

Worship for 30 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 – “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

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 – Psalm 23:1-6; Luke 10:17-20; 22:35-37 (see reverse)

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

Prayers of the People & 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 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.

Hymn of Thanksgiving – “Great God of Every Blessing”

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care, you the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share. How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search, transforming broken people into the holy church. For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart: sincerely and completely we offer you our hearts.

Announcements

Blessing

Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Luke 10:17-20

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Luke 22:35-37

[Jesus] said to them, "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "No, not a thing." He said to them, "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."

What have you been carrying with you that is not needed? Moving forward, what do you need to take up for the journey? In all our faithful journeying, to what degree are we resting on the presence of the Lord to sustain us?