



Johnsville United Methodist Church

Union Bridge, MD

Our mission is to nurture the members of the congregation in developing a personal relationship with God and to share His word and His love with the larger community.

PRAISE, WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

August 30, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Jesus Loves Me” (St. Anna Warner)

* OPENING HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

UMH 64

1. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons,
blessed Trinity!

3. Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man
thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy;
there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in
love and purity.

2. Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim
falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and
Evermore shalt be.

4. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name,
in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons,
Blessed trinity!

Call to Worship: (Exodus 3, Psalm 105, Romans 12, Matthew 16)

Leader: Behold, we stand on holy ground.

People: O give thanks to the Lord. Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Leader: The strength and power of God's love echoes through the ages to meet us here in this place and time.

People: O give thanks to the Lord. Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Leader: I AM WHO I AM calls to us to remember the Son sent to redeem us.

People: O give thanks to the Lord. Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Leader: We are ardent in spirit and in our love for one another. We persevere in prayer and overcome evil with good.

People: O give thanks to the Lord. Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Leader: Let us enter into worship to rejoice in hope, and take up the cross of Christ in our hearts. Amen!

Opening Prayer (Exodus 3, Romans 12, Matthew 16)

Blessed redeemer, as we gather in this holy place today, may we feel your power surrounding us. As we seek to fathom the message of the burning bush, calling us to greater faith and action, we are mindful of the struggle toward perfection expected of Christ's followers. In the spirit of Moses, who heard the call; in the passion of Paul who fervently taught; and the of love Jesus who gave his life, we come ready to listen to your word. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" (Lafferty) **Micah Mulhern, violinist**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Faith-giving God, body-shaping Christ, nature-transforming Spirit, we love the beauty of the body of Christ being transformed from the uncoordinated movements of worldly behavior to the choreography of obedience to your will. We listen with eagerness to gifted voices that speak your gracious word. We work enthusiastically with others who also seek to serve. You who call out the best gifts we have been given. We worship you with mind and body, as in Jesus Christ you have revealed your grace in his mind and body. We believe; we will obey; we are being changed thanks to you, loving God. We praise you for the many blessings you have shared with us. We ask your healing touch on those we lift up to you now... We join in the words that your Son, Jesus taught His disciple to pray by saying....

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn

"Be Still My Soul"

UMH 534

1. Be still, my soul:
the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently
the cross of grief and pain;

2. Be still, my soul:
Your God will undertake
to guide the future,
as in ages past.

leave to your God
to order and provide;
in every change
God faithful will remain.

Your hope, your confidence
let nothing shake;
All now mysterious
Shall be bright at last.

leave to your God
to order and provide;
in every change
God faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul;
the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled
Them while he dwelt below.

3. Be still, my soul:
the hour is hastening on
when we shall be
forever with the Lord,
when disappointment,
grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot,
love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul:
when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed
we shall meet at last.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 105

¹O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

²Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

³Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

⁴Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

⁵Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

⁶O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

⁷He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

⁸He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

⁹the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,

¹⁰which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

¹¹saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."

Epistle Lesson: Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ²⁰No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Response to Scriptures:

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "Living What We Learned in Kindergarten" Pastor Shari McCourt

Romans is said to have been written by the apostle Paul. Paul was known as "Saul" to the Aramaic-speaking community. We know him as Paul which is the Roman form of his name. Paul is attributed as writing more than one fourth of the New Testament. Paul was born and raised as good Jewish boy in Tarsus, an important city in Cilicia. He claimed to be a Roman citizen, which means that he probably inherited his citizenship from his father or some other ancestor who had some admirable service for the Romans. His early education was most likely, at home with his father. He bragged about his heritage in Philippians by saying, "circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin a Hebrew born of Hebrews." Age six he was educated in Jerusalem by a rabbi named Gamaliel, known to be a tolerant teacher. The trade he learned from his father was tent making and other leather work.

Before his conversion, Paul was a persecutor of Christians. He literally dragged both men and women off to prison. He claimed that he persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. Paul was a Pharisee! Pharisees were sticklers for following the letter of the law. He had expected a triumphant Messiah, not a crucified Christ. This was a stumbling block for him. Paul persevered many physical afflictions. Physically he was rather weak. Paul's conversion experience came with preparation, as if the Holy Spirit had worked on him for a while.

Paul was a fellow who was curious about the future. He was actively looking for the Messiah to come. As a persecutor of Christians, he had heard the stories of the disciples, and had been impressed by their perseverance. Paul did not look to worship Jesus, as a new God, but rather as the Son of God. He had three versions to his conversion in which he experienced things such as voices from heaven, and vision of the Risen Savior. It was this vision that lead him to believe that the crucified Jesus was the Messiah. In short, Paul was a tough sell, until he had a divine experience.

Looking at today's text attributed to Paul, we read further instruction to both the church, as well as the individual Christian. Romans 12:9-10, says, "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." Love is the key word to this entire passage, because it is through love that we get to God's peace. We are to love one another, and hold each other up, that love is to be a sincere love for one another. We should ideally have this love for one another as brothers and sisters.

Love will manifest within the community best, is if we understand the meaning of "Honor." In the story of "Rob Roy," the father, tries to teach his sons what it means to be a man. He tells them that to be a man, means that one has "honor." He says that honor is a gift one gives to one's self. Honor is always telling the truth so that one's word means something. Honor is having one's own set of rules that are of the highest standard. Paul inspires us to outdo one another in living that honor. Our "word" should mean something to others and most of all God. We should honor one another, and live by rules set by our Lord that are of the highest standard.

Romans 12: 12-14, says, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." Keep in mind that Paul was a man who suffered physical afflictions a great deal, so he spoke from his experience when he shared his, "Be patient in suffering, and ¹²Rejoice in hope. Extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them." A few weeks ago in a sermon I challenged you to When someone treats us unfairly, it is difficult not curse them. There are times that our mouths call someone a name, that we should not say anywhere especially in church. We are called to live by a higher standard, so instead of cursing the person, it would be better to say a quick pray, "God's peace be with you. "

Romans 12:15, says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are." Paul encourages us to be there for one another in all things. The second part of this passage Paul instructs us on how to not only live, with those in community, but those in the surrounding community. We hear in the passage, what are sometimes difficult words. It reminds me of "All I Ever Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," by Robert Fulgham.

All of what I really need to know about how to live,

and what to do, and how to be,

I learned in Kindergarten.

Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox at nursery school.

These are the things I learned...

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say sorry when you hurt somebody.
Wash your hands before you eat.
Flush.
Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.

Give them to someone who feels sad.
Live a balanced life.
Learn some and think some

and draw and paint

and sing and dance and play and work every day.
Take a nap every afternoon.
Be aware of wonder.

Remember the little seed in the plastic cup?

The roots go down and the plant goes up

and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere.

And it is still true, no matter how old you are,

when you go out into the world,

it is best to hold hands and stick together.

Romans 12:17, continues, “17Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. ‘When I was a kid, I did not go to church. No one took me. But this may be the only scripture I was exposed to when I was younger. It seemed like every time my little brother did anything to me, and I was ready to hunt him down like the dirty dog that he was, my Mother would quote this Biblical reference to me, “Vengeance is mine sayth the Lord!” The punch line is that when, I was a kid I didn’t know the Lord so I didn’t care!

Those of us who know the Lord may remember these words, Romans 12:20-21, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.’ ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” We are called to be followers of Jesus and live in kindness and be kind to others in His name. If we live by the rules that we learned in Kindergarten, the world would be a better place and we would live as His followers on the higher path.

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people;
and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us,
who died and rose again;
and in the Holy Spirit,
present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

We believe; God, help our unbelief.

We rejoice in every sign of God's Kingdom;
in the upholding of human dignity and community;
in every expression of love, justice and reconciliation;
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;
in the abundance of God's gifts
entrusted to us that all may have enough;
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

**Glory be to God on high;
and on earth, be peace .**

We confess our sin, individual and collective,
by silence or action:
through the violation of human dignity
based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith;
through the exploitation of people
because of greed and indifference
through the misuse of power
in personal, communal, national, and international life;
through the search for security
by those military and economic forces
that threaten human existence;
through the abuse of technology
which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

**Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy .**

We commit ourselves individually and as a community
to the way of Christ:
to take up the cross;
to seek abundant life for all humanity;
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love,
praying that God's kingdom may come.

The kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen . *-Adopted by WMC 1986 In Kenya*

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Many thanks for your faithfulness in supporting the ministries of the church.

As an act of worship, please consider keeping current in your tithes and offerings. Even though the church building is closed, we still have financial obligations we need to meet. The mailbox will be checked daily. The address is: Johnsville United Methodist Church, 11106 Green Valley Road, "Union Bridge, MD 21791

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Offering Prayer

Loving God, when we are unsure of accomplishing anything as your people, you promise to renew our light, that our witness may be seen by many. Receive our moneys and all our talents of hand and heart and voice, to spread the good news of your grace and peace. Amen.

1. Lord, whose love through humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose
every gift that you impart.

2. Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole.

3. As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving
your abundant life to share.

4. Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
May your mercy know, and live.

* BENEDICTION

Love, as Jesus has loved you.
Go to serve, as Jesus served.
Go with the peace that passes all understanding.
Go to heal the world as Jesus healed. Amen.

* POSTLUDE

“I Know Whom I Have Believed” (McGranahan)