

Gilead Presbyterian Church
August 29, 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

Welcome to Gilead Presbyterian Church, a community of the universal love and light of Jesus Christ. For those who don't know me, I'm Mariah Warren, Ruling Elder and Clerk of Session. On behalf of Pastor Martin McGeachy, I welcome you in Christ's name. May you be filled with the awareness of God all around and in you, wherever you are. Let us worship God.

PRELUDE

Theme from "Up" by Michael Giacchino
Zoe Temple, piano

OPENING SCRIPTURE from Micah 6:1-8

Leader: With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

People: Shall I come with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Leader: God shows you what is good; and what does the Lord require of you?

People: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

PURPLE HYMNAL #693 "The Gift of Love"

arr. by Hal Hopson

**1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**2 Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship and are freed.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, You spread Your table before us and invite us to dine. We judge some as unworthy to partake of Your feast. You call us to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We close the doors of Your household to those we deem unfit to come in. You desire mercy, not sacrifice, as a response to Your grace. We expect others to be thankful that we accept them at all. Forgive us our arrogance in response to Your love. Make us mindful of those whom You also hold dear. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS (*The Message* translation)

James, Chapter 3:16-18 So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures. 19-21 Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.22-24 Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.25 But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action. 26-27 Anyone who sets himself up as “religious” by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.

Mark 7: 1-4 The Pharisees, along with some religion scholars who had come from Jerusalem, gathered around him. They noticed that some of his disciples weren't being careful with ritual washings before meals. The Pharisees—Jews in general, in fact—would never eat a meal without going through the motions of a ritual hand-washing, with an especially vigorous scrubbing if they had just come from the market (to say nothing of the scourings they'd give jugs and pots and pans). 5 The Pharisees and religion scholars asked, “Why do your disciples brush off the rules, showing up at meals without washing their hands?” 6-8 Jesus answered, “Isaiah was right about frauds like you, hit the bull's-eye in fact:

These people make a big show of saying the right thing,
but their heart isn't in it.
They act like they are worshiping me,
but they don't mean it.
They just use me as a cover
for teaching whatever suits their fancy,
Ditching God's command
and taking up the latest fads."

14-15 Jesus called the crowd together again and said, "Listen now, all of you—take this to heart. It's not what you swallow that pollutes your life; it's what you vomit—that's the real pollution." 20-23 He went on: "It's what comes out of a person that pollutes: obscenities, lusts, thefts, murders, adulteries, greed, depravity, deceptive dealings, carousing, mean looks, slander, arrogance, foolishness—all these are vomit from the heart. There is the source of your pollution."

SERMON

In the Name of Love

Mariah Warren, RE

MEDITATION

Love Lifted Me

Gilead Lo Tones

(Annina Celli, Paul Francis, Mariah Warren)

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.

PURPLE HYMNAL #300 "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" P. Scholtes

- 1. We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored**

Chorus:

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love**

- 2. We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land (Chorus)**

3. **We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard human dignity
And save human pride (Chorus)**

4. **All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to
Christ Jesus His only Son
And all praise to
The Spirit who makes us one (Chorus)**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Mary Temple, organ

arr. by Don Hustad

Thank you to our videographers, Alexis and Stephanie Gould.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ The Putnam County Sheriff's Department is holding their First Annual School Supplies Drive to benefit children in our community who are in need. There will be a collection box in Carmel at 3 County Center until September 1. See list in our weekly email.
- ▶ 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

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

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www.gileadchurch.org

