

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



January 23, 2022 – 11:00 a.m.

We welcome you to worship with us this morning, as we gather in community to draw closer to God, made known in Christ. We pray you will know the presence of the Lord, through our worship, and through the work of the Spirit. We invite you to take these moments before worship to calm your hearts and minds and open yourself to the quiet stillness of God's presence!

Choral Prelude

Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Rollings, Pianist

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Announcements

Larry Johnson

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Sylvester H. Bullock

Sharing of Joys/Concerns

Call to Worship [Pastor leads...]

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul, making wise the simple.

All: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart, enlightening the eyes.

One: The ordinances of the Lord are to be more desired than gold. They are sweeter than honey, the drippings of the honeycomb.

All: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of all of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

* **Opening Hymn #269 "Lead On, O King Eternal!"¹**

Call to Confession (Pastor)

In this season of Epiphany, we are reminded that our God is constantly revealing God's self to us, that we may see and know our Creator. Let us honor and accept this gift by opening our whole hearts through confession.

Prayer of Confession (All in unison) *[Based on Luke 4:14-21]*³

Christ, you came to share good news with the poor and oppressed. You came to release the captives and grant sight to the blind. We, like the crowds that surrounded you at the beginning of your ministry, are fickle. We praise you when your words comfort us and deny your good news means that we need to sacrifice something. Forgive us, God, for our wayward and fleeting love. We are blind to the true implications of your gospel. Help us to see that we may join in your proclamation of good news.

(A Moment of Silent Confession) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Pastor)

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us. In Christ, you are forgiven; you are beloved; you are seen.

Hold on to this truth. *[Based on Romans 8:34, 2 Corinthians 5:17]*³

Promise of God's Forgiveness

One: Hear the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.

One: Know that we have been forgiven, and be at peace!

All: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Amen!

***Congregational Response Hymn #581 "Glory Be to the Father"**¹

Scriptural Readings

Old Testament: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10³ p. 379-380

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a³ p. 933-934

Sermon "I Want to Hear God's Word " Rev. Sylvester H. Bullock

Affirmation of Faith (In unison)

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. [Apostles' Creed^A]

Offering & Offertory

* **Doxology Hymn #606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**¹

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer [Pastor leads...]

One: Almighty God, whether it is through a cold winter sunray, the flavor of an orange, the hug of a friend, or the Bible, you are constantly revealing yourself to us in the expected and unexpected, ordinary and extraordinary. We are humbled with gratitude, that you might want to know us and that you might invite us to know you. We give you thanks.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. We pray for the tensions between Russia and Ukraine. We pray for the people of Afghanistan. We pray for Kazakhstan. Where there is violence, we pray for peace. Where there is injustice, we pray for justice. We pray for the leaders of our nation ... Bless them with wisdom that comes from you and trusted advisors.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: God of unity, we pray for the church universal. In our diversity, may we continue to be the one body of Christ. May we focus on what binds us. May we lift each other up. May we take the beginning of your public ministry seriously and to care for the poor and oppressed.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: Creator, we pray for the earth we live on. It cries out from years of abuse. We pray for those in Kentucky and Colorado and all over the world who are recovering from tornados, fires, and other natural disasters. Shake us from our slumber. Empower us to be good caretakers of all that you've entrusted to us, including land, sea, and creatures.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: Healing God, we pray for those in our lives who are sick - with illnesses, with loneliness, with anger, with fear. There is so much we do not know about prayer. But we do know that you hear us. Bless these people with comfort, with people who embody your love. May they know peace.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We pray all these things in and through Christ our Savior who taught us to pray saying, "**Our Father ...**"²

***Departing Hymn #275 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**¹

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister
Becky Scott Smith
Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)
Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother
Verne & Clara Smith
Peggy Allen
Eddie Frankenstein
Grace Cibula
Etta Holc
Jerry Hasky (health issue)
Pam Henry, Mary Holc's family member
Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue)
Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues)
Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue)
Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)
Dana Etheridge, Wayne Powers' cousin (health issue)
Randy Warthan (health issue)
Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (health issue, rehab)
Floyd M. Brown, Sr. (health issues)
Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue)
Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue)
Billy Hudson, friend of Dianna Starr Lykins Flaherty,
Mary Lykins' daughter
Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue)
Family/friends of Mildred Kephart, Grace Cibula's sister
(d. 12/30)

1/23 THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

		23		30
S	9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship ➤ <i>5 Cents a Meal Offering</i> *Guest preacher: Rev. Sylvester Bullock 12p Session Meeting (rescheduled from 01/16/22; Rev. Sylvester Bullock, Moderator		9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship ➤ <i>Local Emergency Aid Offering</i> *Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Shelly Barrick Parsons 12p Stated Annual Congregational Meeting for 2021 6p Tri-Cities 2022 Workcamp Planning Mtg., Fellowship Hall	
M		24	2p Committee reports due	31
T		25	FEB. 6p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen & Dining Rm) 6p Congregational Care Com.	1
W		26		2
T	2p Newsletter out 2p 2021 Church Stat. Report to Presbytery	27		3
F	10a Church cleaning	28	10a Church cleaning	4
S		29		5

ATTENDANCE:
WORSHIP
SUNDAY SCHOOL

	M	V	M	V
January 2, 2022	13	2	7	
January 9, 2022	20	5	7	
January 16, 2022*	0	0	0	0
January 23, 2022				
January 30, 2022				

M=Members

V=Visitors

** services canceled due to Winter Storm "Izzy"*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Rev. Sylvester Harper Bullock to our pulpit today!

Rev. Bullock (Pittsburgh, PA native, now Hopewell, VA resident; Pastor of Village Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA) received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from Hampton (Institute) University & Master of Divinity Degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Prior to entering seminary, he taught at the secondary level in the Pittsburgh Public School System. Ministries include congregational, bi-vocational, campus, college (HBCU) marching band, hospital chaplaincy, denominational involvements; ecumenical, interfaith & multi-cultural worship & dialogues, pastoral care (child & elder abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, sexual misconduct in ecclesiastical settings & suicide prevention advocacy). Serves as Assistant Band Director with Virginia State University "Trojan Explosion" Marching Band (since 1986); holds memberships in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Tuba Phi Tuba Brass Fellowship, Inc., Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity Inc., & Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Inc. Married to Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock for 46 years & bears witness to 73 years of combined ordained ministry; parents of 2 daughter, grandparents of 3 granddaughters & 1 grandson. They thank God for the blessed reality of their partnership in marriage and ministry.

Session Meeting: (make-up for rescheduled Jan. 16 meeting) will follow today's worship service; Rev. Sylvester Bullock, Moderator.

Next Sunday's guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Shelly Barrick Parsons.

Annual 2021 Congregational Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. after worship service; Moderator: Dr. Parsons.

Tri-Cities Workcamp Planning Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 30, 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in participating in this year's camp. Contact: Valerie Harsh.

¹ **Resource:** Hymns from GLORY TO GOD, THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL, 2013 Westminster John Knox Press; public domain.

² **Resource:** Liturgy written by Rose Schrott Taylor, and provided for free distribution © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2022..

³ **Resource:** THE HOLY BIBLE, (NRSV) © 1989 by Div. of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, All rights reserved. Published by Zondervan.

⁴ **Resource:** "Apostles' Creed", BOOK OF ORDER, PC(USA)

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Telephone: 804.732.1081 - Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
Hymns for Worship Service – January 23, 2022

Resource: Hymns from GLORY TO GOD, THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL, 2013 Westminster John Knox Press; public domain.

Hymn # 269 "Lead On, O King Eternal!"

1) Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come; henceforth in fields of conquest your tents shall be our home. Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong, and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

2) Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace; for not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums, with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

3) Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears; your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light. The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

TEXT: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888, alt.; public domain.

MUSIC: Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835; public domain.

Hymn #275 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

1) A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

2) Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he. Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

3) And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

4) That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

TEXT: Martin Luther, 1529; trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852; public domain.

MUSIC: Martin Luther, 1529, alt.; public domain.

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
Scripture Readings for Worship Service – January 23, 2022

Resource: THE HOLY BIBLE, (NRSV) © 1989 by Div. of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, All rights reserved. Published by Zondervan.

Old Testament: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

[Nehemiah 8: 1-3] "... all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

[Nehemiah 8: 5-6] Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, 'Amen! Amen!' Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

[Nehemiah 8: 8-10] They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.' For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, 'Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'"

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

'Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts."