

# Gettysburg United Methodist Church

June 3, 2020

## Psalm 34:1-18

*Of David, when he feigned madness before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.*

- 1 *I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*
- 2 *My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and be glad.*
- 3 *O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.*
- 4 *I sought the Lord, and he answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.*
- 5 *Look to him, and be radiant;  
so your faces shall never be ashamed.*
- 6 *This poor soul cried, and was heard by  
the Lord,  
and was saved from every trouble.*
- 7 *The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers  
them.*
- 8 *O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.*
- 9 *O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,  
for those who fear him have no want.*
- 10 *The young lions suffer want and hunger,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good  
thing.*
- 11 *Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.*

- 12 *Which of you desires life,  
and covets many days to enjoy good?*
- 13 *Keep your tongue from evil,  
and your lips from speaking deceit.*
- 14 *Depart from evil, and do good;  
seek peace, and pursue it.*
- 15 *The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.*
- 16 *The face of the Lord is against evildoers,  
to cut off the remembrance of them from the  
earth.*
- 17 *When the righteous cry for help,  
the Lord hears,  
and rescues them from all their troubles.*
- 18 *The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,  
and saves the crushed in spirit.*



## Meditation

Read Matthew 26:17-30.

This week we'll be doing something new in our online worship services—Holy Communion. It may feel strange and different to celebrate Communion in our own homes rather than physically together as the Body of Christ. But I think the grace of God is powerful enough to overcome barriers of space and time, and I believe the Holy Spirit is always ready to lead us into new territory.

Although there is much more to Communion than our minds can comprehend, it's good from time to time to think about the Sacrament and its meaning for us. Contemplating the Eucharist can deepen our faith, and make our experience of Communion even

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## Online Communion

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our online Facebook Service this week (June 7). Please have bread and grape juice available so that you can join in from home. You may participate by taking the bread and cup separately or by intinction.

# Do this . . .

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more profound.

Communion is a sign of God's love for us. We remember Jesus' Last Supper and his death on the cross. We remember that his body was broken and his blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sin. Through his sacrificial death we know the full depth of God's love for us and are reconciled with God forever. Although Jesus says "do this in remembrance of me", Communion is more than a mere act of memory. When Jesus takes the bread, he says "this is my body broken for you." When he takes the cup, he says "this is my blood shed for you". He doesn't call it a symbol or remembrance. Christ is spiritually present in the Sacrament. Augustine said that a sacrament is "a visible sign of invisible grace." When we eat the bread and drink the cup, we experience the grace of God in a uniquely powerful way. We participate in the body and blood of Christ (1 Cor.10:16).

Communion focuses on more than Jesus' death. In 1 Cor. 11:26 we're told that whenever we celebrate the Sacrament we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. Communion celebrates Jesus' resurrection and the new life we have in him, and looks forward to that day when he returns in glory. It's about his death on the cross to be sure, but it's also about the abundant and eternal life we have in Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life (Jn. 11:25-26). We recognize his living presence in the bread and the cup, and rejoice in his ultimate victory over the evil and darkness of this world. Jesus truly is the "bread of life", the "bread from heaven" (Jn. 6:32-35).

Communion strengthens us to work for peace with justice in the world. All are welcome at the Lord's table as equals—none is turned away. The first will be last, and the last will be first. We remember Jesus' love for all, especially the poor and the outcast, and his charge to us to work for authentic peace with justice in our world. We are called to be like the host in Jesus' parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24), who invited the poor, the crippled,

the blind, and the lame.

Communion connects us with God's work and God's people throughout the ages. We are present with Abram (and Sarai) when they share bread and wine with Melchizedek (Gen. 14:17-20). We are there at the Passover Meal, when God frees his people from slavery and the angel of death passes over homes that are marked with the blood of the lamb (Ex. 12). We are present in Psalm 23 when he prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies. We join in the feast of God's blessing in Isaiah 25:1-8. Along with the disciples who met the risen Christ on the



road to Emmaus, we recognize him in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:13-35), and look forward to his final victory when we celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in heaven (Rev. 19:6-9).

Communion proclaims our unity in Christ. Because there is one loaf we, though many, are one body (1 Cor. 10:17). When we gather at the Lord's table we celebrate our unity in Christ as the Holy Spirit makes us one. Our unity may not be evident as we partake of online Communion in our own homes, but the Spirit unites us through the Sacrament regardless of our physical separation. The Spirit is not limited by time or space, and it is the Spirit who makes us one

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# . . . in remembrance of me.

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in Christ.

There is much more to Communion than we can ever comprehend. The experience of God's grace in the Sacrament touches more than just our minds—it refreshes our hearts and our souls to the very depths of our being.

—Pastor Rick



## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, may we experience your grace every day as we remember your love at the cross and live the abundant life of your resurrection. Teach us to love others as you have loved us, that they may also experience your amazing grace.

We pray for our troubled nation this week. We pray for an end to racism, violence, injustice and oppression wherever they may be found. We pray for peace and healing in our land. We seek forgiveness for those times we have not loved others as ourselves, and have not stood up for your righteousness and justice. Grant us courage and wisdom to live out our highest ideals of liberty and justice for all.

May we truly be your presence in this world, that your light may dwell in our hearts in abundance, and through us conquer all the evil and darkness of human hearts, and of this world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Roof Update

We are very thankful to announce that repairs were begun on our church roof this week! Workers started early Monday morning to replace all of the flat roof on the church, and have been hard at work ever since. We are so thankful that the project has been fully funded through your generosity during the past year and a half.

## Worship Plans

As we move toward the “Green Zone” we hope to resume regular worship services as soon as we may safely do so.

Worship will be somewhat different than it was before the pandemic. Our Worship Committee is working on plans to adjust to the new situation. We will practice social distancing and will expect everyone to wear a mask during the service. Other plans for safe and meaningful worship are also being developed and will be communicated in our weekly mailing.

You will be notified through this weekly newsletter and also via our phone tree when regular worship services resume.

## 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

## *God of Grace and God of Glory*

*Harry Emerson Fosdick, John Hughes*

God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story,  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

The Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969) was one of the best-known pastors of his generation. He served several churches in the New York City area, and taught homiletics for a number of years at Union Theological Seminary. He was the pastor of the Riverside Church in New York from its founding in 1930 until 1946. A strong proponent of the social gospel, he was a major influence in mainline Protestantism. John Hughes (1873-1932) spent his life in Wales. He worked as a clerk for the Great Western Colliery and composed many anthems and hymn tunes.

The text of *God of Grace and God of Glory* was written as the processional hymn for the first worship service in Riverside Church in 1930. It was originally intended that it be sung to the same tune as *Angels from the Realms of Glory*. The text was first matched with its current tune (*Cwm Rhondda*) in the 1935 *Methodist Hymnal*. *Cwm Rhondda* was written in 1907 for use in song gatherings in Wales, and was first published in the *Salvation Army Tune Book* in 1931. The hymn casts a vision of a just and loving society, and seeks God's wisdom and courage as we work for his kingdom to come on earth. It may be found as No. 577 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

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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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Sunday worship video services are uploaded to our GUMC Facebook page every week. 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).

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