

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



Christians Who Love and Care.

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Revelations 22:12-13

AUGUST 20, 2023

11:00 a.m.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We welcome you to worship with us this morning, as we gather in community to draw closer to God. We pray that 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 quiet stillness of God's presence!

PRELUDE

*Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Hare, Pianist*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/
SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS**

Rose Scott

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Marvin Daniel

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive reading*]

One: Turn us, O God...

All: ...away from the world's temptations and distractions.

One: Return us, O God...

All: ... to the quiet calm of your presence.

One: Restore us, O God...

All: ...to the path you call us to follow

One: Orient us, O God...

All: ... to the hope of all that is possible through you.

***OPENING HYMN #610 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [*Pastor*]

Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and confess our sins to God.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession.]

***Please stand, as able.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

God our refuge, you hear our cries for mercy. You lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless. But we, who benefit from your grace, do not emulate you and your ways. We are quick to condemn, exaggerate critique and act mercilessly. We confess the ways we demean and dehumanize others. We pray for your forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Pastor; Isaiah 43:1]

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.”

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #581 "Glory Be to the Father"**

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [In unison]**

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.

SCRIPTURE (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)

Psalm Reading:	Psalm 67	<i>Reader: R. Scott</i>
Old Testament:	Genesis 45:1-15	
New Testament:	Matthew 15:(10-20)21-28	

SERMON

“What was Jesus Thinking?”

Rev. Marvin Daniel

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #802 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [In unison; Apostle's Creed]

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING [Pastor]

God's abundance cannot be matched. Still, we are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY HYMN #606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]**

Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that you have given us. Take these offerings, we pray, and multiply them for your use. May our offerings be a blessing to those most in need, to those most vulnerable. May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, abate the desire to hoard, and spread the desire to share. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER [Responsive reading]

One: Eternal God, we gather with you in worship, listen to your Word read and discern your will for our lives. Incline your ear to us as we raise our prayers, petitions, joys and concerns. Hear us as we pray.

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

One: God our Rock, we are questioning what we once assumed to be sturdy and stable. Our economy feels fragile, our democracy vulnerable, our country angrily divided. Life is overwhelming, and we, your people, need your help.

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

One: Creator God, the natural world groans for relief as temperatures rise, wildfires rage and natural disasters regularly and tragically endanger lives. We pray for your earth to be renewed.

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

One: Prince of Peace, save us from ourselves, our violence and warring madness. Protect the Innocent and strengthen the honorable. Bless us all with the moral courage to follow Christ's way of love. Restore peace to Ukraine. Clear a path of peace for Israel and Palestine. Hear the cries of your people.

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

One: Now, as the Body of Christ and your covenant community, we pray as Jesus taught us, saying, "***Our Father....***"

***DEPARTING HYMN #838 "Standing on the Promises"**

***BLESSING**

One: We have been blessed!

All: **We have met for divine worship, as God's people.**

One: We have been blessed!

All: **Our sins have truly been forgiven.**

One: We have been blessed!

All: **We go out into the world as the body of Christ, bearing the good news of the gospel. We are blessed, indeed. Amen!**


***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor; 1 Peter: 2-5]**

"We are the Body of Christ, his hands, his feet, his heart, his lungs; Bearing witness in this world to God's mercy and love."

May the nourishment of God's Word, the accountability of Christian community, and the guidance of God's Holy Spirit fortify us for faithfulness. Amen.

POSTLUDE

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	AUGUST 20	AUGUST 27
S	12th Sunday after Pentecost 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel 12p Stated Session Meeting Moderator: Rev. Daniel	13th Sunday after Pentecost 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Errol G. Rohr
M	21	28
	Drive carefully-- School starts today! 	
T	22	29
		2p Necropsy report due
W	23	30
T	24	31
	6a Clean Church 2p Newsletter out 7p Faith Cmte	6a Clean Church 2p Cmte reports due
F	25	SEPTEMBER 1
S	26	2

	ATTENDANCE		WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V	M	V
August 6, 2023	26	7	10			
August 13, 2023	17	6	7			
August 20, 2023						
August 27, 2023						

M=Members

V=Visitors

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Those affected by earthquakes and cholera in Turkey and Syria
First-responders, world-wide
Families, persons, entities impacted by weather-related disasters
Families, persons, communities impacted by gun violence
People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine; Russian citizens conscripted into war
Those in our community suffering from illness, loss, grief or hardship
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 & Dennis Allen (health issues)
Eddie Frankenstein
Etta Holc
Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues)
Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue)
Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)
Dana Etheridge, Wayne Powers' cousin (health issue)
Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue)
Billy Hudson, friend of Dianna Lykins Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter
Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue)
Emily Henry, Mary Holc's sister (health issue)
Charlie Perkins (health issue)
Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue)
Tara Foster (recovering at home from surgery: kidney stones)
Grace Cibula (recovering at home; health issues)
Shirley MacNeill (home, health issues)
Moneka Suprenant, Susan Shockley's & Sandy Eickmeyer's friend (brain injury)
John Carl Allen (recovering, orthopedic surgery)
Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Rev. Rev. Marvin Daniel back to our pulpit today!

Guest Preachers & Announcers

August 6: Rev. Marvin Daniel; P. Johnson, Announcer

August 13: Rev. Charles Philips; L. Johnson, Announcer

August 20: Rev. Marvin Daniel; R. Scott, Announcer

August 27: Rev. Dr. Errol G. Rohr; D. Hunter, Announcer

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GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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 Hare

Treasurer: Susan Shockley Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

Session Members

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

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

Rose Scott (2024); _____* (2024); Susan Shockley (2024)

Doug Holc (2025); David Johnson (2025); Patsy Johnson (2025)

Donald Hunter - Clerk of Session (2023)

Trustees

Gail Hare (2023); Donald Hunter (2024); Ron Recher (2025)