



Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – July 25, 2021
Church in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.

Opening Music

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Gathered together,
with people familiar and those unknown,
for the first time or the umpteenth time,
we pray: come, holy spirit.

Gathered together
where faithful and puzzled people have prayed,
where God has listened,
we pray: come, holy spirit.

Gathered together,
not knowing what we have in common,
not sure why we are here,
we pray: come, holy spirit.
to open doors, dispel fears, establish friendships,
to reveal what is in us,
and bring us closer to Christ,
we pray: come, holy spirit. Meet us here.
Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Merciful God, you made us in your image,
with a mind to know you,
a heart to love you,
and a will to serve you.

Still, our knowledge is imperfect,
our love inconstant,
and our obedience incomplete.

Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness.

In your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Carolyn Hayes

Scripture

Acts 8:26–34

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'

Acts 8:35–40

³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Sermon

God is Economical

Rev. Mary Austin

Music for Reflection

We Respond to God's Grace

Finding God in Our Journeys

Mary Spencer

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The 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 and Passing the Peace

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

Response: "And also with you."

Commission & Benediction

Closing Music

"Here I Am, Lord"

Glory to God #69

I, the Lord of the sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Participating in the service:

Rev. Jacob Rodawla, Worship Leader (9:30)
Ms. Allison Howlett, Worship Leader (11:00)
Dr. Lynn Monkres, Guest Organist
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence and Rev. Mary Austin

The Call to Worship is from the Iona Community.