

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

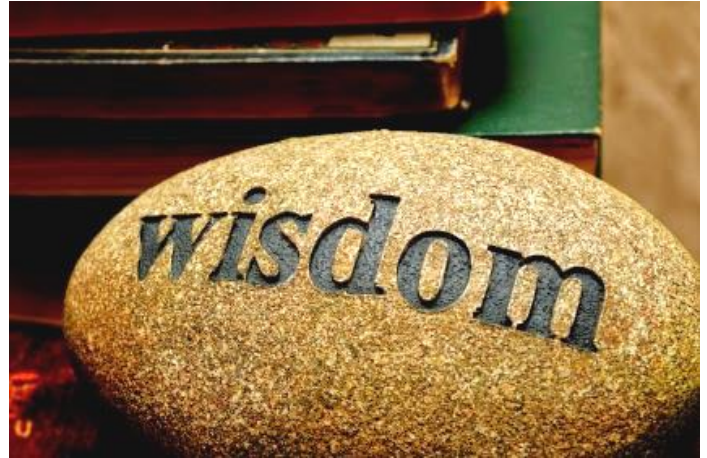
April 14, 2021

Psalm 37:1-11

(NRSV)

Of David.

- 1 Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,*
- 2 for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.*
- 3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy
security.*
- 4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your
heart.*
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.*
- 6 He will make your vindication shine like the
light,
and the justice of your cause like the noon
day.*
- 7 Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for
him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their
way,
over those who carry out evil devices.*
- 8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.*
- 9 For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit
the land.*
- 10 Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no
more;
though you look diligently for their place,
they will not be there.*
- 11 But the meek shall inherit the land,
and delight themselves in abundant
prosperity.*



Meditation

Read Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33

Have you ever considered the book of Proverbs? Proverbs is a book of wisdom literature in the Old Testament, found immediately after Psalms. The purpose of wisdom literature is to educate people in the right way to live, and to invite reflection that leads to a Godly interpretation of life's experiences.

Proverbs begins with an extensive section that praises wisdom, and invites the reader to follow the way of wisdom rather than folly (chapters 1-9). The remainder of the book (except 31:10-31) is a series of short, memorable sayings intended to provide instruction in the way of life. The book concludes with a poem of praise to the perfect woman (or wife).

Perhaps the best known verse in Proverbs is 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." (all quotations are from the NRSV) Though the "fear of the Lord" is a theme throughout the book, it is easily misunderstood. It does not mean that we should be afraid of God. After all, God is love (1 John 4:8). It does mean that we should have a healthy respect for God, that we should hold God in awe as the creator and ruler of all things, and that we owe God our obedience and worship. To say that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" is to say that wisdom finds its origin and its source in God. God's wisdom teaches us how to live in harmony with his creation and his will, and shows us the way of life and righteousness (in opposition the ways that lead

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The fear of the Lord is . . .

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to evil and death).

Much of the book (10:1 through 31:9) is comprised of short sayings which show us the way of wisdom. Most of these sayings consist of two lines which either express contrast (“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.” — 10:12) or reinforce each other (“To get wisdom is to love oneself; to keep understanding is to prosper.” — 19:8) They’re not arranged in any particular order, and can be repetitive.

Proverbs encourages us to follow the way of God’s righteousness. “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.” (15:8). “Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than a great treasure and trouble with it.” (15:16) “The way of the Lord is a stronghold for the upright, but destruction for evildoers.” (10:29) “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” (14:34)

Integrity is praised in Proverbs. “A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but an accurate weight is his delight.” (11:1) [In other words, don’t cheat in business (or in anything else).] “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.” (12:22)

Some proverbs give practical instruction for handling various situations. Prov. 15:1, for example, says “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Another example is 17:22: “a cheerful heart is good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.”

Proverbs reminds us of what is really important in life. “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.” (22:1) “Whoever gives to the poor lacks nothing, but the one who turns a blind eye will get many a curse.” (28:27) “Two things I ask of you; do not deny them to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food I need, or I shall be full, and deny you, and say ‘Who is the Lord?’ or I shall be poor, and steal, and profane the name of my God.” (30:7-9)

These are but a sample of the variety of wisdom sayings that may be found in Proverbs. Take time to read one or two chapters (from 10 through 31) for yourself. See if any verses strike your heart, and take some time to pray and think about them. How is God speaking to you through Proverbs? “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.” (18:10)



Prayer

Most loving God, teach us to follow your way in the world. Give us wisdom and understanding. Lead us by your Holy Spirit, and guide us in the way that leads to life. May we take your words and hide them in our hearts, that they may become living truths that shape our lives.

Make us sensitive to the needs of those around us. Help us to be generous to the poor and the needy, understanding with those who grieve, patient with those who despair, and steadfast with those who suffer. Show us how to weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice.

Pour out your grace on our world and our nation. Heal those who are sick in body, mind, and spirit. Help us embrace your love and your righteousness for all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

. . . the beginning of wisdom.

Ruth's Harvest

Thank you to all who have previously helped fill backpacks for Ruth's Harvest. Your efforts helped in the process of getting much needed nutritional weekend meals to area food insecure school children. Our team's next date to volunteer is **Wednesday April 28 at 4:30 PM at Lincoln Elementary.** Face masks are worn and social distancing is maintained in the pantry. The pantry is accessed directly through an outside entrance. If you are willing to help on Wednesday April 28, please contact Julie McGeary, 717-398-2740 for details.

Weekly Prayer Concerns

To add someone to this prayer list, please call the church office.

This week's list (as of 4/13/2021) is:

Rodney Truscott
Penny Daugherty
Scott Bowers
Imogene Hunt's brother
Joyce Dye
Ben Fisher
Don Richmond
Jackie Rudisill
Rev. Meredith Ball

Members in Assisted Living / Skilled Care Homes:
Edith Bulman (SpiriTust Lutheran, York);
Shirley Hammond (Morning Glory, Littlestown); Missy Legay (Moul Home, York); Peggy Reynolds (Quincy-cottage, Waynesboro);
Gloria Swingler (Country Meadows-apartment, Mechanicsburg)

Members with Limited Mobility:

Butch Carter, Betty Cook, Joyce Dye, Barbara Evans, Pearl Keckler, Raymond Koenig, Chuck Lutz, Ruth Anna Polley, Wilma Schai-ble, Betty Schulteis, June Spencer

"Spring of Promise" Worship Services

The United Methodist Churches of Upper Adams and Gettysburg are holding Wednesday evening outdoor services from April 14 through May 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Oakside Community Park Amphitheater, 2880 Table Rock Rd., Biglerville.

This week (April 21) Pastor Melissa Madara will preach on "Come to Me and I Will Give You Rest".

The weekly offering will be divided among area fire companies.

Jesus never promised us a life without suffering, but he did promise that it is possible to experience peace in all circumstances. In this Spring Series of Worship, we'll discover that we can always rely on the Promises of Jesus.

Announcements

We're looking for some people who can help with audio/visual support for our Sunday morning worship services. No technical experience is necessary beyond basic computer skills. Larry Speer will provide training. You are not committing to every Sunday—just to help as needed when you're available. Please contact Larry Speer for more information if you think you may be interested. Your help will be a special blessing to those who watch our service online as well as those who worship on Sunday.

The Mission Can Offering for this Sunday, April 18, is designated for Dinner at Six. Please give as the Lord leads.

We will not be holding the spring yard sale this year due to continuing COVID concerns.

HYMN

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty

Reginald Heber, John B. Dykes

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy
sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky
and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Reginald Heber was born in 1783 in Cheshire, England. Educated at Oxford, he served as a rector and priest in the Church of England. During his time of service he advocated for liturgical reform and worked for the renewal of Anglican hymnody. Although influenced by the hymns of Charles Wesley, he wrote hymns that were more closely tied to the *Book of Common Prayer*. Elected Bishop of Calcutta in 1823, he died in India in 1826. Born in Yorkshire, England, in 1823, John B. Dykes was educated at Cambridge and also served as a priest in the Church of England. He received the Mus.D. from the University of Durham in 1849. He wrote a number of hymn tunes, anthems, and part songs which were popular in Victorian England. Dykes died in 1876.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty was written for use on Trinity Sunday and published in 1826. Based in part on imagery from Revelation 4:6-11, the hymn celebrates and praises the Holy Trinity. The tune was written for this text in 1861, and perfectly matches the grandeur and majesty of the text. It may be found as no. 64 in our hymnal. (A Spanish translation, *¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo!*, is included as no. 65.)

Bountiful Blessings Thanks

Thank you for your generous donations to Bountiful Blessings Your gifts of dish detergent, shampoo, tooth paste, cleaners, laundry detergent, and other items are greatly appreciated! Thank you again for your help.

We greatly appreciate your continued faithful donations to GUMC during this time of continuing change. Your faithful giving is greatly appreciated, and we are very grateful for your continued generosity.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for Sunday, April 18, are presented by Larry and Betsy Speer to the Glory of God.

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