



Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – August 22, 2021
Church in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.

Opening Music

“Andante from Sonata, K.545”

by W.A. Mozart

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

With nature in its power and beauty,
with wind and rain and sunshine,
with ancient rock and budding flower,
we gather in praise of God.

With believers and seekers the whole world wide,
with people in every land
and speakers of every language,
we gather in praise of God.

With Jesus who promised his presence
with the Spirit who showers her blessings,
we gather in praise of God.

Here may heaven and earth embrace.

Here may God’s people find a home.

Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

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

Holy God, hear our prayer.

We keep silent when we should speak;
and rush to speak when we should listen.

We see others for what they can do for us,
and miss the places where we should serve.

We are too quick to judge,
and too slow to understand.

We consume too much,
and give too little away.

Forgive us, we pray, and set us back on the right path,
drawing our hearts back to you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

Rejoice and be glad! Our God is full of mercy,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

We dare to believe in the gift of a new beginning,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Scripture

Ephesians 6:10–20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of

righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Is Life Really a Battle?

Rev. Norm Gordon

Music for Reflection

“Within Your Shelter, Loving God (Psalm 91)”

Glory to God #168

We Respond to God’s Grace

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

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Sending Song

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Glory to God #275

(verses 1 & 2)

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.

Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.

His craft and power are great and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.**

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.

Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

Commission & Benediction

Postlude

“Rondo from Sonata, K.545”

by W.A. Mozart



Participating in the service:

Rev. Norm Gordon, Guest Preacher

Ms. Carrie Larsen, Director of Youth and College Ministries, 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

The Call to Worship is adapted from the worship resources of the Iona Community.

About our guest preacher:

The Rev. Norm Gordon is a native of Washington Grove, MD. He planted two churches, one in California and one in Louisiana, before returning to his home church and serving as Associate Pastor at Gaithersburg Presbyterian from 2007 – 2015. Since then he has been following a call to minister outside the walls of the established church among those with no religious affiliation. He is now the Chief Catalyst for the Germantown Global Connection, a new worshipping community of the National Capital Presbytery. His wife, Elsie, is a clinical psychologist and they have three daughters: Alicia (22), Abby (19), and A.J. (16).