

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – August 7, 2022

Church in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.

Opening Music

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

arr. G. Howlett

Wade Meyers, piano

Welcome

Welcome to all! Please register your attendance with the QR code on the back of the bulletin, or with the online link, or on paper in the church Gathering Space. Need help? Ask any usher.

Call to Worship *[responsive]*

The peace God speaks into the world

surrounds us with wholeness, restores balance, and repairs all brokenness.

God’s righteousness and peace come together in a mysterious way to bless our lives.

We rejoice today in God’s great gifts!

Opening Prayer

Hymn *[stand]*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Glory to God, #366

Call to Confession

The psalmist tells us that when we turn to God in our hearts, God speaks peace to the faithful. As we make our honest confession, we thank God for the gift of peace.

Prayer of Confession *[together]*

Holy God, we try to fix and fasten you, but you will not be stayed.

You are love in motion:

always breathing us into being,

calling us to serve,

sustaining us in the wilderness.

Come to us as the morning breaks.

Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts

until we worship with abandon,

for we pray in the name of the Son you sent

and through the Spirit that gives us life. Amen.

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

I share the love of God with you. Your sins are forgiven; be at peace and know that God is at work in your life.

Alleluia! Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Mystery Box!

Children and youth remain in the sanctuary today.

Sung Response [*seated*]

"Come, All You People"

Glory to God, #388

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, your name and your word are exalted above everything. We are listening for your word today. We are looking for your light. By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our minds and hearts so we know your will and respond in faith. We pray in the name of your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Scripture

Psalm 22:1–2, 16–18

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;

and by night but find no rest.

For dogs are all around me;

a company of evildoers encircles me;

they bound my hands and feet.^[b]

¹⁷I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸they divide my clothes among themselves,

and for my clothing they cast lots.

Gift from Creator (Matthew) Tells the Good Story 27:45–51

At the sixth hour of the day clouds moved in and covered the land with darkness until the ninth hour. That is when Creator Sets Free (Jesus), speaking in his native language, cried out loud, "*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani*" – which means, "O Great Spirit, my Creator, why have you left me alone?"

Some of the people standing there heard him and said, "He is calling on the prophet Great Spirit is Creator (Elijah) to help him." One of them ran and soaked a cloth with the bitter wine, put it on a staff, and put it to his mouth. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Great Spirit is Creator (Elijah) will come and save him.

But right then Creator Sets Free (Jesus) with his dying breath, lifted his voice one last time and with a loud cry gave up his spirit. Suddenly the earth began to quake. Large rocks cracked and shattered. Then in the sacred lodge the great heavy blanket that hung over the entry to the Most Holy Place was torn from top to bottom.

(First Nations Version)

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

Sermon

What Did He Say?

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

We Respond to God's Grace

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
The Chancel Choir

Roland E. Martin

Prayer of Dedication

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...

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

For those worshipping at home:

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.

For those worshipping in the sanctuary:

Please come forward by the inside aisles and return by the side aisles. If you would like to be served in your seat, wave at the servers and they will happily come to you. The elements at GPC are always gluten free.

Communion Hymn “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” Glory to God, #509

Prayer after Communion

We Depart for Service

Announcements

Sending Song [*stand*] “Arise, Your Light Is Come!” Glory to God, #744

Passing the Peace

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

Closing Blessing

Closing Music “This Little Light of Mine”
The Chancel Choir

†

Participating in the service:

Claudia Garcia and William Fofuh, Worship Leaders (11:00)
Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families
Rev. Mary Austin
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

Worship elements were adapted from Feasting on the Word, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

