

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – January 30, 2022
Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.



Opening Music

“Gavotte in E Major”

Arcangelo Corelli

Welcome

Please register your attendance with the QR code on the back of the bulletin.

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

People of God, without love we are like clanging cymbals,

Love!

We can speak like prophets, but we still have to

Love!

We can build great buildings, but we need to

Love!

Be patient and kind, with no envy in mind,

Love!

Don't be rude or resentful; don't insist on your own way,

Love!

How can we live without it?

Love!

Who can serve God without it?

Love!

Let us worship God with loving hearts and spirits.

Opening Prayer

Hymn

“Ubi Caritas”

Glory to God #205

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *[together]*

Merciful God,
whenever we seek you, love is what we find.
But you do not always find the same when you seek us.
Love is patient, and we are impatient.
Love is kind, and we are rude.
Love is not envious, and we covet.
Love does not insist on its own way, and we do just that.
Love never ends,
and yet we do not seek your love as our ultimate purpose.
Help us, loving God, to shed our sin and reflect the light of your love.
Guide us that we might have faith in your presence,
that we might hope in your providence,
and, above all, that we might live with love. Amen.

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Carolyn Hayes

Musical Response

Scripture

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Power of Love

Elder Shani McIlwain

We Respond to God's Grace

Music for Reflection

"Be Still, My Soul"

Glory to God #819

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

Sending Song

"When We Are Living"

Glory to God #822

Passing the Peace

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

Closing Blessing

Closing Music

“Prelude in G Major, BWV 860”

Johann Sebastian Bach

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Participating in the service:

Elder Shani McIlwain, Vice Moderator, National Capital Presbytery, Guest Preacher

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

Rev. Mary Austin

Elder Shani E. McIlwain weaves her “messy” moments of life into practical teaching lessons for others. She is a sought-after speaker, pulpit supply preacher, retreat leader, Vice Moderator of National Capital Presbytery, and Ruling Elder at Faith Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Washington, DC. She serves on the NEXT Church strategy team, works as a group facilitator and an executive coach, leading individuals and groups in faithful and transparent conversations about dismantling racism and white supremacy.

Her books include *Sharing My Mess: 90 Days of Prayer and Spiritual Intimacy with God* and *It's Time To Make a Change: 30 Days to Renew Your Heart, Mind, and Soul*, and the forthcoming self-help short read *Awkward Silence: Practical Activities for White Ministry leaders confronting racism*.

She is also the host of her own Facebook Live weekly web show, *Sharing With Shani*, which highlights ordinary people working for an extraordinary God—all while sharing love, light, and life with thousands of listeners across the country. Through humor, honesty, and compassion, Shani strives to teach women and men how to use daily practices to form a spiritual and intimate relationship with God

The Call to Worship is adapted from the writing of Kwasi I. Kena.

The Prayer of Confession is adapted from the writing of Stephen Fearing.



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smartphone camera to scan the QR code
(gpchurch.org/guestbook)