

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – August 29, 2021
Church in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.

Opening Music “Fugue on the Magnificat, First Tone, No.1” by J. Pachelbel

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

God is active in our world and in our lives,
We gather in awe of our God.
Christ calls us into the way of love and justice,
We gather to follow Jesus our Savior.
The Spirit moves us in compassion and kindness,
We gather as one people of God.
Come, join your hearts in worship,
And ponder the awesomeness of God.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

If it were easy to follow Jesus, we would not need to ask for forgiveness. But it is tough – tough to say ‘yes,’ tough to be graceful, tough to be loving. The good news is that God continues to offer us mercy and gives us even more of the Bread of Life. Trusting in divine grace, let us confess our sin first together and then in silence.

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Holy God, you know the longing of our hearts to be your faithful people. But when following Jesus means we give up our comfort and convenience, we find the way too hard. When following Jesus means we think first of serving others, rather than of what they can do for us, we give up. When following Jesus means making a sacrifice of some kind, well, we often walk away.

God of mercy, forgive us. Let your grace wash over us and make us new people. Fill us with more of Jesus, the Bread of Life, that we may strengthened for our journey with you. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

Today, receive the Bread of Life;
today, hear the words of eternal hope;
today, trust in the One who hears your prayers,
and showers grace and forgiveness upon you.

**Today, we are set free to serve God's people, and to sing God's praises.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Scripture [*responsive*]

Psalm 63:1–8

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.**

**³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.**

**⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

**⁵ My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,^[a]
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips**

**⁶ when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**

**⁷ for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**

**⁸ My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.**

John 6:56–69

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live

forever.”⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?”⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you?”⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.⁶⁵ And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?”⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”^[a]

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

Sermon

Too Tough to Swallow?

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

Music for Reflection “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” Glory to God #514

We Respond to God’s Grace

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

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

Sending Song "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Glory to God #263
(verses 1, 3, and 4)

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

Commission & Benediction

Postlude "Fugue in D major, BWV 850" by J.S. Bach



Participating in the service:

Elder Malvin Duncan, Worship Leader (9:30)
Ms. Ninna Nanna, Worship Leader (11:00)
Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

The Call to Worship was written by Mindi Welton-Mitchell.
The Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession are based on the writings
of Thom Schuman, who also wrote the Assurance of Pardon.