

# Gettysburg United Methodist Church

March 24, 2021

## In-Person Worship Resumes

In-person worship will resume on Palm Sunday, March 28, with the 10:30 a.m. service. We will follow the same COVID safety policies that require masking and social distancing as we did before. Services will also be live-streamed to our Facebook page every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (we may begin the live-stream earlier with preparatory music).

Online Services will continue to be available on Facebook. Since they will be live-streamed, they will not be available before 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Services will also be saved on Facebook and available for viewing at any time after they end.

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

## Psalm 118:14-29

- 14 *The Lord is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.*
- 15 *There are glad songs of victory in the tents of  
the righteous:*
- “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;  
16 the right hand of the Lord is exalted;  
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”*
- 17 *I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.*
- 18 *The Lord has punished me severely,  
but he did not give me over to death.*
- 19 *Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.*
- 20 *This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.*
- 21 *I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.*
- 22 *The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.*
- 23 *This is the Lord's doing;*

- it is marvelous in our eyes.*
- 24 *This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*
- 25 *Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!  
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!*
- 26 *Blessed is the one who comes in the name of  
the Lord.*
- We bless you from the house of the Lord.*
- 27 *The Lord is God,  
and he has given us light.*
- Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.*
- 28 *You are my God, and I will give thanks to  
you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.*
- 29 *O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.*

## Meditation

Read John 13:1-1-20, 34-35

Jesus was always doing amazing things—things that were unexpected, that broke the mold, that challenged his disciples' way of thinking and living. One of the more extraordinary is recorded in this passage from John—Jesus washing his disciples' feet.

In those days people wore sandals. The roads were dusty (or muddy if it rained), and peoples' feet became dirty from travel. It was customary for hosts to have servants wash the feet of their guests as a sign of hospitality. It was always done by a servant (or possibly by the guest)—never by the host.

Jesus humbly takes on the role of a servant. He performs the most menial of tasks as he washes his disciples' feet. They're shocked that their Lord and Teacher, the Messiah, would do such a humiliating thing. It's nothing they ever expected. And then Jesus tells them that they should wash one another's

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# May we love others . . .

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feet in the same way. He's telling them that social power and position and personal ego no longer matter. What matters is sharing God's love with others.

What can we learn from Jesus' actions and words?

We should never be too proud to serve others. Jesus shows us the meaning of true humility. We set aside ego, we set aside self-importance, we set aside constructs of class and culture, and we set aside any other impediments to God's love. We are always ready to serve others at their point of need.

We should never be too proud to allow others to serve us. Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet. Was he too proud to have Jesus serve him? Sometimes we're willing to serve others, but we're not willing to let others serve us. We don't want to admit our need, we don't want to give up our independence, we don't want to show our weakness. We're afraid someone might have power over us or put us in their debt. Yet, like Peter, we must allow Jesus (and others) to serve us if we decide to follow him.

We offer hospitality and service equally to everyone. Jesus already knew that one of his disciples would betray him, and he already knew that it would be Judas Iscariot. Yet Jesus washed Judas's feet along with everyone else's. He served without judgement, and calls us to do the same.

Jesus' act of service and humility is a step on his road to the cross. The cross is his ultimate act of service and love, as he willingly dies to take away our sin. The cross is his ultimate act of hospitality, as he gives his life so that everyone (not just some) may be invited into God's presence. The cross is the ultimate expression of his power—the true power of love, not the worldly power of position or coercion or wealth or prestige.

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look, not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in hu-

man likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” (Phil. 2:3-8 NRSV).

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.



## Prayer

Transform our minds, Lord, to be more like the mind of Christ. Teach us to abandon ego, power, and the constraints of culture as we learn to wash one another's feet through loving service. Help us to take up our cross and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, that by losing our lives for his sake we may truly find them. Equip us to love others as Jesus loves us.

Pour out your blessings in our world. Hear and answer the prayers of those who yearn for freedom from oppression and strife. Grant us the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may feed the hungry, welcome the homeless, and love the outcast. Heal those who are sick and comfort all who grieve.

Make us instruments of your love and blessing in our world. Lead us through the wisdom of your Holy Spirit as you bless us and our families in your name; for we pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# . . . as Jesus loves us.

## Scriptures for Holy Week

Palm Sunday:  
Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118

Monday:  
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; John 12:1-11

Tuesday:  
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71; John 12:20-36

Wednesday:  
Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 70; John 13:21-32

Holy Thursday:  
Exodus 12:1-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; John 18:1-19:42

Saturday:  
Isaiah 55:1-11; Ezekiel 37:1-14

Easter Sunday:  
Matthew 28:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

## Soup Kitchen Update

Thank you for your generosity! Your gifts this month have provided over \$1,000 to be used for our share of meals at the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen. Your faithful giving is greatly appreciated!

## Bountiful Blessings

As the weather improves, our numbers for Bountiful Blessings are picking up as well. Also there have been changes in the supply of delivered items from the headquarters in Mechanicsburg. We've been getting supplies for about 20 for twice a month but we have been having 24-28 guests. If you wish to donate items, we could use the following (please place them in the box outside of the office): dish detergent, shampoo, tooth paste, cleaners and laundry detergent (\$1 items at Dollar Tree are fine). THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

## Weekly Prayer Concerns

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

This week's list (as of 3/23/2021) is:

Rodney Truscott  
Penny Daugherty  
Scott Bowers  
Imogene Hunt's brother  
Jean Green  
Joyce Dye  
Ben Fisher  
Family and friends of Virginia White  
Victims of mass shootings

Members in Assisted Living / Skilled Care Homes:

Edith Bulman (SpiriTust Lutheran, York);  
Shirley Hammond (Morning Glory, Little-stown); 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

## GUMC Holy Week Services

- Palm Sunday Worship -- March 28 at 10:30 a.m.
- Holy Thursday Communion Service -- April 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Service -- April 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Service -- April 4 at 10:30 a.m.

All services will be in-person services, and will also be live-streamed to our Facebook Page. All services will be saved on Facebook for later viewing.

A community Good Friday Service (video only) will be broadcast on the Community Access cable channel on April 2 at noon and 7 p.m.

# HYMN

## *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

*Anonymous Latin, Hans L. Hassler (harm. by J. S. Bach)*

1. O sacred Head, now wounded,  
with grief and shame weighed down,  
now scornfully surrounded  
with thorns, thine only crown:  
how pale thou art with anguish,  
with sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish  
which once was bright as morn!

2. What thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
was all for sinners' gain;  
mine, mine was the transgression,  
but thine the deadly pain.

Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
'Tis I deserve thy place;  
look on me with thy favor,  
vouchsafe to me thy grace.

3. What language shall I borrow  
to thank thee, dearest friend,  
for this thy dying sorrow,  
thy pity without end?  
O make me thine forever;  
and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
outlive my love to thee.

Although the author of the text is listed as anonymous in our hymnal, *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* is often attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux. St. Bernard was born in France in 1090 or 1091 and died in 1153. He was a major influence in the Catholic Church of his day, reforming and reinvigorating the monastic movement as well as settling a controversy over papal succession, opposing several heresies, and promoting the Second Crusade. The hymn was translated into German by Paul Gerhardt in 1656, and then into English by James Alexander in 1830. Hans Hassler was born in Nuremberg in 1564, and died in 1612. He was one of the most important German composers of his day. A gifted organist, he composed many works of sacred music.

The text originated with the Medieval practice of meditation on the cross of Christ. The tune was originally a secular love song, which was adapted for sacred use by Hassler in 1601. It was first matched with this text in 1656. *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*, found as number 286 in our hymnal, is a powerful meditation on Christ's suffering and its personal meaning for us.

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## Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for Sunday, March 28, are presented by Sharon Brown in honor of her parents, Julene and Clement Crook.

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.

### Please Note . . .

Since there has been some confusion about her address, cards for Joyce Dye may be dropped off at or mailed to the church. We will make sure that she receives them.

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