

Worship for 31 October 2021
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: Fling wide the temple gates!

ALL: Open up the ancient doors!

One: The mighty and glorious one is coming.

ALL: Who is this mighty and glorious one?

One: This is the Lord for whom we have waited.

ALL: Let us be glad and rejoice in God.

*Hymn of Invitation #610 – “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Prayer of Confession

Almighty Lord and God, in Jesus Christ you came from heaven to dwell among us, calling us to be your faithful people. Yet we remain shrouded in sin – we hurt and disgrace ourselves; we abuse and destroy one another; we dishonor your holy name. Forgive us; unbind us and let us go so that we may stand among your saints, rejoicing in your saving grace; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

Scripture – Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 8:31-36 (see reverse)

Reflection – “*New Covenant*”

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 #707 – “Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord”

Announcements & Blessing

-Today is the last Sunday that Rev. Dr. Jason Cashing and his family will be with us in worship. Join us in a reception following worship to send them off!

-Sunday, November 7, 2021 is the end of Daylight Saving Time. Rev. Dr. Fred Holbrook will be leading us in worship that Sunday.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 8:31-36

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

#610 – “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

1) O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God’s grace!

2) The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease, sings music in the sinner’s ear’s, brings life, and health, and peace.

3) Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive; the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.

4) My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

5) To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Public Domain
MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Glaser, 1828;
arr. Lowell Mason, 1839; Public Domain

#707 – “Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord”

1) Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray; give us the mind of Christ each passing day; teach us to know the truth that sets us free; grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

2) Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own; come thou within our souls and claim thy throne; help us to shed abroad thy deathless love; use us to make the earth like heaven above.

3) Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway; have in our inmost souls thy perfect way; guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease; guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

4) Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will; through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill. We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all; we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

TEXT: William H. Foulkes, stanzas 1-3, 1918,
stanza 4, c. 1920; Public Domain
MUSIC: Calvin Weiss Laufer, 1918