

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – June 28, 2020
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Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

To pharisees minding their business,
And fishermen mending their nets:

Jesus says: follow me!

To the money-handlers, the lawyers,
The intellectuals, the power-brokers:

Jesus says: follow me!

To the carers and the cleaners,
The married, the single,
The young and the old,

Country-folk and city-dwellers:

Jesus says: follow me!

Then and now, together and apart,
Willing or doubting, ready or not,

Jesus says: follow me!

Let us worship with thanksgiving.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Most holy God,
we admit to you and each other
that we are so dazzled by the false gods of this age,
that we find it hard to recognise who we are,
where we came from,
or where we are going.

We are caught up in selfishness,
seduced by cynicism,
and waylaid by consumerism.

Forgive us, God, and set us on the right path again,
we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon

Music for Reflection

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture Readings Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' ²Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.' ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.' ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷ The Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ' ⁹The Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'

¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, 'O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever." ' ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Exodus 32:15-20

Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain, carrying the two tablets of the covenant in his hands, tablets that were written on both sides, written on the front and on the back. ¹⁶The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved upon the tablets. ¹⁷When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, 'There is a noise of war in the camp.' ¹⁸But he said, 'It is not the sound made by victors, or the sound made by losers; it is the sound of revellers that I hear.'

¹⁹As soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets from his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰He took the calf that they had made, burned it with fire, ground it to powder, scattered it on the water, and made the Israelites drink it.

Leader: This is the Witness to God's Word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Things Get Broken

Rev. Mary Austin

We Respond to God's Grace

Invitation to Generosity

Prayers of the People and 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,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Depart for Service

***Announcements**

Passing the Peace

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

***Commission & Benediction**

The Prayer of Confession is adapted from the writing of Bruce Pever.

Participating in the service:
Mr. Malvin Duncan, Elder
Mr. Wade Meyers, Music Consultant / Organist
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence
Rev. Mary Austin