



GERMANTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
C·H·U·R·C·H



September 26, 2021
6:00P.M.

Gathering & Approaching God in Worship

Welcome, Announcements, & Opening Prayer

Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins

Song

O Come To The Altar

Verse 1:

Are you hurting and broken within?/ Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?/ Jesus is calling/ Have you come to the end of yourself/ Do you thirst for a drink from the well?/ Jesus is calling

Chorus:

O come to the altar/ The Father's arms are open wide/ Forgiveness was bought with/ The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Verse 2:

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes/ Come today there's no reason to wait/ Jesus is calling/ Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy/ From the ashes a new life is born/ Jesus is calling

Bridge:

Oh, what a Savior/ Isn't He wonderful?/ Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen/ Bow down before Him/ For He is Lord of all/ Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen

Verse 3:

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown/ Tell the world of the treasure you found

Song

What A Fiend We Have In Jesus

Verse 1:

What a friend we have in Jesus/ All our sins and griefs to bear/ And what a privilege to carry/ Everything to God in prayer/ Oh, what peace we often forfeit/ Oh, what needless pain we bear/ All because we do not carry/ Everything to God in prayer

Verse 2:

Have we trials and temptations?/ Is there trouble anywhere?/ We should never / Jesus knows our every weakness/ Take it to the Lord in prayer

Listening to God's Word

A READING FROM PSALMS

Rev. Wiggins

Psalm 5:2-3 - Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray.

O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.

Psalm 69.13 - As for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.

Psalm 121:1-2 - I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES: James 5:13-18

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Faith That Works: The Power of Prayer

Rev. Wiggins

Dedicating Ourselves in Response to God

Song

O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer

Verse 1:

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer/ Greatest treasure of my longing soul/ My God, like You there is no other/ True delight is found in You alone/ Your grace, a well too deep to fathom/ Your love exceeds the heaven's reach/ Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom/ My highest good and my unending need

Verse 2:

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer/ Strong defender of my weary heart/ My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts/ My song, when enemies surround me/ My hope, when tides of sorrow rise/ My joy, when trials are abounding/ Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night

Verse 3:

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer/ Gracious Savior of my ruined life/ My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders/ In my place You suffered bled and died/ You rose, the grave and death are conquered/ You broke my bonds of sin and shame/ You rose, the grave and death are conquered/ You broke my bonds of sin and shame

Verse 4:

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer/ May all my days bring glory to Your Name/ May all my days bring glory to Your Name

Offering & Prayers for the World (& Lord's Prayer, contemporary version)

Our Father, who is in heaven, holy is 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Song

Do It Again

Verse 1:

Walking around these walls/I thought by now they'd fall/ But You have never failed me yet/ Waiting for change to come/ Knowing the battle's won/ For You have never failed me yet

Chorus:

Your promise still stands/ Great is Your faithfulness, faithfulness/ I'm still in Your hands
This is my confidence/ You've never failed me yet

Verse 2:

I know the night won't last/ Your word will come to pass/ My heart will sing Your praise again/ Jesus You're still enough/ Keep me within Your love, oh/ My heart will sing Your praise again

Bridge:

I've seen You move, You move the mountains/And I believe I'll see You do it again/ You made a way, where there was no way/ And I believe I'll see You do it again

Benediction and Blessing

WORSHIP ARTS TODAY

Special thanks to the following for their participation in this service:

Vocalists: Jaylah Tate Karissa Walhof Britni McCullough John Johnson

Keyboardist: De'Merteiro Lee *Acoustic Guitar:* David Opperl

Electric Guitar: Kyle Wright *Bass player:* Nathan Spohn *Cajon:* Jeff Williams

On the cover: Dürer, Albrecht, 1471-1528. *Praying Hands, or Study of the Hands of an Apostle*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Welcome to worship with Germantown Presbyterian Church. Our sincere prayer is that you will find a place here among those who already call GPC home. We know these are difficult days, and we are so glad you can join our service in the way you feel most comfortable. We are truly glad God brought you here!



Scan the QR code to sign in to the online Friendship Pad.

Interested in joining GPC? You are welcome here! For more information on how to join, please contact Amy Phillips at (901) 647-6433 or by email is amybirdwellphillips@gmail.com.

GPC's pastors can always be reached in an emergency or crisis. Please call the church, 901-754-5195, and then press 1 to reach the on-call pastor.

COVID Guidelines: The Session met on Thursday, September 17, and agreed to leave in place our current guidelines regarding our communal life at this stage of the pandemic (with a minor exception regarding choir/singers). For the next four weeks, the Session strongly recommends that everyone wear a mask while indoors. We believe this is a demonstration of self-sacrificial love for those who cannot be vaccinated for reasons of age (children under 12) or health. Everyone working with children under twelve (i.e. Sunday School teachers, nursery workers, etc.) shall wear a mask. We will continue to rely on expert medical advice as we discuss and discern what is best for our congregation, and we encourage everyone to do the same for themselves and their families. Groups where children are not involved may self-regulate their meeting space and procedures, subject to the above statements. The Director of Music has been given permission to explore how more singers may take part in the choir loft, provided they sing while wearing masks, and a soloist may remove his or her mask to sing if he or she is appropriately spaced from the congregation and other singers.

Germantown Presbyterian Church Announcements *Week of September 26, 2021*

Church Family Prayer Program: Members of the congregation are randomly selected each week to be lifted up. This week please pray for: Cathy & David Aslin, Molly & Meghan; Katie Burrow; Ginny Cifaldi; Marilyn & John Donnelly; Karen & Bill Fesmire; JW McAllister; Ann & Roscoe Phillips; Kay Shelton.

GPC welcomes guest preacher Rev. James Awuni from Ghana to celebrate World Communion Sunday, October 3. Rev. James K. Awuni is the Chairperson of the Upper Presbytery, Presbyterian Church of Ghana. He is the former pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bolgatanga, the Bolgatanga District Minister, and the Director of Finance of the Upper Presbytery.

The Ghana Mission Team will host a luncheon following the 11:00am worship on October 3, and you are all invited to attend. Pastor James will share updates on the Upper Presbytery's mission and evangelism work. Please RSVP to Ann DeVere in the church office (901-754-5195 or office@germantownpres.org) by September 28 so we can know the number of box lunches to order.

GPC's 4th Annual Women's Retreat is Back! This year the retreat will be a one-day event held at GPC on Saturday, November 6 from 9am – 4pm. Mouth-watering cinnamon rolls will be provided by Pinecrest, and lunch and snacks will be provided by the Women's Retreat Planning Team. This year's theme is: *Generation after Generation: learning from, becoming, and handing down women's wisdom.* And for those of you with kids, Pastor Will is working with the Retreat team to come up with a dad/kid event for that day. Women's retreat tee shirts are available for purchase as well. Registration opens Monday, October 4 on the GPC website. For more information, contact Pastor Susie at susiew@germantownpres.org.

Children's Music Wants You! GPC Kids is ramping up the music program for the new year, but there are some differences. Children from preschool through 5th grade are invited to stay after the 11:00am worship, enjoy a light snack lunch and learn music – vocal and instrumental. They will also play games and take part in fun activities. Pick-up time is 1:30pm. Please email Alex Benford if you have questions and/or would like to be involved: alexb@germantownpres.org.

Nursery Open Sunday Nights: The nursery is now open Sunday evenings from 5:00pm – 7:30pm. If you haven't come on Sunday nights because you need childcare, now is your time! Come join us.

New Mobile App for Contributions: Our credit card processor has updated the mobile app that we use for contributions to GPC. This change applies only to new contributions and changes to existing contributions. It will not impact any existing recurring contributions that are made by credit card or direct transfer from your bank account. The previous application (MobileAccess) will not be supported after September 30.

If you need to make a new contribution or change an existing contribution after September 30, you will need to download the new Vanco Mobile app from the App Store or the Google Play Store. Just find Germantown Presbyterian Church and log in to this app with your existing user name and password to make your contribution – one-time or recurring – just as you have in the past.

If you have questions about this process, please call Fred Turverey in the GPC office at 901-754-5195.

Lost and Found: Lost: Set of keys from the front office. Police car key chain. If you've borrowed these keys, please return them to the office as soon as possible. Thanks. Found: Dark men's suit jacket is in the church office. Contact office@germantownpres.org or come by to claim.

Audio Visual Help Needed with Worship Services: GPC is looking for volunteers who want to join an ongoing team that will form the core group who works with the audio-visual process of the livestream during Sunday morning and evening worship services. The people already participating will be happy to train you, and all you have to do is learn the user-friendly system. It's all very easy, and yet vitally important to our expanding Internet presence. Please consider volunteering, and if you are interested you can contact the church office at communications@germantownpres.org.

Special Needs Program: There are many volunteer opportunities each week in our special needs program, including our Wednesday lunch and Friendship Circle, our Thursday morning *Amplify* music program, and our Friday morning JoyLife901 Breakfast Club meetings. For more information about participation and/or volunteering, please contact Jackie Classen at specialneeds@germantownpres.org.

Feed our Youth! Youth Sunday activities have begun, and we would love your help in providing them food. You can provide breakfast, supper, or both. Click or copy and paste [here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4fabaf23a2f9c07-gpcyouth) (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4fabaf23a2f9c07-gpcyouth>) to sign up to bring the youth food. Thanks for your help. If you have any questions, want to volunteer with GPC youth, or would like to be on the Youth Ministry email list, please email youth@germantownpres.org.

Memphis Food Bank Mobile Pantry has set up a mobile food donation site at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, and more volunteers are needed to sign up and help Idlewild volunteers distribute food. The volunteers staff this site two (2) times a month on Wednesday mornings from 8:00am-10:30am; at least 25 volunteers are needed. Go to this website [here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaac22aafa7-idlewild) (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaac22aafa7-idlewild>) to sign up to help give out food to our hungry neighbors.

Mentors for Memphis Athletic Ministries: MAM is searching for men and women who will commit to mentor a high school student for this upcoming school year. Mentors will be matched with students accepted into our Mentoring Program. Students are hand selected and hired by MAM to work in our sites and gain college and career training. Mentors will help these students set goals and take the steps to reach those goals and prepare them for life after MAM. For more information or to sign up, go to: www.mamsports.org/volunteer.

Grief Support Ministry: The Grief Support Group has begun meeting regularly again on the second Thursday of every month from 6:00-7:30pm in Warren Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact the church office (901-754-5195) or office@germantownpres.org.

GPC Prayer Ministry – As a church, we pray for all our members during the year. There are several ways to request prayer. We have replenished the pew prayer cards. Just fill them out and put them in the offering plate. Another way is the email that church member Margaret Owens oversees. The address is margaretowens1@aol.com. Or you can also send a prayer request to the pastors at prayers@germantownpres.org. The pastors also pray over all confidential prayer requests. This is a great way for us to get renewed strength during these uncertain times.

In September, please pray for these churches in the Presbytery:

Oakland Presbyterian Church, Oakland, TN

First Presbyterian Church, Paris, TN

Marl Bluff Church, Reagan, TN

1st Presbyterian Church, Rosemark, TN

A Prayer of Love

This is your day, God. I will use it to honor you. I will stand here and inhale your air. I will feel the sunlight on my face. I will sing your songs. I will praise your name. I will remember you in all things, God. When the sun goes down today, I will remember you. I will thank you for the gift of living another week. (And thank you for getting me through the last one). Thank you for my family and my friends. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for the faith you put in me even when I let you down. Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your peace that's beyond my understanding. Thank you for your self-control. Thank you for the joy you've given me. Thank you for your love, God. I am your servant. *Amen.*

Engage 2021

I am doing something brand new, something unheard of.

Even now it sprouts and grows and matures.

Don't you perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness

and open up flowing streams in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19 (TPT)