

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

April 7, 2021

Psalm 99

(NRSV)

- 1 *The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the
earth quake!*
- 2 *The Lord is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.*
- 3 *Let them praise your great and awesome
name.
Holy is he!*
- 4 *Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.*
- 5 *Extol the Lord our God;
worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!*
- 6 *Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on
his name.
They cried to the Lord, and he answered
them.*
- 7 *He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees,
and the statutes that he gave them.*
- 8 *O Lord our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.*
- 9 *Extol the Lord our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the Lord our God is holy.*



Meditation

Read Luke 24:13-35

On the day of Jesus' resurrection, two of his disciples were journeying from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They did not yet know that Jesus had risen from the dead, and their hearts were filled with sorrow at his suffering and death upon the cross. As they traveled along the road, a Stranger walked up and joined them on their journey. They didn't realize that the Stranger was Jesus himself, risen from the grave.

When Jesus first comes and walks at our side, we often don't recognize him. Perhaps we have a sense that our lives have reached a dead end, and we don't know how to go on. Maybe we have a sense that there's something more to life than what we're experiencing—a longing for meaning and purpose. Perhaps we sense the loving presence of Christ, even when we're not yet sure what it is.

In each case, it's Jesus coming to walk by our side, to draw us to himself, to call us to follow him. He is the one who makes us spiritually hungry, so that we begin to search for the living bread that he alone can give.

As the two disciples continued their journey and their conversation, the Stranger opened the scriptures to them. He explained to them the truth about the Christ—that he must first suffer and die, and then rise from the dead. As they listened to the Stranger they found that their hearts burned within them. When they arrived in Emmaus, they invited

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Every day, . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the Stranger to eat with them. Then he took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and began to give it to them. At once their eyes were opened, and they recognized that the Stranger was really Jesus.

When the Stranger walks by our side, he first makes us spiritually hungry; but then he begins to show us how to satisfy our hunger. Perhaps he speaks to us through scripture or through the breaking of the bread in Holy Communion, as he did to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Perhaps he makes himself known to us through the life and words of someone who already knows him. Maybe he gives us a taste of God's overwhelming love for us, a love that accepts us as we are and forgives all of our sins.

At some point we recognize him, and he is no longer a stranger. Now we know him for who he is—Jesus, who died and rose for our sake, who himself is the spiritual bread that alone can satisfy our souls. And like the two on the road to Emmaus, we decide to believe in him, to accept the amazing truth that he rose from the dead after he died for us on the cross. We decide to live as people of the resurrection, no longer slaves to sin and death, hopelessness and despair. We decide to follow Jesus wherever he leads us.

For the road did not end in Emmaus. The two disciples journeyed on from there to tell the Eleven that Jesus had risen from the grave and appeared to them on the road. They journeyed on for the rest of their lives, Jesus (no longer a stranger) always at their side, sharing his love with others and telling them about the glory of his resurrection.

The journey never ends for us, either. We walk with Jesus for the rest of our lives. We love others as he loved us. We reach out to people in need and work for freedom and justice in the world. We tell them about Jesus' cross and resurrection, and how he has changed our lives. When we meet someone who is beginning to walk with the Stranger, unsure of who he might be, we help them to understand that the Stranger really is Jesus. As people of the resurrection, we enjoy the abundant life that Christ alone can give, and look forward to seeing him in glory.

May you walk with our risen Lord every day, rejoicing in his resurrection and sharing his love with others, until that day when you walk with him through the gates of heaven.



Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that you walk by our side every day. Grant us grace to recognize your presence, and to grow in our faith in you. Enable us to experience the depth of your love, so that we may share your love with others. Make us faithful witnesses to your presence in our lives.

Pour out your grace upon those who are in need of your loving care. May the hungry be fed, may the sick find healing and strength, may the mourning find comfort, and may those who despair find hope. Bless all people with your constant presence and love.

Guide us by your Holy Spirit as we walk by your side. Grant us vision to understand your ways in our lives, and grant us courage to go where you lead us; in your name we pray. Amen.

. . . walk with Jesus.

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.

"Celebration of Grace Sunday" for Adams County Prison Ministry

ACPM is a non-profit organization that offers a variety of ministries and programs to those incarcerated at the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex. Having established a working memorandum with Adams Prison Board, ACPM provides a full time Chaplain (Reverend Angel Perez) who helps serve and support ACACC staff, inmates and (pre COVID-19) oversaw nearly 100 volunteers who offered counseling, Bible studies and support to inmates.

ACPM is a ministry of "renewal, reconciliation and restoration" on behalf of and in collaboration with all the churches of Adams County. This truly is a ministry that belongs to all our Christian churches in the county. For this reason, *the ACPM Leadership is designating Sunday, April 11, 2021 as a "Celebration of Grace Sunday," celebrating God's love and mercy that is freely available to all.*

The primary emphasis of this campaign is that God loves and values every one of us and that His mercy in Christ is greater than all our sin. Adams County Churches are invited to observe this "Celebration of Grace Sunday" by setting aside time in their worship services on April 11th to pray specifically for those

incarcerated and to consider a special offering to support the ongoing ministry at the correctional complex.

The global COVID-19 pandemic of the past year has created financial hardship for many businesses and nonprofits, ACPM included. Therefore, ACPM has established a \$20,000.00 financial goal for "Celebration of Grace" Sunday.

We will join in "Celebration of Grace Sunday" on April 11 at GUMC. Gifts for ACPM may be placed in our offering plates, forwarded directly to ACPM, P.O. Box 4122, Gettysburg, Pa 17325, or given securely online at the ACPM website: www.AdamsCPM.org.

Weekly Prayer Concerns

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

This week's list (as of 4/6/2021) is:

Rodney Truscott
Penny Daugherty
Scott Bowers
Imogene Hunt's brother
Joyce Dye
Ben Fisher
Carolyn Dillman
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

HYMN

In the Garden

C. Austin Miles

1. I come to the garden alone
while the dew is still on the roses,
and the voice I hear falling on my ear
the Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.

2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice,
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
and the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing. (Refrain)

3. I'd stay in the garden with him
though the night around me be falling,
but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe
his voice to me is calling. (Refrain)

C. Austin Miles was born on January 7, 1868 in Lakehurst, NJ. He was educated at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and became a pharmacist, but later left pharmacy to become a full-time music publisher and editor with the Hall-Mack Publishing Company of Philadelphia. A popular music director for camp meetings, conventions, and churches, he wrote a number of gospel hymns and songs. He died in 1946.

According to his own testimony, Miles was inspired to write *In the Garden* by a dream he had after reading John 20. The hymn imagines the dialogue that occurred between Jesus and Mary when she encountered her risen Lord in the garden on the day of resurrection (John 20:11-18). Miles wrote the tune at the same time as he wrote the words. It was first published in 1912, and is no. 314 in our hymnal.

Bountiful Blessings

As the weather improves, our numbers for Bountiful Blessings are picking up as well. Also there have been changes in the supply of delivered items from the headquarters in Mechanicsburg. We've been getting supplies for about 20 for twice a month but we have been having 24-28 guests. If you wish to donate items, we could use the following (please place them in the box outside of the office): dish detergent, shampoo, tooth paste, cleaners and laundry detergent (\$1 items at Dollar Tree are fine). THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.



Reminder

Copies of this mailing are posted weekly on the church website. They are usually up no later than Saturday afternoon. If you haven't received your weekly mailing due to postal delays, please check our website.

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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