

Worship for 12 September 2021
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: Look at the heavens!

ALL: They are shouting the glory of God.

One: The days and the nights declare the magnificence of God's creative works.

ALL: Their voice goes through all the earth and their words reach the ends of the world.

One: Let our words of praise be acceptable to you.

ALL: Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!

*Hymn of Invitation #722 – “Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

Prayer of Confession

You have called us, O God, and we have refused to listen; you have stretched out your hand and we have not taken it. We have taken what you have given us and used those gifts to hurt others and defy you. We have refused to be tamed by your wisdom. Forgive our inability to recognize you and live out the reality of your gospel. Give us the insight we need to understand your place in our lives so that our words and actions reflect the glory of God in the lives of others. In the name of the Messiah we pray. Amen.

Scripture – Isaiah 50:4-9a; Mark 8:27-38 (see reverse)

Reflection – “A Cross to Bear”

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.

Offering/Offertory

*Doxology #606

Affirmation of Faith

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn of Thanksgiving #213 – “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Announcements & Blessing

The guest preacher for worship next Sunday, September 19, will be Rev. Dr. Errol Rohr.

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

#722 – “Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

[TEXT: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872, alt., Public Domain, from Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal, 2013 Westminster John Knox Press].

- 1) Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone. As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.
- 2) O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet. O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet.
- 3) O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart. And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
- 4) O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'er flow in kindling thought and flowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
- 5) O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

#213 – “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

[TEXT: John Bowring, 1825, Public Domain, from Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal, 2013 Westminster John Knox Press].

- 1) In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
- 2) When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3) When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
- 4) Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.
- 5) In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.