

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – September 20, 2020
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Opening Music

Greeting

Call to Worship [responsive]

Have you heard the good news?

Christ calls us to be people of light.

Have you felt the good news?

Christ offers us God's love and grace.

Have you lived the good news?

Christ lives in us when we gather in his name.

Come! Let us worship the Lord.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

We continue to believe that we must earn our way into God's heart.

But God's grace is given to each of us, for all of us,
freely, unconditionally, and always.

Let us open our lives to this mercy as we pray together.

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

It seems we cannot decide, O God.

We say we live to serve others,
but end up meeting our own needs.

We claim to live in a way that honors Christ,
but we do not take him to work, school, home.

We believe that the gospel can transform lives,
and still fail to change.

Forgive us, we pray.

Instead of grumblers,
may we be ambassadors of grace.

Instead of complaining,
may we carry compassion to the hurting.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon

We are in the presence of the Holy One,
whose holiness is in our very being.
Rejoice and be glad, for in Christ's love
we are reminded of this divine truth:
We are God's beloved creation, reclaimed for a holy path.
Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

Music for Reflection

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Scripture

Matthew 20:1-16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

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."

***Closing Blessing**

Closing Music

Participating in the service:

Rev. Jacob Rodwala, Parish Associate, Worship Leader
Mrs. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families, Children's Message
Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence
Rev. Mary Austin

The Call to Worship is adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual. The Prayer of Confession is from the writing of Thom Shuman.