

# Gettysburg United Methodist Church

February 3, 2021

## *Psalm 107:1-9, 33-43* (NRSV)

*0 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.*  
*2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,  
those he redeemed from trouble*  
*3 and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.*  
*4 Some wandered in desert wastes,  
finding no way to an inhabited town;*  
*5 hungry and thirsty,  
their soul fainted within them.*  
*6 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress;*  
*7 he led them by a straight way,  
until they reached an inhabited town.*  
*8 Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.*  
*9 For he satisfies the thirsty,  
and the hungry he fills with good things.*  
*33 He turns rivers into a desert,  
springs of water into thirsty ground,*  
*34 a fruitful land into a salty waste,  
because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.*  
*35 He turns a desert into pools of water,  
a parched land into springs of water.*  
*36 And there he lets the hungry live,  
and they establish a town to live in;*  
*37 they sow fields, and plant vineyards,  
and get a fruitful yield.*  
*38 By his blessing they multiply greatly,  
and he does not let their cattle decrease.*  
*39 When they are diminished and brought low  
through oppression, trouble, and sorrow,*

*40 he pours contempt on princes  
and makes them wander in trackless wastes;*  
*41 but he raises up the needy out of distress,  
and makes their families like flocks.*  
*42 The upright see it and are glad;  
and all wickedness stops its mouth.*  
*43 Let those who are wise give heed to these  
things,  
and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.*



## Meditation

Read Mark 8:34-38

We all know what a GPS is. It's a device that can determine our position anywhere in the country (or in the world, for that matter), and calculate the best way to get from where we are to where we want to go. It usually works pretty well. But sometimes it makes a mistake. And sometimes we make a mistake as we try to follow its directions. We take a wrong turn, we miss an exit, we think we know better than the GPS and get ourselves lost. When that happens, the device is very patient. It just says that it's "recalculating", and resets our route accordingly.

All of us who follow Jesus are on a journey. We share the same destination—Christ himself and the place he's prepared for us in heaven—but God has given each one of us a different path to take. Of course, unlike a GPS, God doesn't make any mistakes when he plans our route. But we do. Some-

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# Where he leads me

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*(Continued from page 1)*

times we take a wrong turn, sometimes we miss an exit, sometimes we think we know better than God and get ourselves lost. Then it's time for us to recalculate and get back on the path God has set before us.

From time to time we need to reconsider our lives, the path we're taking, and our walk with the Lord. We need to check to see if we're really following where Jesus is leading us, or if we've taken a wrong turn somewhere and wandered off the path. We need to take time to re-examine our lives to see if we are truly living in the joy of Jesus Christ.

Here's quick check-up (loosely based on John Wesley's General Rules) to see if we're on the right path or not:

First, are we avoiding dead ends and wrong turns (the sin and evil of this world)? Do we disobey God? Are we jealous or hateful toward others? Do we live in pride (thinking we know better than God) instead of humility (submitting to God's will)? Do we love something else (such as money or possessions or sports) more than we love God? Have we become apathetic or indifferent in matters of faith?

Second, are we taking the best and most enjoyable route (doing good to others as God provides opportunity)? Do we love others as we love ourselves? Do we try to understand others by putting ourselves in their place? Do we accept God's plan and purpose for our lives? Do we seek out opportunities (such as reaching out to others in need) to demonstrate our love for others? Do we see God at work in our lives? At the end of each day, can God say to us "Well done, good and faithful servant"?

Third, do we make sure we're not running out of gas (do we seek opportunities to experience the grace of God)? Do we join weekly in worshiping the Lord, and receive Communion on a regular basis? Do we spend time daily in prayer and Bible reading? Do we seek out opportunities (such as Bible Study or listening to Christian music) to grow closer to God? Are we

spending time in supportive fellowship with other Christians?

When we do stray from the path, God is always patient with us. He loves and forgives us no matter what. When he leads us back to himself, we never hear that annoying voice that says "recalculating"! We just experience his grace. God's grace shows us when we stray, and his grace gently seeks to bring us back to himself, back to the goodness of the journey he has set before us.

Take some time to check your spiritual GPS. Is life joyful and exciting, or bland and boring? Are you following the path that the Lord has set before you, or do you need to do some "recalculating"? May God's blessings be with you daily as you follow Jesus.

— Pastor Rick

## Prayer

Most loving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came to show us the way to live an abundant life. Indeed he is the way and the truth and the life. Make us thirsty for his presence, and grant us grace faithfully to follow wherever he leads us.

May we grow to be more like Jesus, Lord, as we grow closer to you. Teach us to love you as he did, with all of our heart and mind and strength. Help us to love others as he did, who was a servant to all even to the point of death on the cross. May our lives always reflect his light.

Lead us through each day with the blessings of your presence. May we work and pray to bring healing to the sick, comfort to the grieving, and sustenance to those in need. Make us your presence in our world and in our community. Bless our nation and all who serve.

Lead us daily in your will, that in all things we may give you praise and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# I will follow

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## Ash Wednesday Service

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Facebook on February 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. You may prepare your own ashes for use at home, or you may pick up a small Ziploc bag of ashes in the church lobby after February 10. (Office hours are M, W, & Th from 8:30 to 3:30.) If you aren't able to pick them up at the church, please call the church office at (717) 334-3032 and a volunteer will deliver them to you.

## In-Person Worship Suspension Continues

Due to the continued high COVID rates in Adams County, Church Council voted unanimously to continue the suspension of in-person worship through the end of February. Church Council will re-evaluate this decision on February 22.

Online Worship Services continue to be available weekly on Facebook.

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

### “Sermon by Phone”

717-200-2956

Thanks to a special donation, we have enrolled in Sermon by Phone. This service 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. We hope that this service will be especially helpful for those who are unable to access the weekly service via Facebook. Any comments or feedback you have would be appreciated.

## Weekly Prayer Concerns

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

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

Joyce Dye  
Rodney Truscott  
Penny Daugherty  
Scott Bowers  
Imogene Hunt's brother  
Susan Pester  
Jean Green  
Family and friends of Bob Reed  
Family and friends of Don Fortnum  
Family and friends of Rev. Jay Zimmerman;

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

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## 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](mailto:pastor@gettysburgumc.org)) for a Zoom link and information.

# HYMN

## *Because He Lives*

*Gloria and William J. Gaither*

### Verse 1

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He bled and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove  
My Savior lives.

### Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living  
Just because He lives.

### Verse 2

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;

But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days  
Because He lives

### Verse 3

And then one day I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory  
And I'll know He reigns.

CCLI Song # 16880

Gloria Gaither | William J. Gaither

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Bill Gaither was born in 1936 in Alexandria, Indiana. A 1959 graduate of Anderson College, he taught English for a few years before pursuing a full-time career in Gospel and Contemporary Christian music. He married the former Gloria Sickal in 1962. She was born in 1942 in Michigan, graduated from Anderson College, and taught high school French following graduation. The Gaithers have written over 700 Christian songs, and have won numerous Dove and Grammy awards for their music. They own the Gaither Music Company, and are well known for their Homecoming tours and TV programs.

*Because He Lives* was written in 1971 during a time of social and political turmoil. The authors were bringing their third child into the world, and feared what their child might face in those uncertain times. God provided the assurance of the Lordship of the risen Christ, and the firm knowledge that they need not fear for their child's future. Because Jesus lives, the future belongs to him. This hymn was one of the five most often requested for inclusion in our current hymnal, where it may be found as number 364.

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.

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