

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

June 9, 2021

Psalm 23

(NRSV)

A Psalm of David.

- 1 *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*
- 2 *He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;*
- 3 *he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.*
- 4 *Even though I walk through the darkest
valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.*
- 5 *You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*
- 6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.*



Meditation

Read Mark 10:13-16

Have you ever heard the saying, “Children should be seen and not heard”? I heard it a lot more often when I was growing up than I do now! (I wonder why?) It was a way of saying that children have their place, and they should keep it. But it could also be a way of saying that children really don’t matter, that they should be silent because their ideas aren’t any good, that only adults count as real people.

That may have been what the disciples thought when they tried to prevent the little children from coming to Jesus in Mark 10:13-16. In those days children were not thought of as persons in their own right. Under Roman law they were considered to be the property of their father. They were powerless and had no influence. The disciples were doing what anyone else in their culture would have done.

But Jesus treats children (and all human beings) very differently—he treats them as people of equal worth. He beckons the children to come to him, and rebukes his disciples for trying to prevent them. Jesus sees the children as real persons of infinite value, created in the image of God. He welcomes them with open arms; he blesses them with God’s love and compassion. Jesus treats all people as equals, from rulers to outcasts to adults to children. He does the same today, as he has throughout history. As followers of Jesus we are called to treat people in the same way. God calls us to see everyone, regardless of differences, as made in the image of God. We bless everyone alike as we extend God’s love and compassion to them.

Then Jesus does something really extraordinary. He says, “Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” What an amazing reversal of expectations! What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a little child?

Children are utterly dependent on adults. They rely on adults for food, for shelter, for clothing, for relationships, for knowledge, and most importantly for love. To enter the kingdom of God, to be a disciple of Jesus, means that we choose to rely upon him

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Jesus loves all the children.

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instead of ourselves. We rely upon him for forgiveness of sin and a renewed, loving, relationship with God. We trust that he will provide for our spiritual and physical needs. We place our hope completely in his love for us, knowing that his light can overcome the deepest darkness of this world.

Children have an amazing capacity for growth. We see how quickly they grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. They amaze us with their early maturity and sophistication. Entering God's kingdom is entering into a lifelong experience of growth and development. We begin as spiritual infants (we're "born again" or "born from above"—John 3:3). We spend a lifetime growing in our faith. We learn to walk more closely with Jesus. We learn more about him and how he wants us to live. We become more generous in our giving, more loving in our relationships, more faithful in our worship, more focused on family commitments, more trustworthy in our integrity, and more dedicated to realizing justice in the world. We seek God's grace to mature in every aspect of our faith.

Children are always curious, open to new experiences, and flexible in learning new things. (There's a reason that grandchildren usually know more about new technology than their grandparents do.) Entering the kingdom of God opens us to new perspectives and new experiences. God always does things that are unexpected, and asks us to do the same. The Holy Spirit keeps us flexible and keeps us from being too set in our ways.

I think children should be both seen and heard—that we should appreciate them for the amazing people they are, as Jesus did. And I think we can learn from their example, as we become like little children as we enter God's eternal kingdom.

Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for the way that Jesus welcomed the little children to himself. We are grateful for his love and compassion, and for his ability to see each and every person as a unique individual, created in your image. Teach us to see others through Jesus'

eyes. Help us to accept each other as we are, and to love each other with the heart of Christ.

Grant us, grace, Lord, that we may enter anew into your kingdom. Remind us of our reliance upon you as you give us our daily bread. Show us how you want us to grow in our faith. Keep us flexible and open to go wherever you lead us.

We pray, Lord, for all the needs of our world. We lift up all who seek your loving presence—those in need, those who suffer illness and grief, all who desire to know your grace. Be with them in their time of difficulty. Make us aware of their needs, and use us to reach them with your compassion.

Walk by our side as our Good Shepherd. Lead us in pathways of righteousness, and bring us at the last into the loving presence of your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Dear Friends,

I am collecting photos of Lois Mae for a future slideshow (when it is safe to celebrate her memorial service). Photos can be:

1. Delivered to GUMC in an envelope with my name (Sun. - Thu.) (Please put your name on the back of each photo.)
2. Sent by mail to
GUMC / Attn: Sue R.
30 W. High St.
Gettysburg, PA 17325
(Please put your name on the back of each photo.)
3. Photos on your phone or computer can be email to me at: sressler320@comcast.net.

Thank you so much!

Sue Ressler

Jesus loves all of us.

Thank You

We are grateful for the recent baby grand piano addition to our church sanctuary. Many thanks to all who helped make this possible including Pastor Rick Noll, Pastor Rick Smith, Larry Speer, John Day, Sharon Brown and also others who added monetary contributions. It looks and sounds beautiful!

Jan Berkey, Worship Committee Chairperson



Mission Opportunity

We received this email from Kristin Slaybaugh, the Youth Minister at St. James Lutheran Church:

Hello Gettysburg UMC!

I'm in a bit of a tight spot and hopeful you can help.

We're taking 6 high school students to SC for a Home Repair Mission trip June 20-26th, but unfortunately I had an adult leader back out the end of May.

I need to find an adult 21 or older that might be excited about stepping into this role. I'm hoping there might be a Gettysburg UMC member who might be interested in Habitat for Humanity that might be available- I know it's short notice.

Thanks so much- my cell is (919) 802-5473, please don't hesitate to give me a call. Thank you!!

Kristin Slaybaugh

Please contact Kristin directly if you feel led to help. No special construction skills are required.

Weekly Prayer Concerns

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

This week's list (as of 6/8/2021) is:

Rodney Truscott

Penny Daugherty

Scott Bowers

Imogene Hunt's brother

Florence Davis

Mary Fleming

Ben Fisher

Rev. Meredith Ball

Tim Richmond

Pat Kellam

Chuck and Rochelle Lutz

Judy Woolston

Sandy Speck

Rev. Cathy Boileau (our Dist. Supt. whose father died on May 30)

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

Shoes for Mission Central

The Missions Committee is collecting gently used shoes for donation to Mission Central. If you have shoes that you can donate, please place them in the box in the church lobby. Thank you for your generosity.

Twenty pairs of shoes have been taken to Mission Central so far. Thank you for your generosity!

HYMN

Jesus Loves Me

Anna B. Warner, David Rutherford McGuire (st. 2 & 3); William B. Bradbury

1 Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

3. Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live. (Refrain)

Anna B. Warner was born in Long Island in 1820, and died near West Point in 1915. She and her sister, Susan, collaborated on a number of novels, which were published under several pen names. Since she lived near West Point, she conducted Sunday School classes for the cadets for many years. David Rutherford McGuire was born in St. Catharines, Toronto, Canada in 1929, and died in Richmond Hill, Ontario in 1971. He was an Anglican priest, and one of the editors of the 1971 *Hymn Book* of the Anglican Church of Canada. William Bradbury was born in York, ME in 1816 and died in 1868. He studied music in Boston as well as in Europe. He wrote a number of hymn tunes, including *He Leadeth Me* and *Sweet Hour of Prayer*.

The original text of *Jesus Loves Me* was included in a novel written by Anna Warner's sister entitled *Say and Seal* (1860). In the book, it is sung by a Sunday School teacher to comfort a sick little boy. The second and third stanzas were revised by David McGuire for the United Church of Canada. Bradbury wrote the tune in 1862 specifically for this text. Since the hymn expresses Jesus' universal love for all people, our hymnal includes translations into Cherokee, German, Japanese, and Spanish. It's found as number 191 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for Sunday, June 13, are presented to the glory of God by Rev. Meredith and Maxine Ball.

We greatly appreciate your continued faithful donations to GUMC during this time of continuing change. Your faithful giving is greatly appreciated, and we are very grateful for your continued generosity.

Bulletins / Weekly Mailing

The worship bulletins for this week (June 13) are sponsored by Rev. Meredith and Maxine Ball to the glory of God.

Since we're not printing worship bulletins at present, the sponsorship will be applied to this week's mailing instead.

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