

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – November 15, 2020
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Opening Music “Higher Ground” with “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”
Schola Muluh, Stacey Kum, and Julius Akenji, voices

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

To pharisees minding their business,
And fishermen mending their nets:

Jesus says: follow me!

To the money-handlers, the lawyers,
The intellectuals, the power-brokers:

Jesus says: follow me!

To the carers and the cleaners,
The married, the single,

The young and the old,

Country-folk and city-dwellers:

Jesus says: follow me!

Then and now, together and apart,
Willing or doubting, ready or not,

Jesus says: follow me!

Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven,
who no longer suffer in silence,
but name their sin and seek God’s grace.

Let us bring our prayers to God.

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Mighty God,

**We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly,
and withhold from others in need.**

**When we sin against neighbor,
condone injustice, and quarrel with one another,
we sin against you, O God.**

**Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit.
Keep us always in your presence
so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Amen.**

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

God is our security, a place of safety in hard times.
God is our refuge, and our way forward.
**By grace, we are forgiven and made new.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.**

Music for Reflection "How Great Thou Art" by Carl Boberg PROD. WADE MEYERS

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Carolyn Hayes

Scripture

Psalm 80:1-7

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!

³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴ O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Matthew 25:14–30

¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." ²⁶But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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

Sermon

Gaining Weight for God

Rev. Mary Austin

We Respond to God's Grace

Invitation to Generosity

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer [*together*]

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

"This Little Light of Mine"

PROD. WADE MEYERS

Participating in the service:

Mrs. Claudine Paxton, Worship Leader

Mrs. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Rev. Mary Austin

The Call to Worship is from the worship resources of the Iona Community.
The Call to Confession and the Prayer of Confession are adapted from *Feasting on the Word
Worship Companion* by Kimberly Bracken Long