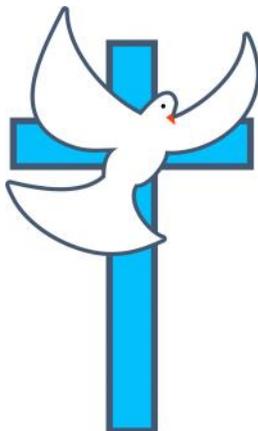


Gettysburg United Methodist Church

July 8, 2020

Psalm 1

*Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the
wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and
night.
3 They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives
away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the
judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the
righteous;
6 for the Lord watches over the way of the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.*



Meditation

Read Jeremiah 17:5-10.

It's been a warm week in Gettysburg. Even though this is being written on Monday, the forecast for the week projects a series of days over 90 degrees, with our typical high humidity. When I'm out on a hot day like this, I try to form a mental image of a beautiful shade tree, perhaps a maple or an oak. Just thinking about sitting down under the cool shade of a spreading tree makes me feel cooler and makes the heat more tolerable.

In Jeremiah 17 (and in Psalm 1) we're told that those who trust in the Lord are like a tree planted by a stream of water. When drought comes and water is scarce, when things become difficult, that tree will still have green leaves and will still bear much fruit.

We live in desert times. We not only live in times of threat and uncertainty due to COVID-19; we also live in times in which there is a diminishing sense of meaning and purpose in life. There is no common vision, there is no common ethic or sense of justice, there is increasing division with decreasing hope for unity. In desert times it's good to be a tree with deep

(Continued on page 2)

Grow your roots deep . . .

(Continued from page 1)

roots, planted by a flowing stream, bearing much fruit.

If we trust in the Lord, our roots are in him. Those roots grow deeper every year as we worship and praise him, as we study his word, as we partake of Holy Communion, as we fellowship with one another, as we fast and pray, as we allow ourselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and as we do all the many things that deepen our faith. A tree with deep roots cannot be shaken. A tree with deep roots will never be thirsty.



If we trust in the Lord, we are planted by a stream of living water. That living water is Christ himself. Jesus is our salvation. He opens the door to our relationship with God through the forgiveness of sin. He proves God's love for us with his death on the cross. He causes us to live with hope and expectation as we rejoice in the power of his resurrection. He gives us purpose and meaning as he calls us to love God and to love others. Jesus is the living water that satisfies the thirst of our souls. He is a well that never runs dry.

If we trust in the Lord, we are a blessing to others. A tree provides shade and comfort for people and animals on a hot, dry day. We provide shade and

comfort for those are with us on this journey through the desert. We uplift them in prayer and surround them with love. By God's grace we meet their physical and spiritual needs, and lead them to living water. By God's grace we work for peace with justice in the world, and for an end to these desert times.

If we trust in the Lord, we bear much fruit. Fruit gives life and joy to all who eat it. We bear the fruit of changed lives as we lead others to the living water of Christ. We bear the fruit of a changed world as we transform society to reflect the love and justice of God.

On a desert day, we seek the cooling comfort of a shade tree. In desert times, we seek to be a tree rooted deeply by streams of living water, a tree that brings comfort and life to all who shelter under its branches. May the Holy Spirit strengthen us as we develop strong, deep roots in Christ, and empower us to bless others with the fruit of love and eternal life.

Pastor Rick

Prayer

Lord God, let me be like a tree planted by living water. Give me roots that grow deeply into your grace, and branches that shelter all who seek your peace. Enable me to bear much fruit for your kingdom.

Keep us safe during this time of testing and trouble. Heal our nation and our world of the coronavirus and the plagues of racism and injustice. Bless our families and our friends with your mercy and grace. Unite us in the wholeness of your Holy Spirit.

Lord God, you are the source of our being and the light of our hope. May we praise and worship you all of our days as we seek to love others in your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

. . . deep into Christ.

Three Things We Pray

Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given us; for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us. O most merciful Redeemer, friend, and brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, for thy own sake. Amen.

—Richard of Chichester, 13th Century



Worship Notes

Holy Communion for July will be celebrated on July 12. We will use prepackaged individual containers which include both a communion wafer and grape juice. Online Communion will also be celebrated on July 12. Please have some bread and grape juice ready if you are worshipping with us online.

Pre-service music begins Sundays at 10:00 a.m., one-half hour before the service begins. You are welcome to arrive any time before the service officially begins at 10:30 to be inspired by the music.



Crisis Hotlines and Helplines

During these trying times, it's good to be aware of some of the positive resources available in our community. Many people are under extraordinary stress because of the current situation. Please feel free to share this information with others as you feel appropriate.

CONTACT Helpline: (800) 932-4616

Wellspan Behavioral Health Helpline (Philhaven):
(800) 932-0359

TrueNorth Crisis Line: (866) 325-0339

Substance Abuse Hotline: (800) 662-4357

Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233

Adams-Hanover Crisis Information Referral Hotline:
(717) 632-4900

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Reginald Heber, John B. Dykes

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before
thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide
thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not
see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and
sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Reginald Heber was born in Malpas, Shropshire, England, in 1783. Following graduation from Oxford, he served as Rector of the parish of Hodnett, Shropshire. He wrote a number of hymns during his service there from 1807 to 1823. He was appointed as Bishop of Calcutta, India, in 1823, and served there until his death in 1826. John B. Dykes was born in England in 1823. He graduated from Cambridge and served as a priest in the Church of England. He composed 300 hymn tunes as well as anthems and part-songs. He died in England in 1876.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty was written for Trinity Sunday and is based in part on Revelation 4:6-11. It is not uncommon to find it used on Communion Sundays, since it was recommended as part of the Communion service in the 1935 *Methodist Hymnal*. The tune was written in 1861 and fits the text perfectly. It may be found as number 64 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

Worship Services

Our regular Sunday Worship Services have resumed at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Guidelines are available on our website. Each person and family should prayerfully make their own decision about attending at this time. We support and respect whatever choice you make.

Sunday worship video services are uploaded to our GUMC Facebook page every week in time for Sunday morning. You don't have to be a member of Facebook to view them. If you have any trouble watching our services, feel free to call Larry Speer at 717 642-6123 (H) or 717 387-3577 (M).

Sunday School has not yet reopened.

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.

Gettysburg United Methodist Church
30 West High Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325
www.gettysburgumc.org

717 334-3032
gettysburgumc@gmail.com