

# Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – January 19, 2025

## Second Sunday after Epiphany

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 Desk in the Gathering Space. Need help? Ask any usher.*

### Opening Music

"O For a World"  
Praise Team

GLASER  
ARR. MASON

### Call to Worship *[responsive]*

(Adapted from Psalm 85)

As we gather, we long to hear what God has to say.

**When we turn to God in our hearts, God will speak peace to us.**

God's salvation is at hand,

**so that God's glory will dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet.

**Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

In our worship, might we listen for the voice of God for the people of God.

### Opening Prayer

### Hymn *[stand]*

"We Are One in the Spirit"

Glory to God, # 300

### Call to Confession

## **Prayer of Confession** [*responsive*]

(Adapted from a Quote from Dorothy Day)

God of justice, we confess that in the pursuit of our own dreams and desires, we have not always been civil, not always humane, not always right. Guided by your Spirit, what we would like to do is change the world –

**make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as You intended them to do.**

Help us to be your witnesses, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, the destitute –

**the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, so that we can, with your help, change the world.**

Enlarge our hearts to love each other,

**to love our neighbor, and to love our enemy as our friend.**

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

## **Assurance of Pardon**

### **We Listen to God's Word**

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## **Children's Message**

Carolyn Hayes

*Youth group begins at 11 am in Spencer Hall (downstairs, at the far end of the building), if you are a Youth and are still in worship, please feel free to leave with the younger Children, following the Children's Message.*

*Preschool–1st graders attend Godly Play in room 14, and 2nd–5th graders are in room 32/33.*

*Both rooms are downstairs.*

## **Musical Response**

“Lord, Prepare Me”  
*sing twice*

Glory to God, # 701

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Scripture**

Isaiah 59:14–21

Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands at a distance; for truth stumbles in the public square, and uprightness cannot enter.

Truth is lacking, and whoever turns from evil is despoiled.

The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice.

He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm brought him victory, and his righteousness upheld him.

He put on righteousness like a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head;

he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in fury as in a mantle.

According to their deeds, so will he repay; wrath to his adversaries, requital to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render requital. So those in the west shall fear the name of the LORD,

and those in the east, his glory; for he will come like a pent-up stream that the wind of the LORD drives on.

And he will come to Zion as Redeemer, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression, says the LORD. And as for me, this is my covenant with them, says the LORD: my spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouths of your children, or out of the mouths of your children's children, says the LORD, from now on and forever.

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

**Sermon**

Truth and Justice Live Here

Elder Shani McIlwain

## **We Respond to God's Grace**

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**Hymn** [*stand*]

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Glory to God, # 339

### **Book Dedication of Racial Justice Collection**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory**

"Creation Will be at Peace"  
Praise Team

WILLIAMS/PAGE

**Sung Response** [*stand*]

"We Are Saying Thank You Jesus"

We are saying thank you Jesus, thank you my Lord. (Repeat)

### **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

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## Announcements

**Sending Song** [*stand*]

“We Shall Overcome”

Glory to God, # 379

## Closing Blessing

**Closing Music** [*seated*]

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”  
Praise Team

MILLER/JACKSON  
ARR. ADES

## Passing the Peace

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

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### Participating in the service:

Katherine Williams, Director of Music

Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families

Andy Polack and Sarah Mecklenburg, Worship Leaders (9:30)

Carolyn Coleman, Worship Leader (11:00)

Rev. LeAnn Hodges

Elder Shani McIlwain

Thank you for  
worshiping with us!

[gpchurch.org/give](http://gpchurch.org/give)





Gaithersburg  
Presbyterian  
Church

## January 19, 2025 GPC Events & Announcements

**Racial Justice Section at the GPC Library** – Today, the GPC Library will dedicate a new collection of books on racial justice, established as part of the Racial Justice Ministry's (RJM) goals. Last year's Lenten project gathered over 70 books and financial contributions, thanks to the generous support of the community. A special tribute will also honor Irene Coleman, a beloved long-time member whose daughter, Carolyn, donated over a third of the collection. The RJM and Library Committee collaborated on this effort, and the books are now available for checkout. Additionally, RJM will host "Drop-In Conversations" in the library on the first Sunday of each month at 9:30 am. Donations of books are still welcome.

### Join the Fun at the Annual Souper Fellowship Luncheon

**Sunday, February 2 | Following the 11:00 am Service | Lindsay Hall**

Sign-ups will take place on Sunday, January 19 and 26 for soup chefs who would like to make chicken soup, chili, stew, or a soup of their choice. We will also have sign-ups for bakers and volunteers to support this special event.

We are requesting cans of soup or cash donations for our Little Free Pantry, or frozen quarts of homemade soup to be donated for KindWorks.

**Martin Luther King Day** – In observance of the holiday to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to recommit ourselves to the Biblical call to justice, the church office is closed on Monday, January 20, 2024. Monday coffee will resume on February 3.

**Creation Care January Message** – Being more environmentally conscious in our daily actions shows our respect for all those with whom we share the Earth. Please make and act on a New Year's resolution to create a healthier environment for present and future generations, one "Green step" at a time, starting with the "R's" of sustainability: reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink, refuse, and repair. Wishing all a healthy and blessed 2025. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." — Rev. MLK Jr.

**The Stewardship Committee Thanks You for Your Faithful Generosity** – The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for their generosity. Estimates have continued to come in both from 1<sup>st</sup>-time estimators and those who have estimated for many years. The total sum of our members' estimates now totals more than the 2024 total even after adjusting for inflation.

**Another Way to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** – There are many ways to mark January 20 as a day of service to honor Dr. King. We hope you will include providing canned or boxed goods to GPC's Little Food Pantry. **Rice** is this week's suggested food donation. Thank you for remembering our [Food Pantry](#) when you want to be of service to those in need in our community!

**Children's Bell and Chime Choirs 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 Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me*. For the Zoom link, please email [Steve Olin](#).