

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

June 2, 2021

Psalm 19

(NRSV)

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

- 1 *The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.*
- 2 *Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.*
- 3 *There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;*
- 4 *yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,*
- 5 *which comes out like a bridegroom from his
wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with
joy.*
- 6 *Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.*
- 7 *The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;*
- 8 *the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;*
- 9 *the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.*
- 10 *More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.*
- 11 *Moreover by them is your servant warned;*

- in keeping them there is great reward.*
- 12 *But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.*
- 13 *Keep back your servant also from the
insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.*
- 14 *Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

Meditation

Read 1 Kings 19:11-18; Esther 4:1-17

When I was growing up I had a friend who saw things that everyone else missed. He could spot a penny on the ground when no one else saw it (back then pennies were worth picking up), or he would see a rabbit in a thicket or a squirrel in a tree that no one else would notice. I'm not sure if he had a natural gift, or if he had worked to develop his powers of observation. In either case, he saw things that no one else could see.

Why do we miss God's presence? Even though God is everywhere, often we fail to see him. I think some people have a special gift of discernment—they are able to see God at work in ways that many of us don't. Some see a beautiful sunrise; they see the hand of the Artist. Some see a field of flowers; they see God's love and care. Some see random events; they see God's plan. Some see hardships and disasters; they see God's hand helping them to overcome.

Elijah had the gift of discerning God's presence. When God spoke to him on Mt. Horeb, he knew that God wasn't in the wind or the earthquake or the fire. But when he heard the "sound of sheer si-

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Open your eyes . . .

(Continued from page 1)

lence” (NRSV), he realized that it was the voice of God. He recognized God’s presence, listened, and obeyed.

Discerning God’s presence may not be a gift we naturally have, but it is something we can learn. When a friend of mine was in medical school, he was taught to observe things in his patients that the rest of us would miss. His observations led to more accurate diagnoses. He learned to see in a new and deeper way. In the same way, we can learn to see God more clearly.

We learn to expect God’s providence as we practice the presence of God. God watches over us as a Good Shepherd; we should not be surprised to experience his love. The expectation of God’s grace opens us to sense its presence in our lives. We probably won’t find something if we’re not seeking it.

We learn to ask God to open our eyes to see him, and our ears to hear him. God delights to reveal his love to us. His grace is able to sharpen our spiritual senses to see the reality of his presence. As the Spirit opens our eyes we shift our gaze from ourselves toward God.

We learn from the counsel and observations of others. We may not see God’s work until someone points it out to us. We’re informed by the way God works in scripture, and as our family and friends share how God is working in their lives.

We learn to walk more closely with God. The better we know God, the easier it is for us to sense the work of his Holy Spirit. We begin learn the patterns of God’s ways in the world. We come to realize that we’re usually not at the center of those patterns. We also learn that God loves to surprise us, break out of the patterns we expect, and work in new and different ways. In many ways we learn to see God more clearly.

Did you know that there’s a book in the Bible that never uses the word ‘God’? The book of Esther never mentions God, but we see God’s hand in it from beginning to end. God works through Esther, Mordecai, and others to preserve his people from the threat of destruction. The book of Esther challenges us to re-

member that God is at work behind the scenes of our lives, in ways we may not be able to name and may not even perceive at first.

One of my favorite quotations is from Elizabeth Barrett Browning (note the reference to Moses’ vision of God in the burning bush in Exodus 3). She wrote,

“Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.”

I pray we may learn to see the heaven that surrounds us, take off our shoes in awe, and worship God, rather than spending our lives sitting round plucking blackberries.



Prayer

Open our eyes, O Lord, to see your presence. Open our ears to hear your voice and our hearts to know your love. Open our minds to understand your ways in our lives, and grant us faith to trust you when you do things that are beyond our understanding.

We thank you, Lord, for your work in our world. Make us part of your plan to feed the hungry and house the homeless. Use us to bring comfort to those who mourn, and give hope to the hopeless. Empower us to participate in your work for peace with justice in our land. Help us to sense your presence within us and among us, and grant us the joy of bringing your love to the lives of others.

Lead us and guide us in your perfect will. Lift us up when we stumble and fall. Enable us to praise you with all that we are and in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

... to see God's presence.



WE ARE INVITING YOU!

*Rock Chapel
Hymn Sing*

Join us as we sing our hearts out to the Lord!

Sunday
June 6, 2021
6:30 pm
4730 Oxford Rd
York Springs, PA 17372

*This annual event will be held indoors. Masks are not required to enter. For further questions please contact York Springs United Methodist Church. 717.528.4374

Weekly Prayer Concerns

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

This week's list (as of 6/1/2021) is:

Rodney Truscott
Penny Daugherty
Scott Bowers
Imogene Hunt's brother
Florence Davis
Mary Fleming
Ben Fisher
Rev. Meredith Ball
Tim Richmond
Pat Kellam
Chuck and Rochelle Lutz
Judy Woolston
Sandy Speck

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

Shoes for Mission Central

The Missions Committee is collecting gently used shoes for donation to Mission Central. If you have shoes that you can donate, please place them in the box in the church lobby. Thank you for your generosity.

Twenty pairs of shoes have been taken to Mission Central so far. Thank you for your generosity!

Dear Friends,

I am collecting photos of Lois Mae for a future slideshow (when it is safe to celebrate her memorial service). Photos can be:

1. Delivered to GUMC in an envelope with my name (Sun. - Thu.) (Please put your name on the back of each photo.)
2. Sent by mail to
GUMC / Attn: Sue R.
30 W. High St.
Gettysburg, PA 17325
(Please put your name on the back of each photo.)
3. Photos on your phone or computer can be email to me at: sressler320@comcast.net.

Thank you so much!

Sue Ressler

HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil Frances Alexander; Traditional English Melody

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
the Lord God made them all.

1. Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings.

(Refrain)

2. The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning

that brightens up the sky.
(Refrain)

3. The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one.

(Refrain)

4. God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

(Refrain)

Cecil Frances (Humphries) Alexander was born in 1818 in Redcross, County Wicklow, England, and died in Ireland in 1895. Her husband, Rev. William Alexander, became the chief Anglican Bishop of Ireland. She traveled miles every day reaching out to the poor and the sick, and, along with her sister, founded a school for the deaf. Many of the 400+ hymns that she wrote were for children.

All Things Bright and Beautiful was one of several hymns Alexander wrote to help children understand the meaning of the *Apostles' Creed*. It was inspired by the phrase, "Maker of heaven and earth." The hymn was originally set to a tune written specifically for it in 1887. Today it is most often sung to the tune which is in our hymnal, entitled *Royal Oak*. *Royal Oak* has been traced to a song that celebrated the restoration of King Charles II to the throne of England in 1660. It was named after the legend that he hid in an oak tree to escape pursuit after losing a battle. *All Things Bright and Beautiful* describes the wonders of God's creation and reminds us that God made all things, and they were very good. (Gen. 1:31). It's found as number 147 in our hymnal.

Bulletins / Weekly Mailing

The worship bulletins for this week (June 6) are sponsored by Sandy Riley in memory of Jay Zimmerman.

Since we're not printing worship bulletins at present, the sponsorship will be applied to this week's mailing instead.

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.

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