

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

June 16, 2021

Psalm 116 (NRSV)

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
- 2 Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- 3 The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
- 4 Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"
- 5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.
- 6 The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.
- 7 Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.
- 8 For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
- 9 I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.
- 10 I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted";
- 11 I said in my consternation, "Everyone is a liar."
- 12 What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?
- 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,
- 14 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
- 15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.
- 16 O Lord, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.

You have loosed my bonds.

17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

18 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

19 in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!



Meditation

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

If you were looking for Jesus' love, where would you find it? We believe, of course, that his love lives within every person who loves him and chooses to be his disciple. We would expect its presence in worship and prayer. His love is present where there is true selfless love for neighbors. We believe that you would find his love among the poor and the oppressed, as he reaches out to minister to human need. But the love of Jesus is especially close to us in the Body of Christ. Jesus is most powerfully present in the life of a group, not the life of any one individual.

God created us to live together in community. We

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We are one in the Spirit.

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find our sense of community defined in the image of the Body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12. Just as in a human body, all the parts of the Body are different, yet all are connected together to form a unity. An individual part of the body cannot live on its own. A hand or a foot or an eye that is not part of the body has no life in it. Only as we are connected together do we find true life in Christ. It is Jesus' love that binds us together in a unified mission to share his love with others.

The parts of the body are all different. A hand is very different from an eye or a tongue. The parts of the body are different because each has a different purpose and function. The purpose of a hand is to manipulate and change the world around us. The purpose of an eye is to see. The purpose of a tongue is to taste and to speak. In the same way, we are all different and have different gifts. Some may have the gift of music; others may have the gift of teaching; others may have the gift of helping others; others may have the gift of organization and administration. All are essential to the functioning of the Body of Christ.

We work together. The parts of a human body all work as one for a common purpose. Imagine what would happen if one foot decided to go in one direction, and the other foot wanted to go in the opposite direction! All parts of the body work together toward one goal. God desires all of us to work together in the same way.

We support each other. We suffer together and rejoice together. When one part of the body is hurting, every other part is affected. If you have a bad headache, for example, it affects the rest of your body. If a person is hurting, or sick, or has suffered loss it affects the entire Body of Christ. Together we support each other and help each other through difficult times. And when someone is happy, we join in their rejoicing as we're all uplifted together.

All are equal in the Body of Christ, and all are welcome in the Body of Christ. None of us can be perfect, but we all can be forgiven. The love of Christ overcomes any divisions that exist among us. We especially value those who are valued less by the



rest of society.

Our goal is to work together to serve others, and to invite others to become members of the Body of Christ through faith in him. Together we can do things that none of us could do separately (Dinner @ 6, or Mission Central, or Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S., for example). Together we can take a stand for freedom and justice in the world. People are hungry for relationships. Together we can invite them to a living relationship with Jesus Christ, and offer them authentic human relationships within the Body of Christ.

Most importantly, Jesus is the head of the body. No one else is—not any one individual (or group of us). We are united in obedience to Christ, and we work together to discern God's will for us. It's so easy to think that we're the only ones who know God's will, or that we're the only ones who know the right thing to do. As the Body of Christ, however, we discern God's will together. In the early church, when there was a conflict over God's will, they met for prayer and discernment (Acts 15:1-21). Through humility, prayer, and discerning conversation we yield ourselves to God's will.

The Body of Christ should be the place where people experience God's love. His love exists among us as we support one another; his love exists within us as we experience his presence; his love works through us as we reach out in mission to the world. We are the Body of Christ, the living presence of his love.

We are one in the Lord.

Prayer

Teach us, Lord, to live together as the Body of Christ. Make your love known within us, among us, and through us as we reach out to the world in your name. Fill us anew with your Holy Spirit as you draw us together as your people. Above all, enable us to set aside our selfishness and pride as we acknowledge your Son, Jesus Christ, as our Lord and as the Head of his Body. Grant us grace to surrender our will to yours, and grace to live together as your people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon the needs of this world. Enable us to see the needs of those around us, to hear the cries of the oppressed, and to reach out to bless their lives through your grace. Be with our nation, and all the nations of the world, as people continue to struggle with COVID, hunger, and other afflictions. Bring peace with justice to our world and our nation.

Refresh our spirits with the living water of your Holy Spirit. Gather us together in your name, and strengthen us to live as one family in your presence. Help us to embrace the world with your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Chain Update



Since Judy Woolston is having surgery toward the end of June, Sue Ressler is taking over as the Prayer Chain coordinator effective June 20 until Judy has recovered.

To put any concerns on the Prayer Chain on June 20 or later, please call Sue at (717) 357-0983.

Weekly Prayer Concerns

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

This week's list (as of 6/15/2021) 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 gifts!

HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

John Fawcett, Johann G. Nägeli (arr. Lowell Mason)

1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

2. Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3. We share each other's woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4. When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

John Fawcett was born in Lidgett Green, Yorkshire, England in 1740, and died at Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire in 1817. Fawcett was converted to Christianity at age 16 through the preaching of George Whitefield, and became a Baptist preacher and pastor. At one point he was called to serve a larger and more prestigious church in London, but chose to remain with his smaller country church at Hebden Bridge. He received an honorary doctorate from Brown University in 1811. Johann Nägeli was born near Zurich in 1772, and died in 1836. He was a writer, teacher, composer, and publisher. His publishing house produced first editions of some of Beethoven's piano sonatas, along with much other music. Nägeli made a significant contribution to music education and was a strong influence on Lowell Mason. 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.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds was published in 1782 as part of a collection of hymns. There is a story that its composition was associated with the author's decision not to leave his church at Hebden Bridge, but evidence for it is scarce. Lowell Mason published the tune (with another text) in 1845, and cited it as "Arranged from J. G. Nägeli." The tune was first paired with this text in 1878. The hymn, which is number 557 in our hymnal, expresses the strength and blessings of Christian fellowship, love, and service.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for Sunday, June 20, are presented by Sharon Brown in honor of her father, Clement Crooks.



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.

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