

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – October 11, 2020
Stewardship Season
Join us on You Tube!

Opening Music

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Praise the LORD, the Holy One!

We stop what we are doing to give thanks, praise, honor, and respect, to God.

Why? Why do you stop your normal routine to think about God?

We give praise because God is good. We offer thanks for divine love that endures, no matter what happens to us. We show honor and respect to the God who heals and forgives, who provides and protects, who makes all things new.

Come, beloved people, into the Holy Presence of God, the one who is present with us now. Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Sometimes we forget God. Sometimes we ignore God. Sometimes we deliberately turn our backs on God. If we listen carefully as we pray, first together, and then in silence, we may hear God calling us back into a right relationship. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Gracious God, we confess that some days, the distractions of this life chase you away from our minds and hearts. On other days, the noise of this world drowns out your voice. And on still other days, O God, we see you clearly, but our fears propel us to run away from your love.

Forgive us, we pray, and have mercy on our human frailty. May you be the first thought of our day and the last before sleep. Silence all other voices but your own. Melt our fear so there is nothing to keep us from running to you. In the love of Christ, we pray. Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon *[responsive]*

In Jesus Christ, God came to us to show us the fullness of divine love. Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we are promised that nothing can separate us from this amazing gift. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are new people,
forgiven and set free. Thanks be to God!**

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Scripture

Exodus 32:1-6

³² 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." ² Aaron 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." ³ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold,^[a] 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!" ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." ⁶ They 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.

Matthew 22:1-10

²² Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom

they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

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

Sermon

Turning

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

We Respond to God's Grace

Music for Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

Prayers of the People

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."

Benediction

Closing Music

Participating in the service:
Ms. Nadine Azie, Worship Leader
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families
Wade Myers, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Rev. Mary Austin
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence