Spirit, you may write your story with ten sequels. Or maybe your story had an unhappy start, and you want to ball up the last few years' writings and toss them in the wastebasket and start a new page

Most of us are in between, a different chapter every day, and hopefully God doesn't get bored reading us. Let's throw in some fun twists, and make our protagonist likeable.

Amen.

MEDITATION

"Any Dream Will Do"

by Andrew Lloyd Weber

Eric Mueller, baritone; Rebekah McGeachy, soprano

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 #341 (P#839, G#345) "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

- 1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.**
- 3. Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“To God Be the Glory” by Fanny Crosby & Wm. H. Doane
Mary Temple, organ

Thank you to our videographers, Alexis and Stephanie Gould.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ The Food Pantry can use monetary donations, as well as all non-perishable foods and toiletries. Leave in the outside bin or call Martin for appointment.
- ▶ Prayer Zoom each Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. The link is in the weekly bulletin email.
- ▶ The Food Pantry can use monetary donations, as well as all non-perishable foods and toiletries. Leave in the outside bin or call Martin for appointment.

† *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

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

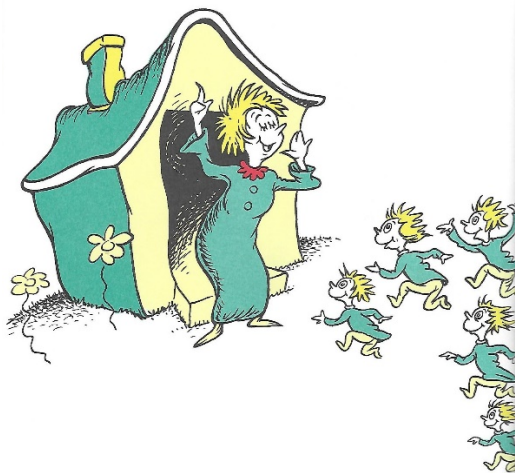
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www.gileadchurch.org

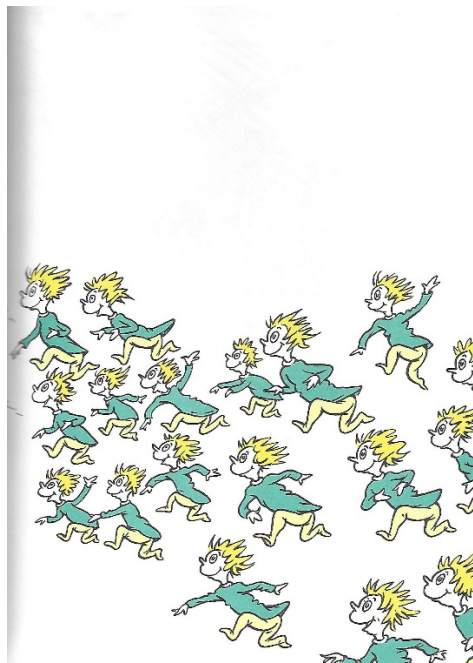


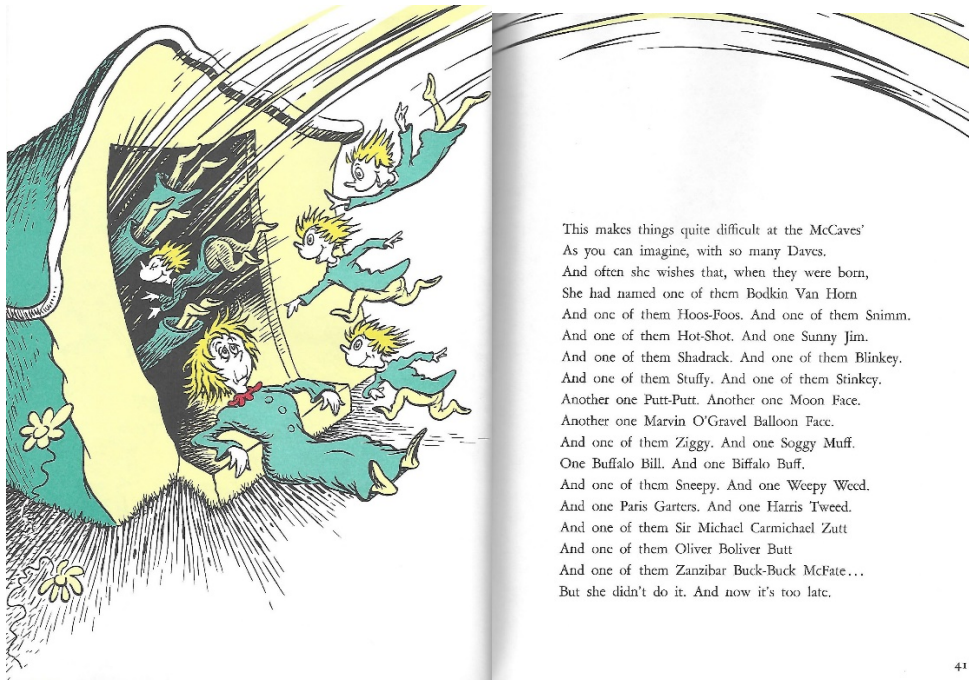
Too Many Daves

Did I ever tell you that Mrs. McCave
Had twenty-three sons and she named them all Dave?



Well, she did. And that wasn't a smart thing to do.
You see, when she wants one and calls out, "Yoo-Hoo!
Come into the house, Dave!" she doesn't get *me*.
All twenty-three Daves of hers come on the run!





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.

or

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.**

*The flowers this morning are donated to the glory of God
by the family of Carole Sciallo, in her loving memory.*