

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

February 17, 2021

Psalm 62

(NRSV)

To the leader: according to Jeduthun.

A Psalm of David.

- 1 *For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.*
- 2 *He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.*
- 3 *How long will you assail a person,
will you batter your victim, all of you,
as you would a leaning wall, a tottering
fence?*
- 4 *Their only plan is to bring down a person of
prominence.
They take pleasure in falsehood;
they bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse. Selah*
- 5 *For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.*
- 6 *He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.*
- 7 *On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.*
- 8 *Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. Selah*
- 9 *Those of low estate are but a breath,
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.*
- 10 *Put no confidence in extortion,
and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on
them.*

11 *Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
12 and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.
For you repay to all
according to their work.*



Meditation

Read John 4:4-14; 7:37-39

Water is essential to life. Without water to drink, we die. Without rain to grow crops, civilizations die. Without water we find ourselves in a desert where little or nothing can live.

Living water is essential to our spiritual life. Without the water of God's Holy Spirit, we die inwardly. We find ourselves in a spiritual desert. Our souls dry up, we lose our enthusiasm and joy for life, our relationships fall apart, there's no longer any purpose or meaning for us in life, we forget who we are and why we are.

In John 4, Jesus offers living water to someone whose life is a spiritual desert, who thirsts for what

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Let rivers of living water

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only Jesus can give. The living water he offers is the Holy Spirit (Jn. 7:37-39), which transforms our lives from deserts into places of springs and lush vegetation (Ps. 84:5-7; 107:35-38). We receive the fresh water of the Spirit when we place our faith in Christ.

The living water of the Spirit transforms our relationships. The Spirit renews our relationship with God by showing us the sin that separates us from God, and leading us to faith in Christ. By faith in Christ our sin is forgiven, and our relationship with God is restored. We are reconciled with God, experience his love, and receive the abundant life that only he can give as we believe in Jesus. The Spirit enables us to renew our relationships with others as he teaches us to love as Jesus loves and forgive as Jesus forgives. The Spirit's wisdom helps us to walk in someone else's shoes. The Spirit leads us to restored relationships with family and friends, and to new relationships with others.

The Spirit refreshes our sense of identity as beloved children of God. "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." (Rom. 8:16) We know that we are made in God's image, and that we are God's children created to live in a loving relationship with him. Our sense of identity is grounded in God's unfailing love and grace.

The Spirit energizes our purpose in life. We have experienced God's love for us, and it's God's purpose for us love others in the same way. We learn to accept others in spite of differences. We're motivated to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and house the homeless. We have a passion to make a difference in society as we work to eliminate root causes of racism, oppression, and suffering. We invite others to taste living water for themselves, for they need Jesus to give them his Spirit as much as we do.

Joy comes from the indwelling of the Spirit. We can feel God's presence and love. He lifts our spirits in ways that we don't always understand. God is always doing something new in our lives and in the world, and it's exciting to be part of God's plan. We don't have to know what to expect; we only trust that God is in charge.

We can't always rely on feelings, however. We don't always sense God's presence, we don't always see his hand at work. Yet by faith we know that he is there. Even those who have mountaintop experiences spend most of their time in the valley. Yet we know that God is always at work, always present.

Lent is a time to renew our walk with God—to plunge once again into the living water that only Jesus can give. It's a time to examine and renew relationships that we may be taking for granted (especially our relationship with God). It's a time to remember who we are, and refresh our passion for life. It's a time to rediscover our joy in Christ. Engage in those spiritual practices that speak to your soul, such as prayer, study, fasting, service, and worship. Ask Jesus to quench your spiritual thirst with the living water of the Holy Spirit. Just as spring brings new life to the earth, so Lent can bring new life to our souls. May the living water that Jesus gives become a spring of water welling up within us to eternal life.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, our souls are thirsty for your presence. Give us a fresh draft of the living water of your Holy Spirit. Renew our relationship with you, and deepen our relationships with others. Help us to live as your beloved children. Enable us to fulfill our mission to share your love and make new disciples for you. May we be wellsprings of living water for all people that we meet.

Pour out the healing power of your Spirit on those who are sick, comfort those who grieve. By your grace, meet the needs of all who turn to you in time of trouble. Guide and direct our communities and our nation, especially in these times of uncertainty and turmoil.

Lord God, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit, that we may know your joy beyond measure, share your love without reserve, and praise you in all things; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

flow from within 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



Mission Can Offering

Our Mission Can Offering this month is designated for the Adams County Prison Ministry. Please mail your donations to the church office marked "February Mission Can" or "Adams Co. Prison Ministry" if you wish to donate.

Weekly Prayer Concerns

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

This week's list (as of 2/16/2021) is:

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

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Isaac Watts; Lowell Mason

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts has been called the “father of English hymnody”. The son of an English schoolmaster, he was born in Southampton, England, in 1674, and was educated at the Academy of Rev. Thomas Rowe at Stoke Newington. He served as pastor of Mark Lane Independent Chapel in London until he was forced into semi-retirement by ill health. He pioneered writing hymns based on personal faith and experience rather than strictly paraphrasing psalms. He published over 800 hymns, and died in 1748. Lowell Mason (1792-1872) was born in Medford, MA. He was well-known as a composer, hymnologist, church musician, conductor, and music educator. Mason was a major influence on the development of American hymnody, and was a pioneer in public school music education.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross was published in 1707. Originally intended as a Communion hymn, it is appropriate for any Sunday of the year, especially during Lent. The tune was published in 1825. Mason indicated that it was inspired in part by Gregorian Chant. Focusing on the love that led Christ to the cross, the hymn challenges us to respond by devoting our entire lives to his service. It is found as no. 298 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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