

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – May 9, 2021**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Join us on You Tube!**

**Opening Music**            “Gavotte in E major” by Arcangelo Corelli

**Greeting**

**Call to Worship** [*responsive*]

God has set this day before us,  
**A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.**  
God has set our lives before us,  
**A span of years in which we love, and learn, and serve.**  
God has set God’s seal upon our hearts,  
**So that we might live fully in deep love.**  
Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Confession**

Every week, as we worship together, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God that we do not live as we are meant to do. In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is merciful and just, eager to offer grace and love.

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

**Gracious God, source of all life,**  
**Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer.**  
**We come before you in need of healing:**  
**The healing of our bodies and souls,**  
**The healing of our relationships,**  
**The healing of our pride and fear and apathy.**  
**We know that with you, nothing is impossible,**  
**Not our healing or the restoration of the whole world.**  
**We pray that you will heal us, that you will heal our world,**  
**So that we will be freed to serve and love,**  
**As Christ calls us. Amen.**

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

**Assurance of Pardon** [*responsive*]

God is 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**

“Ubi Caritas”

Glory to God #205

**We Listen to God’s Word**

**Children’s Message**

**Scripture**

**Psalm 1**

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

<sup>2</sup> but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

<sup>6</sup> for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**John 15:9–17**

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> ‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you

do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the witness to God's word. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart

### **We Respond to God's Grace**

#### **Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Thanksgiving**

#### **Prayers of the People and 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 and Passing the Peace**

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

#### **Commission & Benediction**

**Closing Music** "Higher Ground" with "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

**Participating in the service:**

Mr. John Slavcoff, Worship Leader  
Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart, Guest Preacher  
Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts  
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families, Children's Message  
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are adapted from the writing of Beth Merrill Neel.