

# Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – September 17, 2023

## Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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



### Welcome

*Welcome to all! Please register your attendance with the QR code on the back of the bulletin, or with the online link, or on paper in the church Gathering Space. Need help? Ask any usher.*

### Opening Music

“To A Yellow Rose”

FLORENCE PRICE

### Call to Worship *[responsive]*

Our help is in the name of the Lord our God,  
**the Maker of heaven and earth,**  
who comes to our aid in times of need,  
**who gives us the courage to do what is right,**  
who invites us to turn away from the influences of the world  
and confess Christ alone as Savior and Lord.

**This is our God!**

In company with one another, let us worship God. Let us pray.

### Opening Prayer

### Hymn *[stand]*

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

Glory to God, #1

### Call to Confession

God graciously gives us time and space to be quiet before the Holy and to name those times when we failed to love as God loves us. Let us admit our wrongs and ask God’s forgiveness.

## Prayer of Confession *[together]*

God, who gives us everything good and necessary for our salvation, sometimes we fail to see your abundance all around. Sometimes we forget all the good you have done in the past. Sometimes we focus on our material poverty and overlook our spiritual poverty. Forgive us, we humbly pray.

Open our minds and our hearts to be amazed yet again by the abundance of your grace. Then enable us to share it with others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*[Silence for Personal Prayer]*

## Assurance of Pardon

### We Listen to God's Word

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#### Children's Message

Carolyn Hayes

*Children and youth leave for class. Children can be picked up after church in Room 30/31 or Room 32/33. At 11:00, youth will be released from class to find you.*

**Musical Response** *[seated]* "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet"

Glory to God, #458

#### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture

Exodus 1:8–20

<sup>8</sup> Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. <sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. <sup>13</sup> The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude <sup>14</sup> and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

<sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." <sup>17</sup> **But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.** <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" <sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." <sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong.

<sup>29</sup> After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. <sup>30</sup> Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the maimed, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, <sup>31</sup> so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

<sup>32</sup> Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for the crowd because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat, and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.” <sup>33</sup> The disciples said to him, “Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus asked them, “How many loaves have you?” They said, “Seven, and a few small fish.” <sup>35</sup> Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, <sup>36</sup> he took the seven loaves and the fish, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>37</sup> And all of them ate and were filled, and they took up the broken pieces left over seven baskets full. <sup>38</sup> Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children. <sup>39</sup> After sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

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

**Sermon**

The Liturgy of Abundance, the Myth of Scarcity

Rev. Norm Gordon

## **We Respond to God’s Grace**

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**Hymn** [*stand*]

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Glory to God, #39

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory**

Sonata in B minor, H. 245-III. Cantabile

C.P.E. BACH

**Sung Response** [*stand*]

“Know That God Is Good”

Glory to God, #659

**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]*

“You Shall Go Out with Joy”

Glory to God, #80

### Closing Blessing

### Closing Music

Sonata in E-flat Major, Hob XVI/49: III.  
Finale – Tempo di Minuet

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN

### Passing the Peace

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

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### **Participating in the service:**

Rev. Norman Gordon, Guest Minister

Allison Freeman, Guest Musician

Carol Anderson and David Mecklenburg, Worship Leaders (9:30)

Vivian Chefor, Worship Leader (11:00)

Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families

*The flowers in the sanctuary were given by Mary Lou Dungan in memory of Dr. Hal Dungan and to honor the weddings of Amanda Gendron and Mitch Foldi and Deborah Dangay and Fernando Delgado.*

Thank you for  
worshiping with us!

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





## September 17, 2023 Weekly Announcements

**Let's Put Names to Faces!** – We want to be a more welcoming and connected church family. If you already have a GPC-issued name tag (or any name tag), please wear it! If you need a GPC name tag, please use the “I'd Like a GPC Name Tag” request form at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Place. We will make a name tag for you, notify you by email when it is ready, and you can claim it in the Name Tag Pick-Up Basket at the Welcome Desk. Hope to see your name under your smiling face soon!

**Have you added your story to GPC's story?** – Graced History continues today and next Sunday. All members and participants of GPC, including our online participants, are invited to participate in a 3-week long activity called Graced History, a collection of our shared history that will help us gain more clarity about who we are as a congregation and how God has been acting through GPC these past 59 years.

**Stamps Needed** – GPC's Prison Ministry thanks the congregation for the abundance of cards and Bibles that were given to inmates at the Clarksburg Detention Center. Now the inmates need stamps to mail their letters to their family members. Be an agent of hope and place stamps in the bin in the library.

**Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library** – Fill the pantry with shelf-stable, quality food and cans with pop top lids. Add to the library children's books that help feed children's curiosity about this beautiful world. Our neighbors will be grateful!

**Memorial Service** – for Mary Anyei Frempong, mother of Yaw Obeng will be held on Saturday, September 30, at 11:00 am

### GPC Events

**Creation Care Class** – Starting today through November 5, at 9:30 am - Larry Masselink will facilitate a discussion of Heather White's book, *One Green Thing: Discover Your Hidden Power to Help Save the Planet*.

**Congregational Meeting** – September 24, following the 11:00 service – The purpose of this meeting is to elect new officers for the coming year. Check the daily emails for bios and pictures of nominees.

**Newcomer Welcome Reception** – New to GPC? Curious about faith? Want to know more about the church? Join us on October 8, following the 11:00 service for the Newcomer Welcome Reception. This is the place for you to meet others who are also new to the congregation, ask questions of the staff, and get to know other church leaders. Whether you are ready to become an official member of the church, or if you simply want to know more, we would love to see you there. Questions? Ask Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence.

# WEEKLY Virtual Meetings

## Monday Morning Coffee – 10:30 am on zoom

All welcome. Please join us for a few moments to say hello or stay the whole time.  
Never been before? We'll be glad to see you.

## Joshua Bible Study – Wednesdays at 7:30 pm on Google Meet

The Wednesday evening group is welcoming new members as we begin a new book. We will study Joshua with the Discover Bible books available from Faith Alive. Scan the codes to purchase them before our first meeting on September 13!



Email [office@gpchurch.org](mailto:office@gpchurch.org) to request the links



## Weekly Events

**Sunday Morning Adult Class** – This hybrid class begins today. Please join us every Sunday from 8:15-9:15 am in Room 33 or virtually on Zoom. The group will be studying the book, *How to be an Antiracist*, by Ibram X. Kendi. All are welcome! Please contact Steve at [office@gpchurch.org](mailto:office@gpchurch.org) with questions and for Zoom links.

**Children's choirs have begun!** – Each Wednesday evening, our children learn about music and learn how to make music together to glorify God. The vocal choir begins at 5:30 p.m. and the chimes and bells begin at 6:00 p.m. Special thanks to Carol Anderson and Kris Maldarelli for their faithful leadership.