



Gilead Presbyterian Church
March 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
4th Sunday in Lent, 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

"My Heart Ever Faithful"
Mary Temple, organ

by J.S. Bach

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalms 121:1-2, 7-8

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills--from where will come my help?

People: My help comes from God Almighty, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: God will hold you through all darkness; God will keep your life.

People: God will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

***PURPLE HYMNAL #182**

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

**1. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."**

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;

I found him in a resting place, and he has made me glad.

**2. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."**

I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;

my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

**3. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."**

I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;

and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are people who often love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

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

“Jesus Walked that Lonesome Valley”
Gilead Bell Chimes

American spiritual
arr. by Anna Laura Page

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

The children are dismissed to Sunday School.

SCRIPTURE

¹ As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of the One who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then the man went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." *John 9:1-11*

⁸ For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." *Ephesians 5:8-14*

PURPLE HYMNAL #834*"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

**1. Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

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

**"Just a Little Talk with Jesus"
Gilead Singers**

by Cleavant Derricks

***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 #673****"Jesus, Light of Joy, Surround Us"**

**1. Jesus, light of joy, surround us; let your splendid glory shine:
source of every earthly blessing, heaven's everlasting sign.
Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.**

**2. Now the shadows fall around us; now the evening has begun:
still your gracious light is with us, brighter than the morning sun.
Alleluia, alleluia, God of glory, Three-in-One.**

**3. With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might.
All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night:
alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.**

BENEDICTION**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**Please stand, if you are able.*

*The flowers today were given anonymously to the glory of God
In honor of Gilead member Dolores Knapp.*

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.

▶ Join us after worship on Palm Sunday, April 2 for a kids' pizza party with egg dyeing, cookies and Easter baskets! Maundy Thursday we are invited to a supper at 1st Presbyterian in Mahopac at 6pm, followed by a joint service at 7pm at; and on Good Friday at 7pm we will present our Silent Passion here at Gilead. See Mariah Warren if you'd like to participate. Join us for a Silent Passion orientation Zoom at 7pm, March 26.

▶ Easter Sunday Lilies will be \$16 this year. See Margery Amato or Pastor Martin to order yours in honor or memory of a loved one.

▶ Today, Sunday, March 19, Bell Chimes rehearse at 8:40, Singers at 9:15.

Next Sunday March 26, Singers rehearse at 9:15—
Come sing with us!

April 2, Palm Sunday, Gilead singers rehearse at 9:15.

April 9, Easter Sunday, Bell Chimes rehearse 8:40,
Singers 9:15.

Walk
in the
Light
of the
LORD
see John 5:29-31

† 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



182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

This black gospel song, like much hymnody, sprang out of the author's deep personal loss (the death of his wife and newborn son), yet it has brought solace to many. He thought his fingers were playing new music, but they unlocked a deep memory of a tune almost a century old.

673 Jesus, Light of Joy

1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did
 2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning
 3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,

glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,
 has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,
 God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,

heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,
 bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,
 sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.
 al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.
 al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.