

Worship for 09 August 2020
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: God calls to us, inviting us, encouraging us...

ALL: From where we have been to where we are, from where we are to where we are called.

One: God joins us in this journey, walking beside us along the path.

ALL: Sharing the path with us, supporting us, laughing with us, and strengthening us.

One: There is nothing we can face that is not already known to our Lord.

ALL: Jesus has passed this way before; he guides us and protects us, he points out pitfalls and teaches us to guide others in turn.

Hymn of Invitation – “How Firm a Foundation”

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent word! What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Scripture – Genesis 32:22-32; Luke 8:22-25 (see reverse)

Reflection – “*On the Road Again: Doubts*”

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Thanksgiving – “When Peace like a River”

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.

It is well, it is well with my soul.

Announcements

Blessing

Genesis 32:22-32

The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob said to him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

Luke 8:22-25

One day [Jesus] got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

What difficult situations or decisions are you facing? What struggles have you been wrestling with recently? What would it take for you to "demand a blessing" and re-center your faith in the One who can calm the waves?