

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



"As Jesus was leaving the Temple that day, one of his disciples said, 'Teacher, look at these magnificent buildings! Look at the impressive stones in the walls.' Jesus replied, 'Yes, look at these great buildings. But they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!'" ~ Mark 13:1-2

Throughout his life Thomas Merton recognized he was on a journey toward something. He would later realize that the 'something' he was journeying toward was a greater awareness of God, and a deepened commitment to following Jesus with more and more of his life. This ultimately led him to the Abbey of Gethsemane in Kentucky, but in the early stages led him to many different places (including my hometown). These various wanderings and searching to find the core of his life & living brought a lot of great spiritual and theological insights, including what has become one of my favorite prayers:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end, nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so..."

This is a very honest prayer, for a very real time in Merton's life when he knew he was traveling toward something, but not only was he not sure where to find it, he wasn't even fully certain of what it was. And while we don't like to acknowledge it in our own lives because it can be very uncomfortable and even disorienting, it is true for us, as well. We, perhaps individually but almost certainly as a congregation, have been moving through what is known as a *liminal season*.

Liminal Seasons are times of transition, when we are firmly in the unknown. We know that we have left behind what once was (which brings about feelings of loss and grief, even if we are also looking ahead with excitement), and we also know that we have not yet arrived at what will be...we may not even know where we are journeying or when we have arrived. We only know that we are in that uncomfortable transition period, and our human tendency is to do anything to get out of this period, even if it is unhealthy or unproductive.

But the Liminal Season has a gift of its own, and it is a gift not only waiting for us to accept but which can truly bless us. This gift is the opportunity to reassess who we are, and how we live out our identity. We have seen examples of this in our Scriptures: The people of Israel were in a liminal season as they journeyed in the wilderness, reassessing who they were as the people of God, and not slaves in a foreign land. The disciples found themselves in a liminal season as they reassessed who they were as followers of a Messiah who was not coming as a conquering king.

And we are in a liminal season as we engage in the conversation brought about by the discussion of *Anatomy of a Revived Church*. Our core identity is not what is being reassessed; we are still a congregation of Christ's Church, called to live out his love and proclaim his good news. But reassessing the manner in which this is lived out, and the focus by which we address this, is the gift of our liminal season. We are moving through this season as we approach Advent and the end of 2020, so that we might explore the practical application in the New Year of 2021.

Merton's prayer continues, "But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

Let us faithfully embrace this liminal season, and let us courageously explore how we live out who we are in the coming year.



With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER, 2020

Sunday, 1 November 2020

"All Saints Day; 22nd Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Jonah 2:1-9 * 2nd Reading: Luke 18:1-8
 Sermon: "Lift Your Heart"

Sunday, 8 November 2020

"23rd Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Revelation 3:14-17 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 15:10-20
 Sermon: "Spiritual Cholesterol"

Sunday, 15 November 2020

"24th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 8:19-22 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 19:16-26
 Sermon: "No Magic Fix"

Sunday, 22 November 2020

"Christ the King/Reign of Christ" - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Philippians 2:12-18 * 2nd Reading: Mark 2:13-17
 Sermon: "Bright As Stars"

Sunday, 29 November 2020

"1st Sunday in Advent" - Liturgical Color: Blue
 1st Reading: Joshua 24:1, 14-18 * 2nd Reading: John 10:7-10
 Sermon: "Choose Life"



OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community.

Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister
 Evelyn Lichvar, her brother, Martin, and her son, Rick (health issues)
 Becky Scott Smith
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)
 Kenneth Andrews
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother
 Steve "Dee" Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt's husband (health issue)
 Verne & Clara Smith
 Peggy Allen
 Eddie Frankenstein
 Grace Cibula
 Etta Holc
 Jerry Hasky (health issue)
 Kay Recher, daughter-in-law of Ron and Judy Recher
 (head-on crash in Oklahoma)
 Pam Henry, Mary Holc's family member
 Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues)
 Velma Allen (health issues)

Adele Linkenhoker, Barbara Taliaferro's friend (health concerns)
 Jane & Bob Jones (health issues)
 Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from surgery)
 Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue)
 Rev. Paul Luthman, previously our pastor (recovering from surgery)
 Sharon Reed and family, Susan Shockley's co-worker (health issue)
 Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue)
 Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)
 Randy Warthan (health issue)
 Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (health issue, rehab)
 Floyd M. Brown, Sr. (SRMC, health issues)
 Pam Landrum, Doris Harmison's daughter (orthopedic issue)
 Trevor Fine, Susan Shockley's neighbor's son (health issue)
 Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue)
 Morgan Ingram
 The Rolley Family, Marguerite Bishop's friends (health issues)
 Larry Johnson (gall bladder surgery)
 Jeanette Shady, Linda Brown's aunt (health issues)

AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN WORSHIP...

Although we are still in the midst of the global pandemic, we have begun to "re-gather" in worship, with some specific considerations in mind and practice.

Please note the following:

- ~ Worship continues each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
- ~ On-line worship offerings will continue via Zoom (Meeting ID: 756-330-772, Passcode 6300) and Facebook Live From the church's Facebook page; or those without reliable internet may dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID# 756-330-772, Passcode 6300.
- ~ If you are experiencing fever or other symptoms/illness, please stay home and worship with us virtually.
- ~ If you feel comfortable doing so, you may join us in person with the following considerations:
 - Cloth masks are still in effect for public spaces. If you plan to join us in person, please join us as well in wearing a mask for the health of us all.
 - Please make liberal use of the hand sanitizer placed at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
 - Family units are asked to keep physical distance of 6 feet. Pews are marked off for this.
 - Worship information will be available on the weekly "bulletin" handout. This will also be available digitally on the church website for those who wish to worship from home.

Above all and through all, remember this: Jesus loves you and loves us; we are not abandoned; this will last some time, but is still temporary in the grand scheme of life; the more we do our part the quicker we will be on the other side of it.

Love and Peace to You All!

A Few Tips To Enhance Your Virtual Worship Experience

- Turn off all other electronics and devices;
- Have your Bible ready to read along with the morning's scripture;
- Light a candle to represent Christ's Light during the service.

Celebrating Communion

We continue to celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month for the remainder of 2020 (November 1 and December 6) and on Christmas Eve. If you are worshipping in-person, the elements will be prepared ahead of time and made available to you as an individual serving. If you are worshipping with us at home/on-line, I invite you to have ready during these services a bit of bread and juice, so that you may commune with us in Spirit, as well!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Thanksgiving Week: Mon., Tues., Wed. (11/23, 11/24/ 11/25); 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Christmas Week: Mon., Tues., Wed. (12/21, 12/22, 12/23); 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

THOSE WHO SERVE – NOVEMBER, 2020

GATEKEEPER:	NOV. 1 All Saints Day 21 st Sun. after Pente.	NOV. 8 22 nd Sun. after Pente.	NOV. 15 23 rd Sun. after Pente.	NOV. 22 ** Christ the King/ Reign of Christ	NOV. 29 *** 1 st Sunday in Advent
TBA					
Ushers	Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Larry Johnson	Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	John Carl Allen Rose Scott Wayne Powers
Announcements	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Larry Johnson	Valerie Harsh
Nursery	Marguerite Bishop Blake Bishop*	Lisa Brown Tara Foster	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Megan Cashing Shirley MacNeill	Glenda Mayhew Judy Recher*
Counting					

* Choir member leaves after choral anthem (if having choir)

** 5 Cents a Meal Offering

*** Local Emerg. Aid Offering

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Beginning November 1, Christmas Poinsettia order forms will be available on the Narthex table. All orders must be received by Sunday, November 29.
Cost: TBA



TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

'T WAS THE NIGHT OF THANKSGIVING...



'Twas the night of Thanksgiving
But I just couldn't sleep.
I tried counting backwards...
I tried counting sheep!



The leftovers beckoned
(The dark meat and white),
But I fought the temptation
With all of my might.

Tossing and turning
With anticipation,
The thought of a snack
Became infatuation.

So, I raced to the kitchen,
Flung open the door
And gazed at the fridge,
Full of goodies galore.

I gobbled up turkey
And buttered potatoes,
Pickles and carrots,
Beans and tomatoes.

I felt myself swelling
So plump and so round---
'Til all of a sudden,
I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling,
Floated into the sky
With a mouthful of pudding
And a handful of pie.

But, I managed to yell
As I soared past the trees....

"Happy eating to all,
Pass the cranberries, please---

May your stuffing be tasty;
May your turkey be plump;



May your potatoes 'n gravy
Have nary a lump;




May your yams be delicious;
May your pies take the prize;
May your Thanksgiving Dinner
Stay off of your thighs!"



HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!

"The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving." H.U. Westermayer

NOVEMBER, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day 2:00a End Daylight Saving Time 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Holy Communion <u>Order Poinsettias</u>	2	3 ELECTION DAY  1p Circle 6p Cong. Care Com. 7p Christian Ed. Com. 7p Facilities Com.	4	5 2p Church cleaning	6	7
8 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. <u>Order Poinsettias</u>	9	10 7p Missions Com. 7p Outreach Com.	11 VETERANS DAY  <small>REMEMBER OUR VETERANS</small>	12 2p Church cleaning	13	14
15 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 12:00p Session meeting <u>Order Poinsettias</u>	16	17	18	19 2p News articles due in office 2p Church cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	20	21
22 Christ the King/ Reign of Christ 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering <u>Order Poinsettias</u>	23 Church Office Open	24 Church Office Open	25 Church Office Open 2p Newsletter out 2p Church cleaning	26 Church Office Open THANKSGIVING DAY 	27	28
29 1st Sunday in Advent 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Local Emerg. Aid Offering <u>Last day to Order Poinsettias</u>	30 2p Committee reports due			Order goes to Florist Dec. 3 By 11 a.m.		

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



COME AND JOIN US!
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG

We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)
Worship 11:00 A.M.