

Worship for 15 November 2020
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

ALL: The skies display God's craftsmanship.

One: Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known.

ALL: Their message has gone throughout the earth; their words to all the world.

One: Blessed be the Lord, God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth!

ALL: Blessed be the Lord, the One who brings life and light to our lives!

Hymn of Invitation – “Be Thou My Vision”

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me,
save that thou art; though my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou mine
inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

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 – 1 Samuel 8:19-22; Matthew 19:16-26 (see reverse)

Reflection – “No Magic Fix”

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 – “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

A thousand ages in the thy sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Announcements & Blessing

1 Samuel 8:19-22

But the people refused to listen to Samuel’s warning. “Even so, we still want a king,” they said. “We want to be like the nations around us. Our king will judge us and lead us into battle.” So Samuel repeated to the Lord what the people had said, and the Lord replied, “Do as they say, and give them a king.” Then Samuel agreed and sent the people home.

Matthew 19:16-26

Someone came to Jesus with this question: “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” “Why ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. But to answer your question – if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments.” “Which ones?” the man asked. And Jesus replied: “You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.”

“I’ve obeyed all these commandments,” the young man replied. “What else must I do?” Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many

possessions. Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I’ll say it again – it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

What is the ‘magic fix’ you dream of that would make all of your life, your world better? What would it look like for you to focus on the commandments Jesus listed to the rich young man?

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