

Worship for 8 November 2020
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

ALL: For God has established it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

One: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

ALL: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false.

One: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may enter in!

ALL: Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord of hosts!

Hymn of Invitation – “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight. All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

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 – Revelation 3:14-19; Matthew 15:10-20 (see reverse)

Reflection – “Spiritual Cholesterol”

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 – “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King. Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go, from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King. Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Announcements & Blessing

Revelation 3:14-19

“And to the angel of the church in Laodecia write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God’s creation: I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’ You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent.

Matthew 15:10-20

Then [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

What would it look like for you to do a spiritual check-up? What would the results be? Knowing the fullness of the promise of Abundant Life, what would it take for you to cut out some of the unhealthy aspects of your living?

We wish 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