

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

August 26, 2020

Psalms 130

A Song of Ascents.

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.*
- 2 Lord, hear my voice!*
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
- 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,*
Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But there is forgiveness with you,*
so that you may be revered.
- 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,*
and in his word I hope;
- 6 my soul waits for the Lord*
more than those who watch for the
morning,
more than those who watch for the
morning.
- 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!*
For with the Lord there is steadfast
love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
- 8 It is he who will redeem Israel*
from all its iniquities.



Meditation

Read Acts 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 13:13

If you've ever read much of the Bible, you may have noticed that many people in Bible times had strange names (at least strange to us). Some Biblical names are still with us today, such as John, James, David, Sarah, Deborah, and Ruth. Other names are foreign to us, such as Junia, Tryphena, Jehoshaphat, Athalia, and Bildad. Then again, Bible folk would probably think that some of the names we use today are strange! My favorite strange Biblical name is found in Isaiah 8: Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. Imagine going through life with a name like that!

Biblical names may carry special meanings. Jehoshaphat, for example, means "God has judged". Immanuel means "God with us"; Jesus means "the Lord saves". What about Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz? It means "quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil". God told Isaiah to give that name to his son as a sign of coming judgment on Damascus and Samaria. Even if our own name doesn't have a prophetic meaning, it is the core of our identity. It defines who we are. When we think of someone's name we can picture their appearance, hear their voice in our mind, and recall their character.

Even though we have different individual names, we all share one name in common—the name of Christ. To be a Christian is to own the name of Christ. He is the core of our identity. He defines who we are. We don't share a common appearance or dress, but as bearers of Christ's name we are called to common beliefs, common character, and common behaviors.

Jesus' followers were first called Christians in Antioch. The word means "followers of Christ". The term probably originated as a form of scorn or ridicule, but was soon adopted by Christians themselves in honor of Christ.

What does it mean to bear the name of Christ, to be

(Continued on page 2)

Where Jesus leads me . . .

(Continued from page 1)

a Christian? Books have been written to answer that question, but for now we'll only focus on three words: faith, hope, and love. (1 Cor. 13:13)

A Christian is a person of faith. The essential content of our faith is found in the early creeds, such as the Apostles' Creed. Faith is more than intellectual belief, however. It is trusting God through Christ in all things. Faith is knowing that our sins are forgiven through the cross of Christ solely by his grace, and knowing that we have eternal life in him. It's knowing that he's the Good Shepherd who guides us through the darkest valley. It's entrusting our lives into his care. It's making Jesus the very core of our identity and allowing him to define who we are, rather than engaging in vain self-definition.

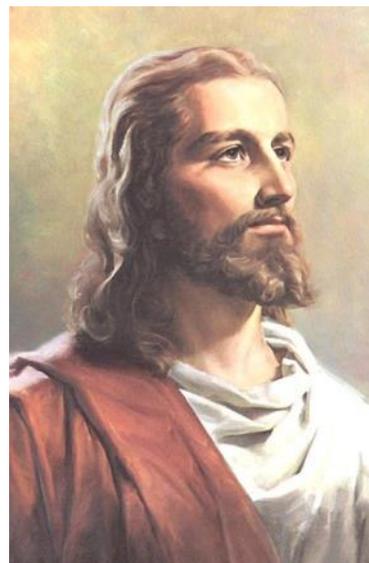
A Christian is a person of hope. Our faith and our lives are oriented toward the future, not the past. We work for a better world for all people, for freedom and justice for all, for an end to discrimination, hunger, homelessness, need, and anything else that demeans or diminishes our fellow human beings. We believe that the future belongs to God, and we live for the ultimate triumph of God's love. Hope is especially needful in these times.

A Christian is a person of love. Christians love the Lord their God with all their being, and love their neighbors as themselves. Christians understand that love is not defined by feelings and desires, but rather by God's character and Christ's work on the cross. "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10) A Christian's love is expressed in action—in both words and deeds. A Christian's love embodies the selfless spirit of the cross. As Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." (Mark 8:34b-35).

We bear the name of Christ. Imagine going through life with a name like that! Imagine going through

life strong in faith, certain in hope, and generous in love! It is a great joy, a great privilege, and a great responsibility. May the Holy Spirit enable us to live up to Jesus' name in all that we do and all that we are.

—Pastor Rick



Prayer

Lord God, you have set the path of faith, hope, and love before us. You have given us the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Fill us daily with your Holy Spirit, that we may be worthy of the name of Christ and bear witness to him through our lives. Enable us to sow seeds of faith, hope, and love in our world.

In your mercy heal the sick, comfort the sorrowful, inspire the hopeless, and protect us all. Guide our nation and our world through the difficult days ahead. We pray especially for students as they return to the classroom, and for all others involved with our schools and colleges.

Help us faithfully to bear the name of Christian, that we may bring Christ Jesus honor and glory in all things. This we pray in his name. Amen.

. . . I will follow.

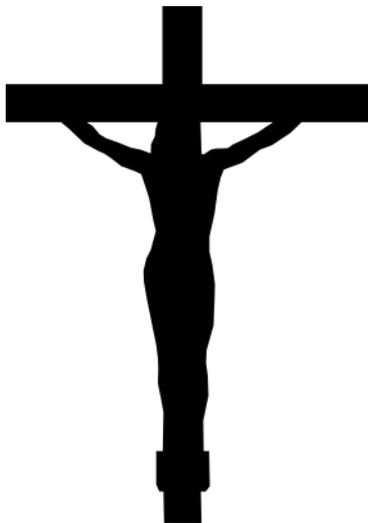
Mission Central

Thank you to everyone who provided items for the Mission Central School Kits. Your gifts will be a big help to children in need as they start back to school in the next few weeks (in whatever form that takes in their school districts). Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain provides an opportunity to pray for people immediately during their time of greatest need. Prayer requests are first shared with Judy Woolston. Requests are then passed on down the Prayer Chain by phone.

We are looking for some new participants for our Prayer Chain. We could use three or four new members, and more are always welcome. If you are interested, please call Judy Woolston at (717) 337-3630.



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.

Weekly Prayer Concerns

Every week a list of recent prayer concerns will be included with this mailing. To add someone to the list, please call the church office.

This week's list (as of 8/25/2020) is:

Genny Reaver—back home again
Barbara Evans—recovering at home
Rodney Truscott
Cathy Libera—recovering at home
Sandy Speck—will have surgery on Sept. 1

Members in Assisted Living / Skilled Care Homes:

Edith Bulman (SpiriTust Lutheran, York);
Kermit Carlson (Paramount, Fayetteville);
Shirley Hammond (Morning Glory, Littlestown);
Missy Legay (Moul Home, York);
Bob Reed (Lorien, Mt Airy, MD);
Peggy Reynolds (Quincy-cottage), Waynesboro);
Gloria Swingler (Country Meadows-apartment), Mechanicsburg

Members with Limited Mobility:

Butch Carter, Betty Cook, Joyce Dye, Pearl Keckler, Raymond Koenig, Chuck Lutz, Ruth Anna Polley, Wilma Schaible, Betty Schulteis, June Spencer, Virginia White

Congratulations!

The rosebud on the piano at this week's worship service is in honor of the birth of Nina Meredith Toussaint, who entered this world on August 20, 2020. She is the daughter of Adam and Kate Toussaint and the granddaughter of Cindy and Andy Toussaint. May God surround her with his love and his blessing.

HYMN

Shout to the Lord

Darlene Zschech

Verse

My Jesus my Savior
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy
At the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You
Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You

Chorus

Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing
Power and majesty
Praise to the King

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Darlene Zschech was born in Brisbane, Australia, in 1965. She was involved in music from an early age, was active in the praise team of Hillsong Church in Sydney, Australia, and eventually became Worship Pastor of that congregation (from 1996 through 2007). Hillsong has been the source of a number of contemporary Christian worship songs. She has issued a number of albums of Christian music, some with Hillsong and some as solo albums. She is married with three children.

Shout to the Lord was written in 1993 during a time of personal struggle. It was nominated for the 1998 Dove Song of the Year award. The intent of the song is to focus our hearts and spirits on Christ, and on him alone, through praise and worship. The words remind us of Christ's majesty and power as well as his comfort and strength. It may be found as number 2074 in *The Faith We Sing* (chorus only).

Civil War Service

On August 30, at 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hale will lead us in a Civil War Service. She will also lead a Civil War Service at the Amphitheater on September 6 at 8:00 a.m., Rev. Hale serves Canton United Methodist Church in Canton, NY.

Holy Communion

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion at our online and in-person services next Sunday, September 6.

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