

Gilead Presbyterian Church
Proper 14, Year C
August 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m.



WELCOME

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

"Nocturne" from "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Mary Temple, organ

by Felix Mendelssohn
arr. by Rick Parks

OPENING SCRIPTURE

(From Psalm 85)

Leader: Let us behold the goodness of God!

People: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet.

Leader: Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

People: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

Leader: and righteousness will look down from the sky.

People: Let us behold the goodness of God!

***PURPLE HYMNAL #12**

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

**1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. We are seldom right, but you are never wrong. Forgive us; redeem us; transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us, and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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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.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Peace be with you. **People: And also with you.**

ANTHEM

“Amazing Grace”
Gilead Singers

by John Newton
tune: Columbian Harmony

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Because Nothing Looks Like God

by Lawrence Kushner and Karen Kushner, illustrated by Dawn W. Majewski

The children are dismissed to Sunday School.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

¹ After these things the word of the Almighty God came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Great God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Almighty came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ God brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then God said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Almighty God; and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:1-6

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Hebrews 11:1-3

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised.

¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." ¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them. *Hebrews 11:8-16*

SERMON

Greetings from a Distance

Rev. Martin McGeachy

***THE APOSTLES' CREED (universal)**

I believe in God, the Beloved Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Savior, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Almighty, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of all believers, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Have You Any Room for Jesus"
Mary Temple, organ

arr. by Fred Boch

***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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PURPLE HYMNAL #442

"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!**

**2. Just as I am, though tossed about with many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, 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!**

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. For those joining physically, the individual Communion Bread & Cup sets contain grape juice.

INVITATION, PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

John Vangor, guitar

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 #684 "Faith Begins by Letting Go"**

1. Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure, taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure: pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

2. Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive, not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.

3. Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts, sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts; till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING MUSIC

"Trumpet Rondeau"
Mary Temple, organ

by Jean Joseph Mouret

**Please stand, if you are able.*

Thank you to our videographer Stephanie Gould.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ Celebrate the Fruits of the Spirit Day with us in worship on Sunday, August 21, and bring a fruit dish to share after worship.
- ▶ Today, August 7, Gilead Singers rehearse at 9:15 a.m.
- ▶ Next Sunday, August 14, Gilead Bell Chimes rehearse at 9:15 a.m.

Gilead Church School
2022-2023
Exciting New Curriculum

Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living

Fall Theme: **WELCOME ALL**
Our faith practices hospitality, we
welcome all back to church school!



We need teachers to share with
our youth in their faith journey.
Curriculum and supplies provided.

Please contact Diana Drake Behan
845-225-1979 or ddbehan@gmail.com

† 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

Follow us online! Visit our website for links to our social media and to subscribe to our email list!
www.gileadchurch.org



Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

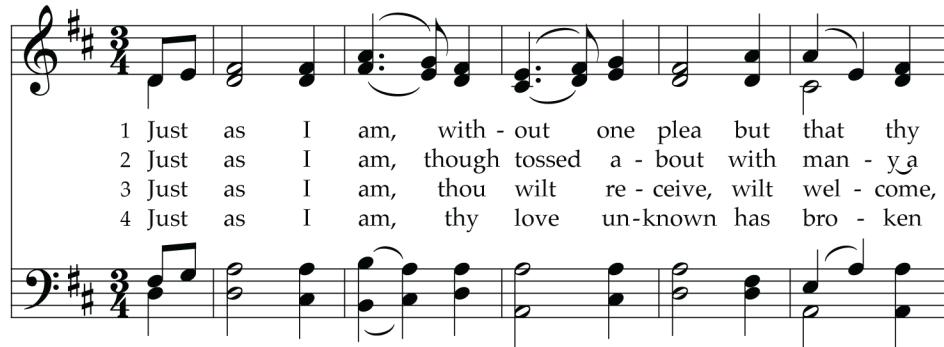


al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

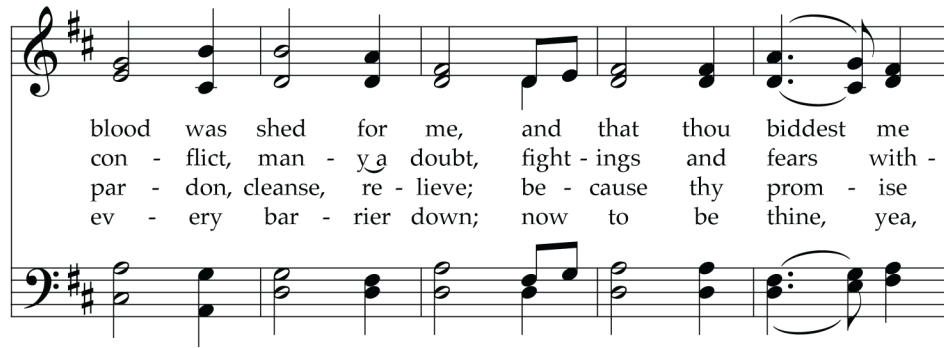
The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

FORGIVENESS

442 Just as I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken



blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
con - flict, man - ya doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,



come to thee,
in, with - out,
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
thine a - lone,

SPANISH

1 *Tal como soy de pecador,
sin más confianza que tu amor;
a tu llamada vengo a ti,
¡Cordero de Dios, heme aquí!*

KOREAN

1 큰-죄에 빠-진 날 위해
주보-혈 흘려주시고
또-나를 오-라하시니-
주께로 거-저 갑니다

When illness limited her involvement in a bustling household, the author wrote this hymn that helped her both to achieve and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ's self-giving. Its simple, direct, and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort to many.

TEXT: Charlotte Elliott, 1834, alt.; Spanish trans. Tomás M. Westrup, alt.; Korean trans. anon.
MUSIC: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1849; harm. *The Hymnbook*, 1955
Korean Trans. © The Hymnal Society of Korea
Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

WOODWORTH
LM

Faith Begins by Letting Go 684

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what
 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ory's
 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en -

had seemed sure, tak - ing risks and press - ing on,
 roots a - live so that hope may bear its fruit;
 larg - ing hearts, shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer,

though the way feels less se - cure: pil - grim - age both
 prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer - it
 bind - ing up the bro - ken parts; till we find the

right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
 we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
 com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

This text affirms that faith is not a state of being but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world. The movement from one stage of faith to another is suggested by gestures of the hand: letting go, holding on, reaching out.