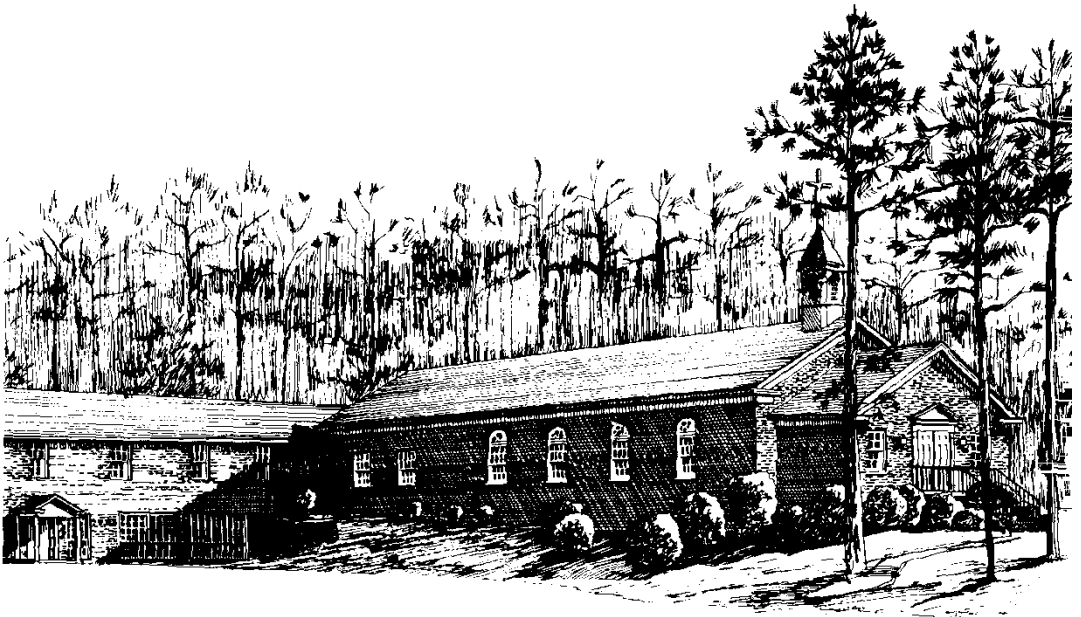


# GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 182 - 6300 Courthouse Road  
Prince George, VA 23875



Christians Who Love and Care.

*"It shall be said, 'Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way.'" Isaiah 57:14*

March 3, 2013

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 3, 2013 - 11:00 am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Liturgical Color: Purple or Blue

PCUSA Emphasis: Celebrate the Gifts of Women

*"It shall be said, 'Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way.'" Isaiah 57:14*

Let us prepare our hearts in silence to meet God's Spirit in worship!

## GOD GATHERS THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Sandra Perkins & Gail Rollings

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jerry Bond

PASSING OF THE PEACE/SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Rev. Beverly Bullock

### Call to Worship

One: God's thoughts are not our thoughts,

**All: God's ways are not our ways.**

One: Yet, God has chosen to be known with us, among us, as one of us.

**All: God has chosen to use us for God's hope-bearing work.**

**Let us worship God!**

\*Opening Hymn

"Step By Step"

Pg. 494

\*Congregation: please stand, if able; **bold type read aloud.**

## **We Confess Our Sin (in unison)**

Creating and nurturing God, we seek your justice for our lives, yet we ignore injustice all around us. We seek your peace, yet we are complicit with the rhetorical and literal wars that rage around us.

We celebrate the gifts of women whom you are using to transform the church, yet we allow suffering and oppression based on gender to continue. We know you are not done with us, but we act as if we must be finished products.

Forgive us our neglect of ourselves and each other. Forgive us for forgetting who we are, your precious daughters and sons. Forgive us for our lack of imagination about what you might be doing both in the church and the in the world. Hold us in your mercy as a mother gathers her young in her arms. Give us a place of grace that we might grow in your light. Grant us your forgiving love in the name of Jesus, who welcomed and celebrated women, who gave strength to the weak, who set us free and who is our Savior and our brother. Amen.

## **A Moment of Silent Confession**

### **\*Promise of God's Forgiveness**

One: Who is in a position to condemn?

**All: Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

**All: The old life has gone, a new life has begun.**

One: Know that we have been forgiven and be at peace!

**All: Hallelujah, Amen!**

\*Congregational Response (Hymn #734, Gloria Patri)

The Giving of Our Tithes, Gifts and Selves to God - Offertory

\*Congregational Response (#34 Doxology)

\*Prayer of Dedication

## **WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD**

Time for Children - Junior Sermon

Pat Hunter

Choral Anthem

(Children ages 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> grade are invited to leave for Junior Church; older children may pick up a “Worship Board” in the right front pew for their use during the service.)

Bible Readings	Isaiah 55:1-9	Old Testament	Pg. 598
	Luke 13:1-9	New Testament	Pg. 848

### **Isaiah 55:1-9**

“Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, And to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

## **Luke 13:1-9**

“At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them---do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

Sermon

“In The Midst Of It All”

Rev. Beverly Bullock

\*Reflective Hymn

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

Pg. 473

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

### **\*We Affirm Our Faith - The Apostle’s Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers of the People (in unison)

To God, our creator; Jesus Christ, our liberator: Holy Spirit, the light of wisdom and the Triune God, source of all love, life and healing;

Hear our prayers:

For all women in need of healing, who can no longer see your image in their bodies or souls...

For all women disabled by violence, whose cries for help no longer leave their lips, whose silence suffocates their spirit, who cannot imagine that you are at work in them...

For all who are troubled by confusion or pain, who can only see the past, for their imaginations about the future have been stolen...

For women who are angry at you and the world, for women who are not, for women who are just now finding their voices...

For women who have discovered the courage to speak up, who dare to imagine that you are indeed working your transformation of this world through them...

*We pray that they and all people will be filled with visions of a new self, a new church and a new world through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray: "Our Father who art in Heaven..."*

\* Departing Hymn

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Pg. 458

Blessing

One: We have been blessed!

**All: We have met for divine worship, as God's people.**

One: We have been blessed!

**All: Our sins have truly been forgiven.**

One: We have been blessed!

**All: We now go out into the world as the body of Christ, witnessing to the Risen Christ. We have been blessed indeed. Hallelujah, Amen!**

\*Pastoral Benediction

\*Choral Benediction

**-WELCOME TO GREGORY MEMORIAL! -**

We hope and pray that as you worship with us today you may experience the love of God and be encouraged for the coming week. Visitors, make sure to let us know of your presence by completing one of the registration cards in the pews and placing it in the offering plate. We invite both visitors and “regulars” to use the cards to let us know of your prayer requests or special needs.

**VISITOR INFORMATION** --- We have special informational packets for our visitors, both adults and children. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**---We offer engaging classes each Sunday for all ages beginning at 9:45 am. Children, youth and one adult class meet on the second floor of the Educational Building, and another adult class meets downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for coffee in the kitchen before and after class!

**NURSERY & JUNIOR CHURCH**---During the worship service, we provide loving child care for infants and toddlers. Children ages pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade are invited to join their parents in the service through the Time with Children after which they can follow their leaders to a worship-based activity appropriate for their age. For children who remain in the worship service, there are “worship boards” in a box in the front right pew for their learning and enjoyment during the service.

**PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY INFO BY 03/10 WITH FORMS ON NARTHEX TABLE. PUT IN DIRECTORY BOX, OR DOWNSTAIRS IN OFFICE DOOR MAILBOX.**

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE:** In Church Office by **Tuesday**.

**LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE & LUNCHEON:** 12:00 pm - Service & 12:30 pm - Lunch: March 7 - Bethlehem Congregational Church. Church; March 14 - Church of the Sacred Heart; and March 21 - Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church.

**CLEANING VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED!** Write in your preference for cleaning date(s) on the sign-up form on Narthex table. Thanks to all who generously volunteered to give time in cleaning the Sanctuary last fall. If you need access during the time you need to clean, call Jerry Bond.

**SPRING WORK DAY!** Saturday, March 16 is GMPC Spring Work Day (Rain date: March 23)

**EASTER FLOWERS:** Forms for ordering Easter flowers for remembrance/memorial are on Narthex table. Deadline: is **Sunday, March 17**. As before, please place completed forms/payment in collection plate. Checks pay to: Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Easter Lily	\$11.25	Tulip	\$10.25	Hydrangea	\$19.25
Azalea	\$17.25	Hyacinth	\$10.25	Chrysanthemum	\$11.25

## 2013 STEWARDSHIP TO DATE

### The Facts:

Annual budget expense	\$142,151
Pledged & projected income	\$127,785
Monthly budget needs	\$ 11,846
Weekly budget needs	\$ 2,733

### The Figures:

Offering 02/03	\$2,992.02
Offering 02/10	\$2,045.53
Offering 02/17	\$2,327.35
Offering 02/24	\$3,083.00

## ATTENDANCE: February 24

Worship: 53	Sunday School: 15
	Spiritual Enrichment 5
	Fellowship 8
	Youth 0
	One Room 2

## THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY: March 03 - March 16, 2013

### March 03 - March 09

### March 10-March 16

	<u>March 03 - March 09</u>	<u>March 10-March 16</u>
Today	03 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	10 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship
Monday	04 9:30 am Line Dancing 6:00 pm Congregational Care* 6:30 pm Missions 6:30 pm Outreach	11 9:30 am Line Dancing
Tuesday	05 12:30 pm Day Circle 7:00 pm Facilities 7:00 pm Worship	12 Session Comm. reports due to GMPC office 7:00 pm Stewardship/Finance 7:30 pm Evening Circle
Wednesday	06 7:00 pm Choir	13 7:00 pm Choir
Thursday	07 12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch @Bethlehem Congre. Church 2-8:00 pm Cleaning	14 News articles due to GMPC office 12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch @ Sacred Heart Cath. Church 2-8:00 pm Cleaning
Friday	08	15
Saturday	09	16 8:00 am GMPC Spring Work Day (Rain date: 03/23)



## **SUNDAY SERVANTS**

<b>Sunday Servants</b>	<b>Today, March 03</b>	<b>March 10</b>
USHERS & ACOLYTES (A)	Marguerite Bishop Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew  Jared Smyth (A) Austin Smyth (A)	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Rose Scott Valerie Harsh  Breeana Hunter (A) Jamie Meurer (A)
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet
JUNIOR SERMON	Pat Hunter	Rev. Beverly Bullock
JUNIOR CHURCH	Jessica Mauger Kevin Foster	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh
NURSERY	Jennifer Smyth	Ruby Spain
COUNTING	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Sandy Hunter Ron Recher

**MARCH GATEKEEPER:** Keith Spain

## **OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN.....**

Katherine Tompkins	All who have lost loved ones to senseless & random violence
Christine Belsches	Peggy Allen & family (loss of mother, Laura Lambert, Feb. 22)
Marian McDonald	Pat Yarosz (mother-in-law of Ruby Spain's sister)
Gladys Wiseman	Virginia Mika (Sister of Grace & Helen Cibula)
Frank Solesbee	All persons recovering from natural disasters
Audrey Turner	Jimmy Belsches (Son of Christine Belsches)
Kenneth Figg	Mary Chadwick (Dink Armstrong's sister)
June Hawks	Sam DuVall (Sheila Fields's son-in-law)
Aida Faries	Ed Smiley (Friend of Doug Holc)
Pat Hunter	2012-2013 School Year
Don Vtipil	Tara Foster

**MARCH WORSHIP DATES:**

March 03, 2013: 3rd Sunday in Lent (11 am Worship)

March 10, 2013: 4th Sunday in Lent (11 am Worship)

March 17, 2013: 5th Sunday in Lent (11 am Worship)

March 21, 2013: Lenten Worship & Luncheon - GMPC (12 pm)

March 24, 2013: Passion/Palm Sunday (11 am Worship)

March 28, 2013: Maundy Thursday Worship Service (7 pm) - Holy Communion

March 31, 2013: Resurrection of the Lord/Easter (Sunrise Worship Service)

March 31, 2013: Resurrection of the Lord/Easter (11 am Worship)

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*+Scripture, if printed in bulletin, quoted from The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, published by Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530, U.S.A.]*

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## SERMON NOTES

**GMPC SESSION**

**Class of 2013**

Pamela Harsh  
Evelyn Lichvar  
H. F. Scott, Jr.

**Class of 2014**

Mary Holc  
Valerie Harsh  
Jennifer Smyth

**Class of 2015**

Rose Scott  
Glenda Mayhew  
Mary Kay Schroeter

**Clerk of Session**

David Johnson

**GMPC TRUSTEES**

**Class of 2013**

Dennis Allen

**Class of 2014**

Ron Recher

**Class of 2015**

Donald Hunter

**PRIMARY CHURCH CONTACTS**

Church Phone: 804-732-1081 Website: [www.gregorymemorial.org](http://www.gregorymemorial.org)

Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Beverly Bullock, mobile 804-892-1785, [bevbullock@aol.com](mailto:bevbullock@aol.com)

Secretary: Nancy Adams, [gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net](mailto:gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net)

Organist: Sandra Perkins, Accompanist: Gail Rollings

Treasurer: Kevin Foster, [kevin.foster@bsvnet.com](mailto:kevin.foster@bsvnet.com), phone 804-732-1096

Financial Secretary: Sandy Hunter, phone 804-733-8414

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 182 - 6300 Courthouse Road  
Prince George, VA 23875

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# *Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday*

## *March 3, 2013*

In 2013, Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday honors women through whom God is transforming the church in an emerging era. Though the official Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday is March 3, 2013, your congregation or women's groups may use this resource on any day that you choose.

We know that God has always been at work forming and reforming the church, but these days, the sense that we are being reformed feels heightened. Transformation in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) takes many shapes: movements like NEXT Church and the Fellowship of Presbyterians, as well as new and exciting programs

like "For Such a Time as This" and "1001 New Worshiping Communities." God's spirit is clearly stirring up change. And through all of it, women are active in God's transforming work.



*The Overcoming Worshipper Cassandra Donnelly*

### ***Women Transforming the Church in an Emerging Era***

By Shannon Kershner

Glimpses of God's vision for the church—as in Isaiah 55:1-13—inspire us to be open to change. In this particular text, the prophet powerfully proclaims that God's alternative reality is both here and on the way. The message holds both challenge and promise. The prophet echoes Woman Wisdom from Proverbs 8-9, challenging us to stop spending resources on "that which does not satisfy" (55:2). If we stop spending our time, talent, energy and finances on those things that will not satisfy, then we will be able to "delight ourselves with the rich food" of transformation-healthy ministries and mission—that God has already begun to bring about in our very midst.

The prophet paints a picture of God's eternal reality in which all people are valued, drenched in God's grace and full of that which sustains life. The mountains, hills and trees revel in God's goodness by "bursting into song and clapping their hands" (55:12). The transformation is not

simply for us, but for all creation! Women throughout the PC(USA) ground themselves in the reality of divine promise, thereby discovering their freedom to do new things and older things in new ways.

## **Women Leading Transformation**

One woman through whom God is working transformation is Theresa Cho, associate pastor at St. John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. In 2012, Theresa served as moderator of the Presbytery of San Francisco. During that time, many churches in San Francisco were facing the challenge of stagnant and struggling ministries. The question being asked was "How do we help churches die?"

But Theresa and others were not convinced that was the correct question. They were uncertain about the right question, so they came together to discuss possibilities. A crucial revelation was that the presbytery isn't a separate entity, but that the pastors and churches are the presbytery. Living into "We are the presbytery," they took matters into their own hands.

The city of San Francisco has one Mandarin, one Cantonese, one Japanese American, one Taiwanese American, one Indonesian, three Korean American, two African American, one Latino American and six multicultural PC(USA) congregations. One of them has 500 members, twelve of them have fewer than 100 members and seven of those congregations had no pastor or interim leadership. The Presbyterian churches in San Francisco are a clear example of diversity. Theresa realized they did not know each other, which made corporately answering the needs of the churches nearly impossible.

So Theresa and a leadership team of five other local pastors personally invited pastors and leaders from all 22 churches to come to an Urban Legacy Convocation. Twenty of the churches sent representatives to the gathering, where they talked about their contexts, challenges and fears, what kind of leadership was needed for the future and what they hoped their collective legacy might be. It was an invigorating time that launched not only new

friendships, but also a reenergized sense of the way God was transforming the church with and through their witness—a taste of the new reality proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah. For more information on church transformation in San Francisco, visit [www.theresaecho.com](http://www.theresaecho.com) or [www.sfurbanlegacy.wordpress.com](http://www.sfurbanlegacy.wordpress.com).

Another woman leading transformation in this new era, MaryAnn McKibben Dana, is a part-time pastor of Idylwood Presbyterian Church in Falls Church, Virginia, part-time author and full-time mom. MaryAnn is grounded in the vision that Isaiah proclaimed—a sense of God's eternal reality in which all people are valued and sustained by God's grace. She is living out that vision by trying to help families rediscover Sabbath together, even when their schedule screams "too busy!" In her new book, *Sabbath in the Suburbs*, MaryAnn takes the reader on a year-long journey with her family as they took to heart the commandment to keep the Sabbath. She documented their experience so as to provide a guide for all kinds of families who long to do the same. It is her hope that as families are renewed and transformed, so will the church be renewed and transformed.

MaryAnn also sees Isaiah's proclamation as a promise being born even now. She expresses that promise in a video that she recorded for the *We Are Presbyterian 2011* project. Her contribution to that project was titled "A New Diagnosis" and in it, she suggests that our churches are not dying, but rather, are pregnant with God's new possibilities. She is convinced that the pain churches in transition are feeling are labor pains and not death pangs. For more information, see her video at <http://vimeo.com/25360983>.

These are just two women out of many through whom God is actively at work transforming the church for an emerging era. You probably have stories and examples of your own. Work those stories into a sermon that weaves together the vision that Isaiah proclaims with the ways that vision is already being lived out through the ministry and mission of women within our denomination.