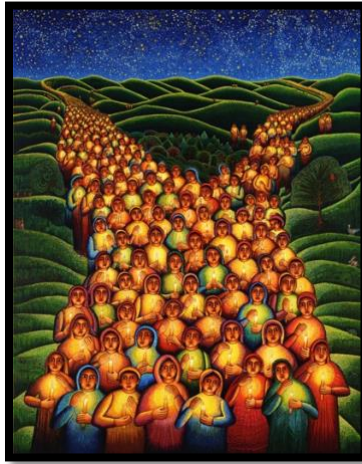


Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – September 29, 2024

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Church in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. | Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.



Welcome

Welcome to all! If you are visiting today, please leave us your contact information at the Welcome Table in the Gathering Space. Need help? Ask any usher.

Opening Music

“Sing to the Lord”

CRISTI CARY MILLER

Sanctuary Choir with Rob Winters, trumpet

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

**In speaking, in silence,
in movement, in stillness,
God is with us.**

God alone saves us.

God alone helps us.

God alone sets us on the path of peace.

Let us worship our Helper!

Opening Prayer

Hymn [*stand*]

“Come Thou Almighty King”

Glory to God, #2

Call to Confession

We long to gloss over the messy parts of our stories: the deceit, the anger and the heavy grudges. But nothing is hidden from God. We come before God and one another with complete honesty, naming our sins that we might reclaim our name as God’s beloved children.

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

God, do you go silent when we perpetuate cycles of retaliation and violence? Does your silence mock our own silence in the face of unchecked weaponization and loss of life? Forgive us for our failure to speak out and speak up for the victims of violence in our midst and around the world. Open our ears and hearts to hold space for your voice to return to us: the voice of a better way of healing and hope for all people. Show us this faithful path and give us the courage to walk in it, even if for the very first time. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God's Word

Minute for Mission (11:00)

The Chen Family

Children's Message (11:00)

Carolyn Hayes

Children are dismissed to their classes: Godly Play, Room 14; Sunday School, Room 32/33.

Youth will be released from class to find you.

Musical Response

"Lord Prepare Me"

Glory to God, #701

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Esther 7:1–6, 9–10, 9:20–22

¹ So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ² On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." ³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. ⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." ⁵ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" ⁶ Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

²⁰ Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹ enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²² as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Elder Kristina Maldarelli

We Respond to God's Grace

Hymn [*stand*]

"A Mighty Fortress is our God"

Glory to God, #275

Minute for Mission (9:30)

Marilyn Morrison

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

"Put Peace into Each Other's Hands"
Sanctuary Choir

KAAN/RANEY

Sung Response [*stand*] "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Glory to God, #609

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer [*together*]

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Depart for Service

Announcements

Sending Song [*stand*]

“You Shall Go Out with Joy”
sing 3 times

Glory to God, #80

Closing Blessing

Closing Music [*seated*]

“Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you.
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

+

Participating in the service:

Katherine Williams, Director of Music
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families
Elder Doreen Turczyn-Toles, Worship Leader
Elder Kristina Maldarelli

*The flowers in the sanctuary were given by Rev. Deb Vaughn and her daughters,
in memory of Ken Vaughn.*

The Call to Worship was adapted from Psalm 124:8.

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<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56546> [retrieved September 24, 2024].
Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.*

Thank you for
worshiping with us!

gpchurch.org/give



September 29, 2024 Upcoming Events

VIPS meeting – Thursday, October 3 at 11:30 am, in Lindsay Hall – Speaker - Mark E. Ward, Senior Expedition Leader, OceanX, "Making Ocean Exploration More Accessible". Bring your own lunch or join in on the shared lunch of pulled pork sandwiches, sides, and dessert. Please contact Nancy Sanders at office@gpchurch.org with questions.



Congregational Meeting – The Session is calling a brief Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 6, following the 11:00 am worship to elect officers.

Save the Date! – The Montgomery Philharmonic will hold the first concert of its 18th season in our Sanctuary on Sunday, October 13, at 6:30 pm. The program will include *Symphony No. 25 in G minor* – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Avartan* – Reena Esmail, and *Dabke* – Kareem Roustom. Admission is free but donations are gratefully accepted.

Creation Care Field Trip Planned to Glenstone Museum – Join us on Saturday, October 26, from 11:45 until about 2:00 for a free tour of the peaceful, naturally landscaped site on Glen Road in Potomac, where art, architecture, and nature meld. We have tickets available for the first 20 people to sign up in Lindsay Hall by Sunday, October 20. Anyone 12 and older may visit the museum. For more information, go to the museum's website or contact Laura Wilson.

Children's Choir on Wednesdays – Joy Chimes (K – Grade 3) meet in Fellowship Hall, from 6:00-6:30 pm. Joy Ringers (Grades 4 -5) meet in Handbell Haven from 6:00-6:30 pm.

The Sunday Morning Group – Sundays at 8:15 am in Room 33 and on Zoom. Join the group as they study Richard J. Foster's Celebration of Discipline. For the Zoom link please email Steve Olin at office@gpchurch.org.

Announcements

Money May Run Short by the End of the Month for Those on a Tight Budget – Neighbors in need may have to choose between buying food and paying their regular bills. We can help ease that stress by keeping our pantry well stocked. Consider donating hearty canned stews, pasta, and other main-course items. Thank you for helping to combat hunger in our community.

Stewardship Campaign – “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. *2 Corinthians 9:7*”

Table Fellowship for Individuals and Couples – Sign up for Table Fellowship as an individual, with a friend, or as a couple. This new program does not require everyone to host. As eight adults sign up, groups are created. After participating in one group, you can sign up to be included in a different group. For questions or to be added to a group, contact Clara Pratt at office@gpchurch.org.

Grow and Share – Are you an avid gardener? If you have abundant garden produce to share, the Manna Food Center's warehouse at 9311 Gaither Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, accepts donations of fresh produce Monday through Friday from 8 am – 3 pm.



Mary Beth Lawrence treasures her long service with GPC, so we are sending her off on her new adventures with a digital frame filled with photos of the folks who love her & are grateful for her presence in our lives.

Please send pictures of yourself with family & friends & Mary Beth (or not!) to Lisa Whitehead at office@gpchurch.org by November 10. We will be celebrating Mary Beth on November 24.