

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – September 1, 2024
Fifteenth 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, with the online link, or on paper in the church Gathering Space. Need help? Ask any usher.

Opening Music (11:00) Christian Women Fellowship

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

God is good ...
All the time!
And all the time ...
God is good!
Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

Hymn [*stand*] "To God Be the Glory" Glory to God, #634

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, our gracious and loving God will forgive us. Therefore, let us confess our sin together ...

Prayer of Confession [*responsive*]

We have plenty, God, but we want more!
We want what's new, what the commercials tell us we have to have and what the neighbors just got.
We have plenty, God, but we want it all!
Forgive us for wanting so much, and help us give thanks for what we have. For you have been very gracious, God, gracious with your mercy and gracious with your love.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message (11:00)

Carolyn Hayes

Children and youth remain in worship.

Musical Response [*seated*]

"Though I May Speak"
verse 3

Glory to God, #693

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Scripture

Psalm 1

Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Matthew 20:1–16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came,

they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Labor Day

Rev. Todd Sutton

We Respond to God's Grace

Hymn [*stand*]

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

Glory to God, #649

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

(11:00) Christian Women Fellowship

Sung Response [*stand*]

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"
verse 1

Glory to God, #611

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Communion Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and our greatest joy...

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

For those worshipping at home: Please take the elements you have at home, and eat whatever kind of bread you have, and drink whatever cup you have prepared. The bread is the body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and the cup is the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Take and eat. Take and drink.

For those worshipping in the sanctuary: Please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. If you would like to be served in your seat, wave at the servers and they will happily come to you.

The elements at GPC are always gluten free.

Prayer after Communion

We Depart for Service

Announcements

Sending Song [*stand*] “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” Glory to God, #353

Closing Blessing

Closing Music (11:00) Christian Women Fellowship

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

Rev. Todd Sutton

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

*The flowers in the sanctuary were given by Sandra Newcomb,
in memory of husband, daddy, papa -Henry Newcomb.*

Cover photo by Maja Petric on Unsplash.

Thank you for
worshiping with us!

gpchurch.org/guestbook gpchurch.org/give



September 1, 2024 Announcements & Events

VIPS Meeting – Thursday, September 5 at 11:30 am, in Lindsay Hall – Program: The Story of the Lord's Table, a soup kitchen created by Gaithersburg churches to serve our community 40 years ago presented by the Director & the Volunteer Coordinator. Bring your own lunch or join in the shared lunch of chicken caprese sandwiches and sides. Contact Nancy Sanders for any questions.

GPC Young Families – Want to find out about the wonderful activities coming up this fall? Please scan the code to join our GroupMe and complete our survey.



Backpacks for Summit Hall Students! – Marilyn is collecting for Summit Hall again: new backpacks, #2 pencils, pencil sharpener, pencil case, ruler, glue sticks, small box of crayons, rounded-edge scissors. Donations may be placed in the Summit Hall box near the north entrance.

Fall PDA Trip – Our trip to New Bern, NC is filling up fast, but we still have room for YOU! We leave Sunday, September 22 and return Friday, September 27. Have you always wanted to go? Now's your chance! Please speak with Rev. Lawrence SOON!

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.

Did You Save Little Toiletries from a Vacation Trip? Give Them to the Little Free Food Pantry! – Food items are great, but you can also stock the pantry with other items. Consider toothbrushes and travel-size toiletries or wrapped eating utensils. You may already have these items from hotels, the dentist, or carry-out restaurants. These little things really mean a lot! If you would rather, you can make a monetary donation online or via check designating the Pantry. This week's featured item is dried beans. Thank you for your support of our Food Pantry.

Monday Morning Coffee – All are welcome to join us at 10:30 am on Zoom. Monday Morning Coffee is held on the first and third Monday of the month. Come for a few moments to say hello or stay the whole time. Please email office@gpchurch.org for the Zoom link.

News from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) – Have you seen the poster behind the welcome desk in the Narthex? It features a helpful checklist to keep everyone informed about the process of selecting GPC's next pastor. The PNC is currently working on adding the church's position description to our website to attract a broader pool of candidates. In the meantime, you might find it interesting to review the responses to the narrative questions from the MDP, which are based on feedback from the Jumpstart conversation held in April. You can find the narrative questions by scanning the code.



TABLE FELLOWSHIP

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 you participate in one group, you can sign up to be included in a different group.

If interested, please contact Clara Pratt at office@gpchurch.org.