



Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – May 30, 2021

Trinity Sunday

Church in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.

Opening Music “Prelude from Prelude, Fugue et Variation” by César Franck
Mary Maldarelli, Guest Organist

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Praise the God of creation:
who made us to be connected.
Praise the Christ of love:
who calls us his friends.
Praise the Spirit of peace:
who enables us to live in unity.
Let us worship God with joy.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Triune God, we praise you as the God of love and life.
Though Jesus prayed that we would be one,
we confess that we fail to live in unity
with each other and with you.
We break our communion through hostile words and unkind actions.

**We long for your Spirit to heal us and to correct us.
We long for you to help us experience communion
with you and with each other
as we gather around your Word.
Even now, dependent on your grace,
we commit ourselves to live more fully
in the unity you desire.
Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*] (based on Romans 8:15–17)

God's very Spirit bears witness with our spirits
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs, heirs of God
and joint heirs with Christ.
**In Christ, by the power of the Spirit,
we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

Music for Reflection

“God, We Love This Congregation”

“Hymn to Joy” by Ludwig van Beethoven. Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.
Lucille Baur and Donna Dannels, vocalists. Wade Meyers, producer.

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Carolyn Hayes

Scriptures

Isaiah 6:1–8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

John 3:1–13

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ ³Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ ⁴Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ ⁵Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ ⁹Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ ¹⁰Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

In the Midnight Hour

Rev. Mary Austin

Music for Reflection

“Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove”
Mary Maldarelli, Guest Organist

We Respond to God’s Grace

Moment for Ministry

Dr. Kris Obom Maldarelli

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 and Passing the Peace

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

Response: "And also with you."

Closing Blessing

May the eyes of the seeing Parent
watch over us and keep us and ours
ever in the divine gaze.

May the arms of the loving Savior hold us close
and surround each moment of our lives with his care.

May the wings of the living Spirit shelter each of us
and enfold all our days and our nights with God's peace.

Closing Music

"Nimrod" from Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar
Mary Maldarelli, Guest Organist

Participating in the service:

Deacon Kofi Kumi, Worship Leader (9:30)
Ms. Allison Howlett, Worship Leader (11:00)
Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence and Rev. Mary Austin

The graphic is by John Stushie.