

Worship for 1 November 2020
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?

ALL: Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking truth from sincere hearts.

One: Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends.

ALL: Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord.

One: Such people will stand firm forever.

ALL: In the Lord they shall be renewed. The Lord's name be praised!

Hymn of Invitation – “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

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!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert, and art, and ever more shall be.

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 us to 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 – Jonah 2:1-9; Luke 18:1-8 (see reverse)

Reflection – “*Lift Your Heart*”

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.

Celebration of our Lord's Table

Hymn of Thanksgiving – “For All the Saints”

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle; they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Announcements & Blessing

Jonah 2:1-9

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying, "I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?' The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O Lord my God. As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!"

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

What do you pray for? How do you pray? Would you say your prayers align you more with earth or more with heaven?

Thank you to all who brought bags of candy for the children's Story Book Parade. It will be enjoyed by all the "characters" in the parade.

It is time now to recognize and thank some of our local heroes. With your participation, we can create some awesome treat bags for our policemen to show appreciation for their efforts in keeping PG a safe place to live and work. Treats like candy, gum, nabs (a.k.a. cheese and crackers), snack bars, etc., all store-bought and individually wrapped, of course. Handwritten notes of appreciation would also be a nice gesture. Items can be brought to church the next two Sundays or dropped by the church office during office hours. There are approximately 50 officers in the department. Let's let them know that the folks here at Gregory "have their backs."

Sandy Hunter
Prince George, VA