

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – September 5, 2021
Church in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.



Opening Music

“Fugue in B-flat major, Op.16, No.2”

by Clara Schumann

Greeting

Responsive Call to Worship

The kingdom of God is like a tiny mustard seed;
it grows into a great plant with many branches.

May God give us mustard seed faith.

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

May God send us out into the harvest to do God’s work.

We have been crucified with Christ;
now it is Christ who lives in us.

May we reflect the glory of Christ in all things.

Let us worship God with joy.

Opening Prayer

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

Unclutter our lives, Lord
we have too much, consume too much,
expect too much.
Grant us perspective;
to see this world more through others' eyes
than just our own.
Grant us compassion;
where there is need
to play our part, and not turn aside.
Grant us gratitude
for what we have,
our daily bread, the gift of life.
Unclutter our lives, Lord,
give us space, simplicity
thankful hearts, through Christ our Lord.

[*Silence for personal confessions*]

Assurance of Pardon**We Listen to God's Word**

Children's Message**Sung Response**

"You Are Holy"

Glory to God #596

Scripture

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?'

⁶He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines." ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

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

Sermon **It Is Better to Look Good than to Feel Good** Rev. Mary Austin

Music for Reflection "As a Chalice Cast of Gold" Glory to God #429
(verses 1 and 2)

We Respond to God's Grace

Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion Music "Eat This Bread" Glory to God #527

Invitation to the Communion Table and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and our greatest joy...

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is present to us in this meal, and that presence comes through whatever elements we use. Please take the elements you have at home, and eat whatever kind of bread you have, and drink whatever cup you have prepared. The bread is the body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and the cup is the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Take and eat. Take and drink.

[If you're worshipping in person, the elements will be served after the closing blessing, for safety.]

Prayer after Communion

We Depart for Service

Announcements and Passing the Peace

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

Sending Song

"Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil"

Glory to God #750

Commission & Benediction

Postlude

"Sortie in F"

by César Franck



Participating in the service:

Mr. Daniel Anpoma and Mr. Ezekiel Anpoma, Worship Leaders (9:30)

Ms. A.J. Gordon, Worship Leader (11:00)

Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Rev. Mary Austin