

Gilead Presbyterian Church
February 12, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
6th Sunday after Epiphany, Year A

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 Meditation on "Deep River" African American Spiritual
 Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ by Percy W. McDonald

OPENING SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 13:13

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

People: We open our hearts to the fellowship of God's love.

***PURPLE HYMNAL #408 "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"**

**1. There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**(Refrain) Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
 stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
 and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
 without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
 when we shall leave this place.**

**2. There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way." (Refrain)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we bear the imprint of Your face: the colors of our skin and the shapes of our features are Your design. You stretched a living fabric on our frame and gave to each a language and a name. Forgive us for being pulled apart by division and hatred over race and differences that were given to us by You. Your living face on earth, O God, shines in each of us, and we share in the image of your Son

whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin. Christ is the brother we still crucify; his love is the language we must learn.

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

“He is King of Kings”
Gilead Singers

African American Spiritual

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

***PURPLE HYMNAL #317**

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

**1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**3. Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.**

The children are dismissed to Sunday School.

**4. In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.**

SCRIPTURE

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." *Revelation 7:9-12*

¹¹ So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one

body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Almighty. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Ephesians 2:11-22

SERMON

“In Living Color”

Rev. Martin McGeachy

***PURPLE HYMNAL #792**

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

**Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**1. Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work’s in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (Refrain)**

**2. Don’t ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
and if you lack for knowledge, he’ll not refuse to lend. (Refrain)**

**3. If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, “He died for all.” (Refrain)**

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.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Adoration”
Juergen Tempel, cello

by Florence B. Price
arr. by Marcus Martin

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 #623**

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

**1. I’ve got peace like a river; I’ve got peace like a river;
I’ve got peace like a river, in my soul. (repeat)**

**2 I’ve got joy like a fountain; I’ve got joy like a fountain;
I’ve got joy like a fountain, in my soul. (repeat)**

**3 I've got love like an ocean; I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul. (repeat)**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC "Redeemed" by Lani Smith
Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ tune by Wm. J. Kirkpatrick

**Please stand, if you are able.*

*The flowers today were given anonymously to the glory of God
In honor of longtime member Katherine Foote.*

Thank you to our videographer today, Stephanie Gould.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ Join us Wednesdays on Zoom at 8:30 a.m. for prayer and 7:30 p.m. for Bible Study. The link is in the weekly email.
- ▶ Deacons meet today after worship.
- ▶ Session will have a brief Called meeting at 11:15 this morning and on Zoom to amend the annual statistical report. Session does not meet this Tuesday; because of Valentine's Day we will meet 2/21.
- ▶ Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:30 p.m. February 22.
- ▶ The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be February 26 after worship.
- ▶ Today, Sunday February 12, Singers rehearse at 9:15. Next Sunday, February 19, Bell Chimes rehearse at 8:45, Singers at 9:15.
On February 19, Bells rehearse at 8:45, Singers at 9:15.

† *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



408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings we

lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

317 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet

south or north, but one great fel - low -
 mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 race may be. All chil - dren of the
 south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This setting expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.

There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

Fine

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

- 1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but
- 2 Don't ev - er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and
- 3 If you can-not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

to Refrain

then the Ho-ly Spir - it re-vives my soul a - gain. There is a
 if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a
 tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

ADORATION

623 I've Got Peace like a River

1 I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a
 2 I've got joy like a foun-tain; I've got joy like a
 3 I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an

1
 riv - er; I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun-tain; I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my
 o - cean; I've got love like an o - cean, in my

2
 soul. I've got riv - er, in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain, in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean, in my soul.

In the King James Version, the promise of “peace like a river” is twice mentioned in Isaiah (48:18; 66:12) as a blessing that comes from doing God’s will. The water imagery of this African American spiritual also provides reminders of Christians’ baptismal identity.