

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – August 23, 2020
Join us on YouTube!

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases. God's mercies never end.

Great is your faithfulness, O God!

God's mercies are new and fresh for today and every day.

Great is your faithfulness, O God!

God is our rock and our fortress, our refuge and strength.

God is our hope and trust.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Friends, God loves us deeply, with an intimacy we cannot comprehend. There is nothing we have done, or left undone, that is not already known by God. This gives us confidence to be honest, to be fully ourselves, so that we can be fully forgiven.

Let us admit our sin, first together, and then in silence, as we offer our private prayer.

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Ever-living God, from before the foundation of the world, you claimed us as your own. You promise us a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and you call us to serve you with thanksgiving and praise.

But we forget, and yield to fear. We are overwhelmed by the cares of this world, and we forget your promises and the power of your Word. We give up too easily, and our trust in you falters.

Forgive us, we pray, and open us to your healing. Free us from all that separates us from your presence. Give us courage to serve you with joy and hope, and to walk in the way of Jesus. Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon *[responsive]*

Promising forgiveness and all that we need to amend our lives, God rejoices in our longing for wholeness.

We give thanks that we are known and forgiven, and that we are now set free to live the resurrected life of faith.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

Music for Reflection

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-12

¹²Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,^[a] and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of^[b] the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners,^[c] so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children—

“My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
or lose heart when you are punished by him;

⁶for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves,
and chastises every child whom he accepts.”

⁷Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ⁸If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. ⁹Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. ¹¹Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹²Therefore, lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees.

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

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:

Mrs. Barbara Clark; Everett Clark, Worship Leaders

Mr. Wade Meyers, Music Consultant / Organist

Elder Malvin Duncan

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence