

GAYLORD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
318 4th STREET, BOX 385, GAYLORD, MN, 55334
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2020



Meditation

Evan Drake Howard, 21st century

"We don't always feel God's presence, just as we don't feel the sun on a rainy day.
But the presence never grows dim, and the confidence that it is there and will shine
again keeps us hopeful."

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING"

NYC VIRTUAL CHOIR

THE CALL

Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O God, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul. All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O God, for they have heard the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of God, for great is the glory of God. For though God is high, God regards the lowly; but the haughty, God perceives from far away. God will fulfill God's purpose for me; your steadfast love, O God, endures forever.

PRELUDE

SANDY WENTZLOFF

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- ❖ **Our Worship Service will be recorded today and online access on our Website will be available by Monday or Tuesday this coming week.**
- ❖ ***Offering plates will not be passed* but you can still give! You can deposit your offering in the plate located at the entrance to the sanctuary.**
- ❖ ***Our From the Heart Offering for August will be collected during the month if you would like to donate. This special offering will go to our Church Nursery to help purchase new toys and furniture. Deposit your donation in the Heart basket near the Sanctuary doors.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

Matthew 16:13-20; Romans 12:1-8

One: Who do you say I am?

People: **Some say Moses, some say Elijah,
Prophet who comes with a word from the Holy.**

One: Who do you say I am?

People: **Some say Messiah, some say "Human One"
Healer who shares the life of the Holy.**

One: Who do you say I am?

People: **Some say Emmanuel, God-with-us,
Some say Wisdom, Teacher of Truth
Some say Ruler of Peace, Bringer of Justice.**

One: And you, Gaylord United Church of Christ, Who do you say I am?

People: You are the Body to which we belong;
We are your members, each needed, treasured.
In you we are transformed
into your Hope, your Love, your Vision,
You are the One we long for, the One we seek here today,
The One who empowers our lives.

One: Come, Let us worship!

GATHERING VOICES

"HOLY SPIRIT, EVER DWELLING"

PIANO

RESPONSE: HOLY SPIRIT, EVER DWELLING IN THE HOLIEST REALMS OF LIGHT
HOLY SPIRIT, EVER BROODING O'ER A WORLD OF GLOOM AND BLIGHT;

PIANO

RESPONSE: HOLY SPIRIT, EVER RAISING EARTH-BOUND SOULS TO GLORY HIGH;
LIVING, LIFE-IMPARTING SPIRIT; YOU WE PRAISE AND MAGNIFY.

PIANO

RESPONSE: HOLY SPIRIT, EVER BREATHING ON THE CHURCH THE BREATH OF LIFE;
HOLY SPIRIT, EVER STRIVING THROUGH YOUR PEOPLE'S CEASELESS STRIFE;

PIANO

RESPONSE: HOLY SPIRIT, EVER FORMING IN THE CHURCH THE MIND OF CHRIST;
IN OUR WORSHIP WE WILL PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR FRUIT AND GIFTS UNPRICED.

PIANO

RESPONSE: HOLY SPIRIT, EVER WORKING THROUGH THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY—
QUICKENING, STRENGTHENING, AND ABSOLVING, SETTING CAPTIVE SINNERS FREE;

PIANO

RESPONSE: HOLY SPIRIT, EVER BINDING AGE TO AGE AND SOUL TO SOUL,
IN COMMUNITY UNENDING YOU WE WORSHIP AND EXTOL.

PIANO

INVOCATION

Exodus 1:8-2:10

All: Holy One, we tell your story today as a conspiracy of hearts;
The defiant midwives,
the laboring women,
the daughter of power
and the daughter of poverty
join forces to protect the children of Israel
and so set the stage for liberation.
Meet us here today and show us the gifts we have
to offer in the service of your kin-dom--
resilience, clear-sightedness, courage, compassion—
setting the stage for a Just World for All.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Mother God, stand on the birthstool with us.
The pain is too much to bear.

All: Our world has dealt so "shrewdly" with your people that your
renewal seems impossible.

One: Fears of economic uncertainty confront us all and seem to limit our choices;

All: Fears of immigrants and strangers in our midst seem to require walls;

One: Fears about changing traditions seem to require blocks to new family expressions.

All: We lament, God, but we don't push through the fear.

One: Let us open ourselves to labor with you.

All: Stand on the birthstool with us.

Push us to labor in your love, as we pray in the way of our Savior:

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The God of Moses and Miriam, "I AM WHO I AM", makes a way for you.

Holding your hand and insisting upon life.

You are a channel of God's love, now and always.

Praise be to the God of life who is, now and forever!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"STILL"

SHANNON HRUSKA

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:8-2:10 • Matthew 16:13-20

Exodus 1:8-2:10

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

SERMON

"HOW DO YOU SAY THAT I AM"

PASTOR DENNIS

VIDEO

"SHELTER ME"

MICHAEL JONCAS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Loving God we come before you because in our confession of who Jesus is, we find acceptance and grace. Messiah, Savior, beloved child of your creation, bless us in this time of prayer and those for whom we pray. Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Shelter us, O God. Make us lie down in green pastures. Those who are exhausted from hastily running about to get all the things accomplished they deem important, may they find rest. Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Shelter us, O God. Lead us beside still waters. May those who live in fear and turmoil find a calming place to be still and know that you are God. Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Shelter us, O God. Restore our souls and lead us in right paths. Help us to be transformed by your Holy Spirit from people of the world to people of the Spirit, being agents of vision and direction for the entire body of Christ. For your name's sake. Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Shelter us, O God. As we walk through the darkest valleys give us courage to face each one and find hope in the comfort of your strength and safety. Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Shelter us, O God. In times of physical, mental, and spiritual famine, prepare a feast of sustenance that will bring us to wholeness once again. Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Shelter us, O God. As we walk through the paths of life may we find mercy and goodness in the midst of conflict and challenge. Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Shelter us, O God. Though we may stray and follow untruths, and false gods, in your forgiveness, may we live in your presence our whole life long.

Musical Response

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

With praise and thanks, we create new life.
With vigor and sweat, we deliver our love.
With care and hope, we stretch out our hands.
We give our gifts of tithes and offerings to renew the world again.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

**People: Mother God, with praise and thanks, vigor and sweat, care and hope,
bless these gifts in your love.
In Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

SENDING VIDEO

“GO NOW IN PEACE”

BENEDICTION

(inspired by Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8)

One: We go into the world as parents of your love.

People: We will be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

One: We will not think more highly of ourselves than we ought.

People: We will go to remember we can't do it alone.

One: We stretch out our hands.

People: Our God delivers.

POSTLUDE

SANDY WENTZLOFF

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Remember in Prayer: Bill Cowell, Eunice Gasow, and Aggie Schue. We pray for others who have been ill or are home bound and those at Oak Terrace and Golden Hearts. We pray for health and healing for all people everywhere. Pray for the ministries of our church. Pray for those serving in the military and for our local and national leaders during these trying times.

If you have a prayer request or would like to receive a call from Pastor Dennis call his office at 237-2595 (leave a private voice mail) or his cell 763-258-3371.

[Giving our Gifts to God:](#)

**Tithes and Offerings can be sent to Gaylord United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 385 Gaylord, MN 55334 or**

Dropped by the church office on Wednesday between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thank you for your continued support for the ministries of this church.

Pastor Dennis is usually in the office each Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He can be reached at the office, 237-2595 (private voice mail) or his cell: 763-258-3371. E-mail: dmckee545@gmail.com • Website at listen2god.org