

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

February 24, 2021

Psalm 147

(NRSV)

1 Praise the Lord!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is
fitting.

2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.

4 He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

6 The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.

9 He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.

10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;
11 but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear
him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!

13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.

14 He grants peace within your borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.

15 He sends out his command to the earth;

his word runs swiftly.
16 He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.
17 He hurls down hail like crumbs—
who can stand before his cold?
18 He sends out his word, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.
19 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances.
Praise the Lord!

Meditation

Read John 6:1-14

An imaginary conversation:

“Aw, Mom, why can’t I go?”

“Now Josh, you know what I said. You’re only twelve. And you’re just not very responsible. You do too many things without thinking. What if something happened to you? I’d never forgive myself. The answer is no.”

“But Mom, I may never get a chance to see Jesus again! Everyone’s talking about him—how he heals the sick and drives out demons. They say his teaching is really amazing! Can I go? Please?”

“You heard my answer, Joshua. It’s still no.”

“But what if Baruch comes along? Then I wouldn’t be by myself. You’re always telling me to be more responsible like he is anyway. I’m sure his parents would let him go!”

“Well, I guess it’s OK, but only if Baruch’s parents say yes.”

[A few hours later . . .]

“Hey, Mom, guess what? Baruch’s parents said he can go! We’ll have to leave real early in the morning to get there, but it will all be worth it. I can’t wait to see Jesus!”

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Place your life in Jesus' hands . . .

(Continued from page 1)

“Well, I guess it’s OK, Josh. Baruch is a very responsible young man. I just wish you could be more like him.”

“I’ll try, Mom, really I will.”

[Early the next morning . . .]

“Baruch’s here. We’re going now. Bye, Mom.”

“Just wait a minute, Josh. Aren’t you forgetting something?”

“What’s that, Mom?”

“And here I thought you were trying to be more responsible! You’re forgetting that nice lunch I packed for you—some good bread and fish. I even put some extra in for Baruch.”

“Aw, C’mon, Mom! We’ll be fine—you didn’t need to pack lunch for us. We’re not kids anymore. We can look out for ourselves. We won’t have any problems. I’m sure there’ll be plenty of food there.”

“Just the same, you better take it along. You never know—it’s doing the responsible thing.”

“Well, OK Mom. Whatever.”

[Late that evening . . .]

“Josh, I’m glad you’re finally home. We were beginning to worry about you. So what was it like to see Jesus?”

“It was really amazing, Mom. It was even better than I expected. Everyone thinks he’s the Messiah. But you’ll never guess what happened to that bread and fish you gave me.”

“So, I was right about that—you got hungry and needed it, didn’t you!”

“It was much more than that, Mom. There was this really big crowd—there must have been at least 5,000 people there. And nobody else had any food! They were all hungry, but there was nothing to eat. So Jesus asked his disciples to buy some food for them. But his disciples didn’t know what to do—where can you buy food for 5,000 people? Then I went up to one of his disciples and told him I had five loaves of bread and two fish. It wasn’t much, I said, but it might help the people who were hungri-

est. I thought it was the responsible thing to do. And he took me to Jesus. Then Jesus took the loaves and the fish, prayed for them, and used them to feed everyone! Just imagine--that little bit of food fed 5,000 people! And there were twelve full baskets left over when they were done! I would never have believed it if I hadn’t seen it with my own eyes.”

“Wow, Josh, that really is amazing! That was definitely the responsible thing to do. Aren’t you glad you listened to your mother and took lunch along?”

“Yeah, I guess so. All those people would’ve gone hungry if I hadn’t. But I think I learned something else too.”

“What’s that, Josh?”

“That if you give something to Jesus, he can do amazing things with it—things you could never imagine. It made me wonder. If Jesus could feed 5,000 with only a few loaves and fish, what could he do with someone’s life? What could he do with me? What would happen if I decided to follow him, give my life to him, and do whatever he tells me?”

What could Jesus do with us if we gave ourselves completely to him, if we did whatever he told us to do? There’s only one way to find out.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, grant us grace to give ourselves completely to you. We place our lives in your hands. Use us as you will. Make us instruments of your grace as we share your love with the world. Open our eyes to see the needs of those around us, and open our hearts to reach out to them in love. Give us courage to work for freedom, peace, and justice in the world. May our faithful witness be spiritual food for all who are spiritually hungry.

As always, we pray for those with special needs. We pray for the sick and the sorrowing, for the homeless and the hungry, and for all who need your love and power. We especially remember individuals and families impacted by COVID, both here and around the world.

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. . . and amazing things will happen.

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Be our good Shepherd every day. Guide us along the pathways of life, and keep us safe through the dark valleys. Restore our souls with the refreshing water of your Holy Spirit. May we bless others as you have blessed us; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

In-Person Worship Suspension Continues

Due to the continued high COVID rates in Adams County, on Feb. 22 Church Council voted unanimously to continue the suspension of in-person worship. They set a target date of March 28 (Palm Sunday) to reopen in-person worship, if current trends continue. That decision will be finalized on March 22.

Online Worship Services continue to be available weekly on Facebook.

Sermon by Phone is now available at 717-200-2956

IT'S SOUP KITCHEN DONATION TIME AGAIN.....

If you are willing and able to donate to the "Third Tuesday" Soup Kitchen (formerly Genny Reaver's team)--

Please send a check payable to:

Sue Ressler
425 Westminster Ave.
Cottage 103
Hanover, PA 17331

I will then send one check to the Soup Kitchen. This approach makes their bookkeeping easier.

As always, thank you. I miss you all!

Sue Ressler

Weekly Prayer Concerns

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

This week's list (as of 2/23/2021) is:

Rodney Truscott
Penny Daugherty
Scott Bowers
Imogene Hunt's brother
Jean Green
Joyce Dye
Tom and Pat Kellam

Sandy Shelley
People in TX affected by the weather
People trying to get a COVID vaccine

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, Virginia White

Zoom Fellowship Time

We hold a weekly Zoom Fellowship Time every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Each week we end with a brief time of prayer.

If you're interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Rick (pastor@gettysburgumc.org) for a Zoom link and information.

HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

John Bowring, Ithamar Conkey

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me.
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
- from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.
- 5 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

John Bowring was born in Exeter, England in 1792. He was an outstanding linguist, and claimed to speak 100 languages. Many of his publications are translations of poetry from other languages into English. He was a Member of Parliament, active in social and economic reform in England, and served in diplomatic positions in China. Queen Victoria knighted him in 1854. Bowring died in 1872. Ithamar Conkey was born in Shutesbury, MA in 1815, and died in 1876. He was a singer, organist, and choral conductor who was best known as a church soloist, serving churches in Connecticut and New York.

The hymn was originally published in 1825 under the title *The Cross of Christ*. It is based on Galatians 6:14 (KJV). The tune was written for this text in 1849. Conkey named the tune *Rathbun* in honor of Mrs. Beriah Rathbun, who was the only choir member who showed up to sing in his choir one rainy Sunday morning. *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* is a meditation on the light and inspiration of the cross as it impacts every aspect of human life. It is number 295 in our hymnal.

The Upper Room

Copies of the March-April *Upper Room* are available in the church lobby for you to pick up. If you're not able to come to the church personally, we will mail one to you. Please call or email the church to request your copy (specify regular or large print).

We greatly appreciate your continued faithful donations to GUMC during this time of change and crisis. Your faithfulness has enabled us to continue to pay all of our expenses, and we are very grateful for your continued generosity.

“Sermon by Phone”

717-200-2956

Sermon by Phone enables you to hear the most recent GUMC sermon by making a simple phone call. Just call 717-200-2956 and you will hear Pastor Rick's sermon for the week. This sermon is always different from the Meditation included in this weekly mailing.

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