

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

March 3, 2021

Psalm 61

(NRSV)

To the leader: with stringed instruments.

Of David.

- 1 *Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.*
- 2 *From the end of the earth I call to you,
when my heart is faint.*
- Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I;*
- 3 *for you are my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.*
- 4 *Let me abide in your tent forever,
find refuge under the shelter of your wings.*
Selah
- 5 *For you, O God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who
fear your name.*
- 6 *Prolong the life of the king;
may his years endure to all generations!*
- 7 *May he be enthroned forever before God;
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to
watch over him!*
- 8 *So I will always sing praises to your name,
as I pay my vows day after day.*



Meditation

Read Matt. 11:25-30, 1 Peter 5:6-11

We all carry burdens. We have things in our lives that weigh us down, that burden our souls and make our spirits weary. Maybe the circumstances of life are too much for us. Perhaps we're faced with the loss of a job or another challenge. Maybe we're overwhelmed with work or homework, or a friend we once trusted suddenly wants nothing to do with us. Perhaps we bear a burden of concern for someone else. We're all faced with the continuing COVID pandemic, its consequences for our families and friends, and anxiety about obtaining the vaccine.

Sometimes we place burdens on ourselves. We hold ourselves to unrealistic standards, or we fail to meet reasonable expectations and wonder why things fall apart. We hold ourselves responsible for things that are beyond our control, or we fail to take responsibility for those things we should control. We all carry burdens.

Jesus has an answer for our burdens—he promises to bear them for us. In Matt. 11:28-30 he says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (NIV)

First we come to Jesus. To come to Jesus means that we have faith in him—not only as our Savior, but also as the Lord of our lives. To come to Jesus means that we acknowledge that we cannot bear our burdens ourselves—that our own strength and wisdom are inadequate and we need his help. To come to Jesus is to believe that his loving grace is sufficient for all our needs.

Then we begin to give our burdens to him. We pray, share our needs with him, and place them in his hands. We feel him lift their weight from our shoulders as he takes our burdens upon himself. Most importantly, we place ourselves in his hands, and remember that we no longer belong to ourselves, for now we belong to Jesus. As we do so we find peace and rest for our souls.

Continued on page 2)

“Come to me . . .

(Continued from page 1)

When we give our burdens to Jesus, we're often tempted to take them back again. We learn to resist that temptation—to keep on releasing our burdens to him. Sometimes we don't even realize we've taken them back. It's good to keep on seeking his presence, and daily release our burdens to him in prayer. We take one day at a time.

Our goal is to take Christ's yoke upon us and to learn from him. To take his yoke upon us is daily to give our lives to him. It is to seek his guidance and his will through prayer, scripture, fellowship, and worship. It is to live for him, not for ourselves; and to live in his power, not our own.

Giving our burdens to Jesus doesn't mean that we sit back and do nothing. It means that we now deal with those burdens through God's wisdom and God's strength. If we're out of work, for example, we don't stop looking for work and hope that God will just drop something in our lap (though he may). We keep on looking for a job, but we do so in God's wisdom and strength (no longer our own), trusting him in faith for the final outcome. We have confidence that his love will not fail, and that he will sustain us and provide for us.

As we give our burdens to the Lord, it helps to remember (and pray) the Serenity Prayer:

God, grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change, the courage
to change the things I can, and
the wisdom to know the difference.

Jesus is more than willing to take our burdens upon himself and bear them for us. He is able to give us strength, wisdom, and rest for our souls. His love will never fail.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we cast all of our cares upon you. We give you our burdens, our anxieties, our fears and our weaknesses. Grant us grace to take your yoke upon us. Teach us to trust you in all things as we place our lives in your care. Give us the strength of your Holy Spirit to meet our needs and the needs of our families and friends.

We are concerned not only for ourselves, Lord, but also for others. Help us to carry one another's burdens. Use us to bring healing to the sick, comfort to the brokenhearted, and strength to the weak. Bind us together in love, as together we entrust our lives into your loving care.

Guide our nation with your wisdom, and bless those who serve the cause of freedom. Pour out your love throughout the world, especially in these times of distress and suffering. Strengthen and heal all who are touched by COVID-19. Help us to work together for true freedom, peace, and justice in our world.

Be our Good Shepherd as we seek to serve others in your name. Bless us that we may become a blessing to others. Keep us and those dear to us in the center of your love; in your name we pray. Amen..



Mission Updates

- Special thanks to everyone who helped to provide breakfast for C.A.R.E.S. clients. Due to the pandemic, C.A.R.E.S. is housing local homeless people in a local motel. Churches are taking turns providing breakfast for them; our turn was the week of Feb. 28 through Mar. 6. We greatly appreciate all who did so much to prepare and deliver breakfast this week
- Bountiful Blessings continues to meet the needs of families in our community. We're very grateful for the volunteers who provide hygiene items, cleaning products, and other needs to people in Gettysburg. Thank so much for your help!
- Mission Central Auction—GUMC provided three baskets for the Mission Central auction fundraiser. Please see the insert in this mailing for additional information.

. . . and I will give you rest.”

Trustees Enhance COVID Safety

The Trustees have taken several actions to enhance the safety of our Sanctuary and our church building by preventing the spread of COVID-19.

REME HALO air purification systems have been installed in the air handlers for the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and downstairs classrooms (including the Clothing Closet). These systems consist of UV lights placed within the HVAC ductwork that kill all airborne microbes (including bacteria and viruses such as COVID-19) and send advanced oxidants throughout the room to kill microbes at their source. The system kills 99% of all microbes. For an informational video see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ke54GtDaarQ>.

Walton & Co. (GUMC's HVAC company) donated a Fogging Unit to the church. This portable unit enables the easy application of anti-microbial fog to all the surfaces in a room in a minimal amount of time. It will be used before and after services in the Sanctuary (after we resume in-person worship) and other places in the church as needed. The fog kills all microbes (including bacteria and viruses such as COVID-19) on all surfaces within a room.

Please contact the Trustees with any questions.

It's Soup Kitchen Donation Time Again.....

If you are willing and able to donate to the "Third Tuesday" Soup Kitchen (formerly Genny Reaver's team)--Please send a check payable to:

Sue Ressler
425 Westminster Ave.
Cottage 103
Hanover, PA 17331

I will then send one check to the Soup Kitchen. This approach makes their bookkeeping easier. As always, thank you. I miss you all!

Sue Ressler

Weekly Prayer Concerns

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

This week's list (as of 3/2/2021) is:

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

People in TX affected by the weather
People trying to get a COVID vaccine

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

In-Person Worship Suspension Continues

Due to the continued high COVID rates in Adams County, on Feb. 22 Church Council voted unanimously to continue the suspension of in-person worship. They set a target date of March 28 (Palm Sunday) to reopen in-person worship, if current trends continue. That decision will be finalized on March 22.

Online Worship Services continue to be available weekly on Facebook.

Sermon by Phone is now available at 717-200-2956

HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Fanny J. Crosby, William H. Doane

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross,
be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star

sheds its beams around me.
(Refrain)

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me.
(Refrain)

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river.
(Refrain)

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) was born in Putnam Co., New York. She was blind by the age of six weeks, and eventually became a teacher at the New York School for the Blind. She was a long-time member of Old John Street Methodist Episcopal Church in New York. During her lifetime she wrote over 8,500 gospel hymns and songs; seven of her hymns are included in our current hymnal. William H. Doane (1832-1915) was born in Preston, CT. He collaborated with Fanny Crosby on a number of hymns, and was active in editing and publishing over forty songbooks. He was an industrialist and philanthropist who was president of a large wood-working machinery plant in Cincinnati and gave generously to the evangelistic work of Dwight L. Moody and Moody Bible Institute, as well as to many other charities.

The tune of *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* was written before the words, and they were published together in 1869. The hymn uses a variety of vivid images to convey the meaning of the cross, and is a prayer to Jesus to keep us always focused on the glory of his crucifixion. *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* is number 301 in our hymnal.

COVID Vaccination Suggestion

One of our members was speaking with a Rite Aid manager from the Shrewsbury store about the availability of COVID vaccines and suggested we pass on the following information:

"Go to [riteaid.com/covid19](https://www.riteaid.com/covid19)" then go to "eligibility" then "view eligibility" then "Pa" then far right "schedule here". The trick is you have to do this at "5-6 AM each day." ...they refresh the site every morning around that time and post available dates and times at some stores...the appointments go very quickly so people need to sign on EACH DAY...last week they did Mechanicsburg and Leaders Heights in York....so it changes each time...just have to be vigilant in trying." We hope that this information is helpful.

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