

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

September 16, 2020

Psalm 28

Of David.

*1 To you, O Lord, I call;
my rock, do not refuse to hear me,
for if you are silent to me,
I shall be like those who go down to the
Pit.*

*2 Hear the voice of my supplication,
as I cry to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your most holy sanctuary.*

*3 Do not drag me away with the wicked,
with those who are workers of evil,
who speak peace with their neighbors,
while mischief is in their hearts.*

*4 Repay them according to their work,
and according to the evil of their deeds;
repay them according to the work of their
hands;
render them their due reward.*

*5 Because they do not regard the works of
the Lord,
or the work of his hands,
he will break them down and build them up
no more.*

*6 Blessed be the Lord,
for he has heard the sound of my
pleadings.*

*7 The Lord is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts;
so I am helped, and my heart exults,
and with my song I give thanks to him.*

*8 The Lord is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.*

*9 O save your people, and bless your
heritage;
be their shepherd, and carry them
forever.*



Meditation

Read John 14:15-18, 25-27; 15:26-16:15

In Acts 19, Paul encounters a group of disciples in Ephesus who had never heard of the Holy Spirit. Apparently they had been baptized with the baptism of John the Baptist, which was a baptism of repentance and forgiveness. But John told of one greater than himself (Jesus), who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Once they understood Paul's message, they were baptized with the baptism of Jesus, and received the Holy Spirit.

Although all of us who believe in Jesus have received the Holy Spirit, sometimes we act as if we had never heard of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, who dwells in our hearts by faith. The Holy Spirit's work is vital to our Christian experience, as the Holy Spirit guides our lives, shapes our character, and gives us gifts to use in ministry to the world.

In John 14:16-17, 26, the Holy Spirit is described by

(Continued on page 2)

Come, Holy Spirit.

(Continued from page 1)

a word that can be translated in different ways. The NRSV translates it as “Advocate”. The King James Version uses “Comforter”. The original NIV uses “Counselor”, but the most recent edition of the NIV changes that to “Advocate”. Since the original word conveys all of these meanings, I think that each translation can help us to understand the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is an Advocate who intercedes for us with our heavenly Father. “In the same way, the Spirit help us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.” (Rom. 8:26-27 NIV) There are those times when we don’t know how to pray, and even those times when we can’t pray. It is especially at times like those that the Spirit advocates for us with the Father, both praying on our behalf and guiding our own prayers.

The Holy Spirit is a Counselor who leads us and guides us. The Spirit is the Spirit of truth, and brings us into all truth. The Spirit teaches us all things and helps us remember the words and life of Jesus. The Spirit reveals God’s ways and God’s will to us. The Spirit searches the deep things of God and makes them known to us, and helps us to understand spiritual reality and truth (1 Cor. 2:10-15) Wisdom and knowledge are gifts of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:8) Not only does the Spirit guide us, the Spirit also enables us to follow God’s will and live according to God’s purpose. If we listen to the voice and nudges of the Holy Spirit, we’ll find ourselves at the center of God’s will. We’ll fulfill God’s purpose for us, and help to fulfill God’s purpose for the world.

The Holy Spirit is a Comforter who leads us into the peace of God. Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. The peace of the Spirit is something we can’t always describe or predict. We may find it when we least expect it. It is something wrought in the depths of our souls by the mediation of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit comforts us with

his presence, and reassures us that God is in control and that in all things he works for the good of those who love him. The Spirit gives us hope for the future and lifts our spirits into the very presence of God.

The Holy Spirit works in our lives even when we don’t recognize or understand his presence. But I think his work is more powerful when we know who he is and look for his inspiration. “The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8 NIV)

In times like these it’s especially important to be aware of the work of the Holy Spirit. It’s good to know we have an advocate, a counselor, and a comforter who dwells in our hearts, and who keeps us in constant remembrance of Jesus Christ, our good and faithful Shepherd.

Pastor Rick



Prayer

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Fill me with your comforting presence, guide my steps in your perfect will, and lift the burdens of my heart. Fill me with new life, and seal me for eternity with your love.

Holy Spirit, we pray for your power and blessing upon all who are in need. Heal the sick, comfort those

(Continued on page 3)

Fill us with your peace.

(Continued from page 2)

who have suffered loss, lift up those who have lost hope, and protect all who face difficult and trying times. Bless our nation, and bless our world with your grace.

Keep us faithful to you as we love others in your name. Grant us your compassion and power as we minister to all the world. Cause living water to spring forth from our hearts to quench the spiritual thirst of those around us. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UMCOR—US Disaster Response

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is actively responding to the hurricanes, flooding, and wildfires in the U.S. If you would like to participate with UMCOR as they help people in need, you may place your donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church. It should be marked: "UMCOR—US Disaster Relief". Checks should be made payable to "Gettysburg UMC". One hundred percent of all that you give will help people in need.

District Superintendent Installation Service

A virtual installation service for our new District Superintendent, Rev. Cathy Boileau, will be held on Sun., Sept. 20, at 4 pm. The Livestream will start at 3:50 pm and you can use any of these 3 platforms:

Church Online: <https://bethanychurchredlion.online.church/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BethanyRedLion>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbIYsXnXUbZWpd3IAAtKK7fg>

Weekly Prayer Concerns

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

This week's list (as of 9/15/2020) is:

Genny Reaver—recovering at home
Barbara Evans
Joyce Dye
Rodney Truscott
Cathy Libera—recovering at home
Sandy Speck—recovering at home
Pam Giles (Vic Reale's stepdaughter—on ventilator)
Hope Powell — had surgery on Tue.

Members in Assisted Living / Skilled Care Homes:

Edith Bulman (SpiriTust Lutheran, York);
Kermit Carlson (Paramount, Fayetteville);
Shirley Hammond (Morning Glory, Littlestown);
Missy Legay (Moul Home, York);
Bob Reed (Lorien, Mt Airy, MD);
Peggy Reynolds (Quincy-cottage), Waynesboro);
Gloria Swinger (Country Meadows-apartment), Mechanicsburg

Members with Limited Mobility:

Butch Carter, Betty Cook, Joyce Dye, Pearl Keckler, Raymond Koenig, Chuck Lutz, Ruth Anna Polley, Wilma Schaible, Betty Schulteis, June Spencer, Virginia White



Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for this Sunday (Sept. 20) are donated by Sandy Shelley to the glory of God in memory of her son, Brian, who would have been 55 years old today.

HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring; George J. Elvey

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

4. Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) was born in Malden, Essex, England. He grew up in the Church of England, but became a Roman Catholic in 1848 through the influence of the Oxford movement. Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) was also born in England. He was an ordained priest in the Church of England, and eventually succeeded to the parish served by his father in Alford, England. George J. Elvey (1816-1893) was born in Canterbury, England. He served as organist of St. George's Chapel from 1835-1882, and was knighted in 1871.

The text of *Crown Him with Many Crowns* that is found in our hymnal is a compilation of portions written by both Bridges and Thring. Matthew Bridges wrote the original poem in 1851, based on images from *Revelation*. It was modified, with some new stanzas added, by Godfrey Thring in 1874. Our current hymnal includes stanzas by both authors. The tune was written for Bridges's text by Elvey in 1868. It superbly captures the majesty and power of the words. It may be found as number 327 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

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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