

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



February 6, 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

Valerie Harsh

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Sylvester H. Bullock

Sharing of Joys/Concerns

Call to Worship [*Pastor leads...*] [*From Isaiah 6: 8¹*]

One: Hear the voice of the Lord, saying,
“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

All: People of God, let us respond, “Here am I; send me!”

*** Opening Hymn #65 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"²**

Call to Confession³ [Pastor]

As we stand in the presence of God, let us confess the ways we have strayed and failed in faithfulness.

Prayer of Confession³ [All in unison]

God, you call us to humble service, to love our neighbors and our enemies, to do justice and offer mercy. But we do not respond as we should. We pretend we do not hear your call. We excuse ourselves from Christian work, citing self-doubt and fear. Our desire for comfort outweighs our desire to do your will. Forgive us, God. Have mercy upon us. Return us to you and your way. Amen.

[A Moment of Silent Confession]

Assurance of Pardon [Pastor]

“Your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen. *[From Isaiah 6:7¹]*

***Congregational Response** Hymn #581 "Glory Be to the Father"²

Prayer for Illumination³ [All in unison]

You call us through your Word read and proclaimed, Holy God. May our eyes be opened and our hearts willing to follow where your Spirit leads. Amen.

Scriptural Readings

Old Testament: Isaiah 6: 1-13¹ p.553-554 .

New Testament: Luke 5: 1-11¹ p. 836

Sermon “Because I Said So” Rev. Sylvester H. Bullock

Affirmation of Faith [All 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' Creed⁴*

Call for Offering [Pastor]

Friends, out of the abundance we have been given, let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

Offering & Offertory

* **Doxology** Hymn #606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"²

Prayer of Dedication³ [*Pastor*]

God, you call us to Christ's mission and ministry. Bless these gifts that they might spread the hope of your good news, feed the hungry, shelter the poor, comfort the suffering, and free the captives. Bless us, also, so that our lives conform to the radical love to which you call and expect of us. Amen.

Prayers of the People³ & **Lord's Prayer** [*Pastor leads...*]

One: Merciful God, hear our prayers for the church and the world, for all your children, no matter their place or position. Hear our prayers for the hungry and the overfed, the mourners and the mockers, the victims and the oppressors. All are in need your wisdom. All are in need of your love. All must be encouraged to hear and heed your call.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: As the psalmist says, "deep calls to deep," yet we splash in shallow water. Call us to deeper relationships, Holy God, by listening to each other in love and seeking the story beneath others' stories. Call us to practices of spiritual nourishment rather than the junk food that tastes good but fails to meet our deepest needs. Steep us in your Word and practices of prayer that stretch us and expand our potential. Surround us with community that calls us to account and encourages us to be our best selves.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: No matter how far we wander, thank you, God, for always calling us home. We praise you for your grace and mercy. In these pandemic days of frustrating change and constant uncertainty, remind us that you are always our home, our safe place, our care and comfort. Thank you for the many ways you stand with those who are suffering and empower those facing unimaginable trials. Speed the day, Eternal God, when this pandemic will end, suffering will cease, your people can rest, and all creation can know your promised peace.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: United as the Christ's body, we lift these prayers to you, Savior God. Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, "*Our Father ...*"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION [*Follow insert*]

***Departing Hymn** #275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"²

*Charge & Benediction³

Listen! Christ is calling. May we leave this house of worship ready to follow Jesus and partner with others in faithful mission and ministry. May God bless you and keep you, be kind and gracious to you. May God look upon you with favor and bring you peace. Amen. [From Numbers 6:24-26¹]

*Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Next Sunday's guest preacher: Rev. Colleen Earp.

Circle Meeting – Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 1:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

¹ 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.

² Resource: Public domain hymns from GLORY TO GOD, THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL, 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.

³ Resource: Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2022..

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

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6300 Courthouse Rd. / P. O. Box 182, Prince George, VA 23875

www.gregorymemorial.org www.facebook.com/gmpcva

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

Pastor: As announced

Secretary: Nancy Adams (office@gregorymemorial.org)

Organist: Sandra Perkins Pianist: Gail Rollings

Treasurer: Kevin Foster Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

Session Members

(Term = 3 yrs.; * indicates a partial term)

Mary Holc (2022); Sandy Hunter (2022); Charles Smyth (2022)

Lisa Brown (2023); Donald Hunter (2023); William Shill* (2023)

Rose Scott (2024); David L. Johnson* (2024); Susan Shockley (2024)

Donald Hunter (Clerk of Session - 2022)

Trustees

Ron Recher (2022); Gail Rollings (2023); Donald Hunter (2024)

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)

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

Hymns for Worship Service – February 6, 2022 (Holy Communion)

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

Hymn #65 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

1) Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

2) Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

3) When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside. Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

*TEXT: William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, trans. Peter Williams, 1771;
stanzas 2-3, trans. William Williams, 1772; public domain.*

MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907; 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.

Old Testament: Isaiah 6: 1-13

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” He said, “Go and tell this people: ‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving. Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.’” Then I said, “For how long, Lord?”

And he answered: Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged, until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken. And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste. But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land.”

New Testament: Luke 5: 1-11

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret¹ the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, through your goodness, we have this bread and cup to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

One: Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread...*[Minister continues]* The gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE [From pews]

One: Let us give thanks together:

All: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us, and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, on earth and in your heavenly host, with brothers and sisters around the world, we join in the song of your unending greatness. Amen.

[Adapted from the Iona Abbey Community, Scotland]