



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
June 14, 2020 – Second Sunday of Pentecost

WELCOME

PRELUDE "The God of Abram Praise" (Hebrew melody)

*Opening Hymn "God, Whose Love Is Reigning O'er Us" UMH 100

1. God, whose love is reigning o'er us,
source of all, the ending true;
hear the universal chorus
raised in joyful praise to you:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
worship ancient, worship new.

2. Word of God from nature bringing
springtime green and autumn gold;
mountain streams like children singing,
ocean waves like thunder bold;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
As creation's tale is told.

3. Holy God of ancient glory,
choosing man and woman, too;
Abr'am's faith and Sarah's story
formed a people bound to you.
Alleluia, Alleluia,
to your covenant keep us true.

4. Covenant, new again in Jesus,
Star-child born to set us free;
sent to heal us, sent to teach us
How love's children we might be.
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Risen Christ, our Savior he!

5. Lift we then our human voices
in the songs that faith would bring;
live we then in human choices
lives that, like our music, sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
joined in love our praises ring!

*Call to Worship: (Ps 116, Romans 5)

Leader: Call to the Lord, who hears our prayers.

People: Sing to the Lord, who delights in our songs.

Leader: Wait for the Lord, the source of our hope.

People: Worship the Lord, who is worthy of our praise.

*Opening Prayer

God of wondrous love, your miracles always catch us by surprise. When our time of blessing comes, we may laugh with Sarah and dance with Abraham. When our bodies are touched by your healing grace, may we bow down before your throne of glory. Come to us now as we gather to worship, that we might be touched by your Spirit and made whole by your grace. Amen.

Special Music "Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord" (Hudon)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Gracious, Holy God, touch our lives as you touched the lives of Abraham and Sarah making the impossible, possible. We look forward to laughing at ourselves in our unbelief as you make the unbelievable happen. Grant us wisdom to put ourselves aside and fully trust in you. Help us to move from worry to the joy in the freedom you give us as our Lord and Savior. Forgive us for the places and times in our lives that we have missed the mark of our discipleship, and bring us to wholeness in You. Lay your healing touch on those that are ill, in doubt, grieving; and are suffering oppression in any form. Thank you for the hope that we have in You and your Son, Jesus who taught us 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

"My Tribute"

UMH 99

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
to God be the glory for the things he has done.
With his blood he has saved me;
with his power he has raised me;
to God be the glory for the things he has done.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture Lesson: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

18The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

Genesis 21: 1-7

21The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." ⁷And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Psalter Reading: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 UMH 837

I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
² Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
¹² What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?
¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord,
¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.
¹⁶ O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.
You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.
¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!

Epistle Lesson: Romans 5:1-8

⁵Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope
of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that
suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,
⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the
Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone
die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 9:35-10:8

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming
the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the
crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a
shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'

¹⁰Then Jesus* summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast
them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve
apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his
brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of
Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and
enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go,
proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."* ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead,
cleanse the lepers,* cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"O, Lord, It Is Hard to be Humble"

Pastor Shari McCourt

This week, one morning, I read the scripture lesson, prayed through the scripture, prayed
more, and fixed my breakfast. My phone made a noise so, I opened my phone only to find a flash
from the past. This will date me, but I am hoping to be in good company around here! Those of you
who are younger, this will be a piece of history worth knowing.

So my goofy phone opened to a performer, who was very popular in in the 1970's, 80's and beyond. He used to have his own variety show, back in the day. He had a special talent for writing songs, for well-known performers, and for himself. He often writes songs on the spot. He was born in Lubbock, Texas. He is still alive and 84 years old. He wrote this song at the height to his success, so far at that time.

He described it this way, "Back a few months ago, I was headlinin' a great big nightclub. I came in a couple days early, and they put me up in what they call the "Star Suite" Now here I am, headlinin' in one of the biggest nightclubs in the country and I wake up at eight o'clock in the morning in this "Star Suite" all by myself." Mac Davis went on to describe, that he felt a little sorry for himself so, he did, what he always did, and that was to pick up his guitar and write this song.

"Oh Lord It's Hard to Be Humble" By Mac Davis

Oh Lord it's hard to be humble
When you're perfect in every way
I can't wait to look in the mirror
Cause I get better looking each day
To know me is to love me

I must be a heck of a man
Oh Lord it's hard to be humble
But I'm doing the best that I can
I used to have a girlfriend
But she just couldn't compete

With all of these love starved women
Who keep clamoring at my feet
Well I prob'ly could find me another
But I guess they're all in awe of me
Who cares, I never get lonesome

Cause I treasure my own company
Oh Lord it's hard to be humble
When you're perfect in every way
I can't wait to look in the mirror
Cause I get better looking each day

To know me is to love me
I must be a heck of a man
Oh Lord it's hard to be humble
But I'm doing the best that I can
I guess you could say I'm a loner
A cowboy outlaw tough and proud

I could have lots of friends if I want to
But then I wouldn't stand out from the crowd
Some folks say that I'm egotistical
Heck, I don't even know what that means

I guess it has something to do with the way that I
Fill out my skin tight blue jeans

Oh Lord it's hard to be humble . . .

So, by now some of you are wondering what this has to do with our scripture lessons for the day. When we read the lessons, we hear that all things are possible with the Lord. The story of Abraham and Sarah sounded impossible that an old woman would give birth to a son. Her son had been promised by God many, many years before she conceived him. All bets were off that Sarah would give birth to Isaac. God keeps God's promises. Sarah had the child in her old age, that God had promised.

Our Psalter lesson depicts a listening, loving God. This a God that we want to dedicate our lives. A God we can count on in all things. This God is the Creator of the universe, who loves each one of us, more than we can know, and is ready to listen to us at any time.

This same God has given us faith that helps us to endure all things with His grace! God sends His Spirit into us in the times and places of our suffering to help us develop character, and endurance which He transforms into HOPE! Romans 5:8 said, "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."

The gospel lesson is the story of Jesus and the disciples going from city to city, and village to village, teaching and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God available to all. They were healing and curing folks from every sickness and disease found during those days. Jesus demonstrated compassion for those in the crowds as He could see that they were harassed by those in political power and left helpless. Jesus turned to His ordinary people who had been called as disciples and asked them to pray for "hands to harvest" in His name.

Jesus called for His twelve disciples and gave these common people authority over unclean spirits, in order to cast them out of people. The disciples were sent forth to heal in Jesus' name. The instructions were to go forth to and find those who are the lost sheep of Israel. The interesting thing about this mission field is that the House of Israel believed, they were God's chosen people. Many believed themselves to be so chosen that didn't need Jesus at all. They were already 'living the life.' The disciples were instructed to accept nothing of payment. Disciples are called to live as instruments of God's grace in Jesus name. Jesus explained that they would not need to take anything with them. We can learn many things from this reading.

Some take aways are:

1. You need nothing because the Spirit of God who works through you will provide you with everything.
2. Serving the Lord is about the Lord.
3. Continue to serve the Lord, until called to another ministry, or your time is up.
4. Serving the Lord of all, is its own payment.
5. Not everyone wants to hear the good news, especially if they see themselves as privileged.
6. Disciples are sent out in the midst of wolves, pray, and pray hard for wisdom.
7. Jesus knows the way, trust in Him.
8. The most humble hear the Lord the best for their ego is out of the way.

So, let's get back to "O Lord, It's Hard to Be Humble" When Mac Davis wrote his song, he was laughing at himself. He woke up at the height of his career so far, in the "Star Suite" all alone. Jesus disciples we are called as humble, ordinary, common, people who are equipped by the Spirit of God.

We are to remain humble so that the Spirit can work through us. All that we do should give glory to God.

Those that we are called to gather are not always humble. Many have been living a life without Jesus and can't figure out why they would need his mercy and grace. It is not our words that will save them, it is the Spirit of God – Jesus who will save them, and he will use us in His mission. We are called to be humble servants. We might sing the refrain to remind ourselves.

“Oh Lord it's hard to be humble
But I'm doing the best that I can.”

And Lord, help me to be a better disciple of your Son Jesus. Amen.

As an act of worship, let us give our tithes, offerings, and gifts.

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

Doxology: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Offering Prayer** (Genesis 18, Romans 5, Matthew 9)

Touch these gifts O God with your manifold blessing. Touch our very lives, that we may be instruments of your hope. May our gifts and our lives, bring your healing, love, and compassion to a world in need. Amen.

*Closing Hymn “Lord, You Give the Great Commission” UMH 584

1. Lord, you give the great commission:
“Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity.

Refrain
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

2. Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community.

Refrain

4. Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society.

Refrain

3. Lord, you make the common holy;
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty.

Refrain

Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
May we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
Hold in mind eternity.

Refrain

* BENEDICTION Go now in peace expecting miracles. Go now in love for the One whose love goes with us.

Worship online here → <https://youtu.be/RNVFFtFiWSA>