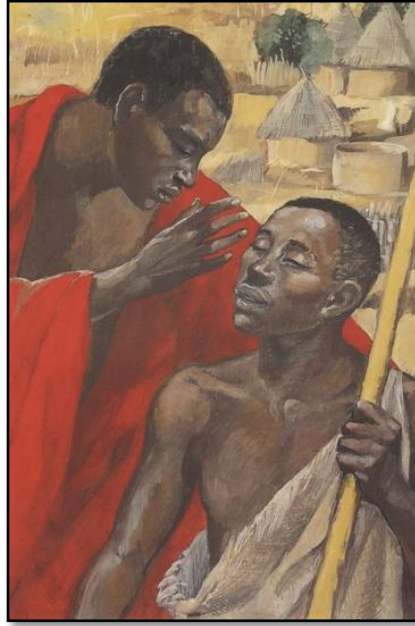


Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – October 27, 2024

Twenty-third 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

“This is My Father's World”
Sanctuary Choir with Rob Winters, horn

ARR. SHEPPERD

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

I will bless the Lord at all times,
God's praise will continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord,
Let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
Let us exalt God's name together!

Opening Prayer

Hymn [*stand*]

“There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Glory to God, #408

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to God, who alone has the power to save and waits in mercy to forgive.

Prayer of Confession [*responsive*]

Holy God, you know us better than we know ourselves.

You see our need, even when we don't,

and you know our failings, even when we deny them.

In your compassion, forgive us for our lack of faith and the harm we do to others and to your earth.

Grant us the light of your wisdom,

and the faith to follow where you lead.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message (11:00)

Carolyn Hayes

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

Musical Response

"Jesus, We Are Here"

Glory to God, #392

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

John 9:18–41

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, is that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen

to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshiped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

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

Sermon

Surely, We Aren't Blind, Are We?

Elder Shani McIlwain

We Respond to God's Grace

Hymn [*stand*]

"On Eagle's Wings"

Glory to God, #43

Minute for Stewardship

Paul Whitehead

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

"Stained Glass"

SORENSEN

Sanctuary Choir with Rin Williams, bassoon, and Claudio Ferreira, percussion

Sung Response [*stand*]

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"
verse 3

Glory to God, #716

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*] “Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining” Glory to God, #192

Closing Blessing

Closing Music [*seated*] “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” LUTKIN
Sanctuary Choir

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 Kofi Kumi, Worship Leader (9:30)
Barbara Clark, Worship Leader (11:00)
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence
Elder Shani McIlwain

Cover image: JESUS MAFA.

Jesus cures the man born blind, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48383> [retrieved October 21, 2024].

Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

Thank you for
worshiping with us!

gpchurch.org/give





October 27, 2024

GPC Events

Children's Fall Festival – October 30, 6-8:00 pm, in Lindsay Hall (enter through the north doors). Join us for games, yummy snacks, crafts, and pumpkin decorating. Admission is free. All ages are welcome!

Children's Joy Choir – The children's Joy Choir, for ages 4-11, meets regularly after the 11:00 am service. We enjoy snacks, then a time for singing and playing. The choir will sing at the 11:00 am service on November 24 and December 22. The children will also lead the Las Posadas family worship on Christmas Eve. Contact Katherine Williams at kwilliams@gpchurch.org for more information.

Children's Bell and Chime Choirs on Wednesday – 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.

Advent Book Study – Our book study for Advent this year will be *Listening for the Heartbeat of God, A Celtic Spirituality* by J. Philip Newell. We will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in Room 35 from November 10 through December 15. Books are readily available on most bookseller websites.

New Adult Study – Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community. From the PC(USA) Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries. Sunday Mornings at 8:15 am, in Room 33 and on Zoom - beginning October 27. Please contact Steve at office@gpchurch.org for the link.

Racial Justice Drop-In Conversations – Are you curious about the history of voter suppression in our country? What have you heard about voter suppression in recent years? How does this tie in with racial justice? Join the Racial Justice Ministry for a conversation on the history of voter suppression on Tuesday, October 29th at 7:30 pm on Zoom. Email office@gpchurch.org for the Zoom link.

Men's Breakfast Group – Their next meeting will be on Saturday, November 4, at 8:00 am in Lindsay Hall. The speaker, from the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County, will share information about their organization's many programs, including the free pet pantry. All men and women are welcome to join us for Christian fellowship, prayer, a light continental breakfast, and a short program. Questions? Contact Ted Farrand.

VIPS Meeting - Thursday, November 7, Lindsay Hall beginning at 11:30 AM: a Time for Thanksgiving and Celebration! Professional pianist Jina Terrell will share some special music with us, and we will join in a variety of other joyful events! Please bring your own lunch or join in the shared lunch of ground turkey taco salad. The dessert served to all will be Tres Leches cake. Contact Nancy Sanders with questions.

November 24 Celebration - Our congregation looks forward to the opportunity to wish Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence a wonderful retirement at this celebratory reception! At the reception nut-free finger food snacks such as small sandwiches, vegetarian options, Charcuterie sticks, fish pies, taquitos, spring rolls, deviled eggs, puff puffs, fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese & crackers, cookies, will be served. To contribute to this celebration, please sign up following any church service beginning November 3.

Doris Gordon Funeral – The funeral service for long-time member Doris Gordon will be held at GPC on Saturday, November 16, at 3:00 pm.

GPC Announcements

Creation Care October Message – Creation Care comes in all colors and places. It is not just about being “green.” In September, some of us joined the PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) team to work in New Bern, NC. Tip from Creation Care: Here and there, all of us can strive to extend God’s nature and power to all of creation through caring actions.

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 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.



Please Add Your Smile! – It’s as easy as one, or two, or three, to check this off your GPC To-Do List. What’s the task, you ask? Adding your photo to our GPC Online Directory! 1. Add a photo yourself by following the directions and video provided when you use the navigation bar for “Member Portal/Online Directory. Or 2. Email your photo to pwhiteh@hotmail.com. Or 3. Have your photo taken in Lindsay Hall after services. We really want to have the directory filled with our faces when our new pastor arrives!

Stewardship Campaign – The Stewardship team thanks everyone who has sent in their Estimate of Giving Card for 2025. Our sincere thanks for your generosity. It is important we receive as many of your estimates as possible to allow us to better plan the 2025 GPC operating budget.

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. This week’s needed item is Spaghetti Sauce. Thank you for helping to combat hunger in our community.

