

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – February 7, 2021
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Join us on You Tube!

Opening Music “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Glory to God, #347

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

For the joy of human company, with shared stories,
friendly laughter and conversations that change us,
thanks be to God.

For a place that spans ages and cultures,
and is home to all who gather,
thanks be to God.

For the wonder of life,
and the decision of God to be here with us,
thanks be to God.

Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Almighty God,
we ask for your righteous judgment against others,
but do not see the sin in our own lives.

We worship you with our lips,
and dishonor you with our actions.

We pray for you to end the suffering in our world,
yet we do not practice compassion
and generosity toward others.

Our religion is a source of quarreling
rather than a testimony to your grace.

Forgive us, we pray, and set us on the right path.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Scripture

Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c

¹ Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

² The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

³ He heals the broken-hearted,
and binds up their wounds.

⁴ He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

⁵ Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

⁶ The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷ Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.

⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹ He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰ His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

¹¹ but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love. Praise the Lord!

Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-20

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the witness to God's word.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon **Their Eyes Were Watching God** Elder Le Quan Turner

Music for Reflection "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Glory to God, #96

We Respond to God's Grace

Invitation to Generosity

Communion Music "Let Us Break Bread Together" Glory to God, #525

Invitation to the Communion Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and our greatest joy...

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is present to us in this meal, and that presence comes through whatever elements we use. Please take the elements you have at home, and eat whatever kind of bread you have, and drink whatever cup you have prepared. The bread is the body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and the cup is the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Take and eat. Take and drink.

Prayer after Communion

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

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Glory to God, #39

Participating in the service:
Elder Le Quan Turner, M.Div, Guest Preacher
Mr. Wade Myers, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence
Rev. Mary Austin

The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness are adapted from the *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*.

About our guest preacher, Elder Le Quan Turner, MDiv.

Le Quan was born into a family of preachers and teachers of the gospel. At a young age, she made a public confession of her faith and was baptized. She is a Ruling Elder at Westminster Presbyterian and has served as a Seminary Student Intern at Faith Presbyterian (2012-2014) and has served as the Minister for Community Life at Northminster Presbyterian (2019-2020). Le Quan has served on the Mission Coordination Committee (2017-2019) and the General Presbyter Search Committee (2018-2019). She currently serves on the Leadership Council National Capital Presbytery (2019-present). Le Quan received her Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary.