

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – July 26, 2020
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Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

With nature in its power and beauty,
with wind and rain and sunshine,
with ancient rock and budding flower,
we gather in praise of God.

With believers and seekers the whole world wide,
with people in every land
and speakers of every language,
we gather in praise of God.

With Jesus who promised his presence
with the Spirit who showers blessings,
we gather in praise of God.

Here may heaven and earth embrace.
Here may God's people find a home.
Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

The scriptures tell us that the God who creates us – the God who loves us, the God who redeems us – searches us and knows us completely. Before a word is on our tongues, God knows it completely. Trusting that promise, let us make our prayer of confession to God.

Prayer of Confession [*responsive*]

**Saving God, we are your people
yet the world cannot see this.**

**We are your children,
and fail to live in peace.**

**We are your voices
and choose to be silent.**

**We are your hands and feet
and walk a different road.**

**Forgive us, for ignoring your love,
for brushing aside your hand**

and trusting our own wisdom.
Enable us to worship you
in spirit and in truth,
to bring to you our joyful songs
in the everyday moments of our lives;
that your name might be glorified
through our words and lives. Amen.

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

This Good News is for all who want to follow Jesus:
As Jesus healed the sick and reclaimed the lost,
He also extends his healing touch into our lives.
We are forgiven and set free.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

Music for Reflection

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture Readings

Luke 8:26-33

²⁶Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" — ²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him.

³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

Luke 8:34-39

³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

³⁶Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

Sermon

Things Get Broken: People

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**

Participating in the service:
Mr. Eugene Choi and Mr. Johan Choi
Ms. Crystal Blyler
Mr. Wade Meyers, Music Consultant / Organist
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence
Rev. Mary Austin

The Call to Worship is from the Iona Community, and the Prayer of Confession is adapted from the writing of spiritual writer John Birch.