

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – August 30, 2020**  
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**Greeting**

**Call to Worship** [responsive]

God, who called all life into being,  
the earth, sea and sky are yours.

**your presence is all around us;**  
**every atom of the world is full of your energy.**

Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth.

**With the Spirit, we long for your justice to fill the earth,**  
for the hungry to be fed,

**for captives to be released,**  
**for your kingdom of peace to come.**

**God, gladly we live and move and have our being in you.**

Let us worship with joy and praise.

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Confession**

Out of love, God invites us to become better people,  
formed in the image of Jesus, our Redeemer.

Moving toward God's promises, let us pray our confession together.

**Prayer of Confession** [*together*]

**Merciful God, help us become the people you have created us to be.**

**We yearn to build communities of love,**  
**but it is easier to tear down than to build up.**

**We long for the healing of the nations,**  
**but it is easier to harm than to heal.**

**Bind up our spirits, Gracious One,**  
**that we might reconcile with others.**

**Help us cast aside the things that chain our spirits,**  
**that we might be free to care for one another**  
**and fulfill your law of love. Amen.**

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

**Assurance of Pardon**

Jesus spoke a word of healing to everyone he met,  
And he speaks the same word to us.  
Through him, we are forgiven, set free and made whole.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

### **Music for Reflection**

## **We Listen to God's Word**

### **Scripture**

#### **Matthew 15:10-20**

10 Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: <sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' <sup>13</sup>He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' <sup>16</sup>Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'

#### **Matthew 15:21-28**

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' <sup>24</sup>He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' <sup>26</sup>He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' <sup>27</sup>She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

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:**

Ms. Nadine Azie, Worship Leader

Mr. Wade Meyers, Music Consultant / Organist

Rev. Mary Austin

The Call to Worship is adapted from the worship resources of the Iona Community. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual.