

TUMC Worshipping Together on Sunday May 24, 2020

Rev. Amy Overton-Harris

Flowers for our worship this morning from Cynthia Asai

**“For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.”**



Good Morning Dear Ones,

A Prayer for Memorial Day DA Graham, Princeton University

*In the quiet sanctuaries of our own hearts,
let each of us name and call on the One whose power over us
is great and gentle, firm and forgiving, holy and healing ...*

*You who created us,
who sustain us,
who call us to live in peace,
hear our prayer this day.*

*Hear our prayer for all who have died,
whose hearts and hopes are known to you alone ...*

*Hear our prayer for those who put the welfare of others
ahead of their own
and give us hearts as generous as theirs ...*

*Hear our prayer for those who gave their lives
in the service of others,
and accept the gift of their sacrifice ...*

*Help us to shape and make a world
where we will lay down the arms of war
and turn our swords into ploughshares
for a harvest of justice and peace ...*

*Comfort those who grieve the loss of their loved ones
and let your healing be the hope in our hearts...*

*Hear our prayer this day
and in your mercy answer us
in the name of all that is holy.*

Amen

Song: [God Moves in Mysterious Ways](#)

Opening Prayer

Dear and wonderful God, we are challenged to be patient during these days of isolation. We find ourselves less and less patient as we wait for a space to shop safely, stay at home day after day, manage the daily tasks of life on line, long to see and embrace the people we love and the vastness of our communities once again. We are impatient with our slow learning curve for ZOOM, online shopping, and face mask acquiring.

We are to be patient still?? Yes, help us to be patient. Let us continue our journey through this one step at a time. Help us to strengthen our hearts, center our minds, quiet our bodies and remember that you are ever near. Amen

Joys and Concerns



As always, please keep one another in your thoughts and prayers.

- Mildred Wells.
- Dan Gassoway, prayers for good health.
- Ofilia Boyd in her continuing recovery.
- Emilie Kroen as she continues treatment.
- All who are suffering with the Covid 19 virus.
- Health Care and essential workers.
- Penny Christianson's daughter Liz as she continues to recover from a severe concussion.
- George and Patt Bowlsby and Family as George's son David (58) is now on hospice.
- Paul, a close friend of Ted and Tami, as he recovers from aortic valve replacement.
- Our wonderful community garden and all of the gardeners.
- Congratulations on graduating from NYU Jay Meyers!
- Carter Rutherford will be getting his driving permit! Go Carter!!
(please send Amy additional prayer requests) amytumc@gmail.com

Prayer

Almighty God, change is bittersweet. In order to change we are forced both to leave something behind and to embrace something new. Grant us the grace on this day to do both with humility and patience. Help us affirm the good things of our past as we lean into a future where there will also be good things. As we contemplate the changes that will come, remind us that all good things come from You. Today we commit ourselves to the necessary work ahead. Be present with us, work in us and through us, and above all lead us on this path with your gifts of patience and love. Amen

All these things we lift up to you as we pray together, **The Lord's Prayer:** (picture: Cynthia Asai)

*Our Father, who art in
Thy kingdom come, thy will
as it is in heaven. Give us
trespasses, as we forgive
into temptation, but deliver
power and the glory*



*Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
be done on earth
this day our daily bread. And forgive us our
those who trespass against us. And lead us not
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the
forever. Amen*

Song [Great Is Thy Faithfulness \(Maranatha! Singers\)](#)

Scripture Readings:

Ephesians 4:2

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Jeremiah 29: 11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.

Romans 8: 24-25

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Reflections for April 24 2020

Thank God I can actually laugh at myself (*usually*). When I originally planned to talk about patience this week, I thought, "Oh Boy!! That is exactly what all of us need right now.... A giant helping of patience." But then as I sat down today to put these thoughts on paper, I just burst out laughing. My husband Tim came down the hall and said "what the heck are you doing?" "I am writing my sermon" I said. "Why is that so funny?" Tim said. I responded "Because I am talking about patience in my sermon" and he turned on his heel and laughed as he walked back down the hall. He called out "Good Luck!"

Good luck indeed. In case you haven't guessed, I am NOT a patient person. I get an idea and I want to do it now. I have chores to do, and it's "let's get them out of the way as soon as possible". I cannot set out to do something enjoyable or 'fun' unless the work parts are done first. Wow! Puritan work ethic was bred into me, right?

Patience. "The capacity to accept, tolerate or delay without getting upset or angry. The ability to wait for something without frustration." Oh! In that case I am patient. (*NOT*). How about you? Are you a patient person? If you are, I would love some tips. my email address is (amytumc@gmail.com).

Here we are in a waiting game of sorts. Through no fault of our own, we find ourselves in a radically changed world that is screaming for patience... (*is patience something you scream for? Unlikely. How about a world that is yearning for patience? That's better.*) We have gone from what is familiar to a life of unfamiliarity. Where are we allowed to go during the pandemic? When is a safe time to go to the grocery store? Can't I just go and hug my grandchildren or watch my daughter-in-law graduate like before? When will the risk be over? When can I go to

church on a Sunday morning and be with all my church folks, music peeps, refreshment providers, pew-mates?? I am impatient.

When will we have our “new familiar”? What will it be? When will it come? Who will be part of it? How will it come to pass? (*These are patient questions, right?*) For the “new familiar,” whatever that may be, we need to be patient. (*There is that word again. Patient.*) The writer of Ephesians says, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” How would the people in Ephesus thousands of years ago have any idea what we are going through today?? I am betting that they knew all too well how life can change in a single moment. (*wars, poverty, occupied territory, and...*). Being humble and patient and gentle is hard. And darn it, it does mean that we ‘bear with one another in love’.

I must admit, I am one of those folks who does not appreciate “line cutters”. You know what I mean, you are in a restaurant parking area waiting for your order to be ready, waiting in a line and standing 8 feet apart on the marked circles. The 5 people in line ahead of you are waiting patiently because we all get the idea of being safe and loving others. (*hmmm that isn't such a humble statement is it?*) Anyway, a car screeches up and a woman jumps out of her car and she heads straight to the front door. A ‘line-waiter’ mentions that there is a line (*people patiently waiting their turn*) and she says, “well too bad, I am in a hurry” and marches inside. Being humble, patient and gentle. Bear with one another in love. Well my ‘not patient self’ wants to march up there and firmly proclaim to her that she has to be patient like everyone else! (*and you of course can hear my loving, kind, patient and gentle tone, right?*) And of course, all of the people spaced in the line ahead of me feel my love amid my germ sharing lack of distance in their space. (*Not*)

Following in the footsteps of Jesus is hard. Right now, as we figure out our ‘new familiar’, I pray that we will continue to strive to be gentle, humble, patient and loving even if someone else is choosing a different path. It is a new life that we are building as we move forward. I want to be conscious of what I make a priority. Jesus always made other people in his life a priority, especially the least and lost.

I want to ask myself every day “What is worth the wait?” If you were to sit down and make a list of “What is worth the wait?” What would you write down? On my list would be, seeing my family face to face, hugs and all. Being able to see Nick and Anna and their baby (*due in October*) in person, and holding a new baby? Yes please. Spending time with all of you again. Seeing your faces, sharing some hugs and catching up. Worshiping together and singing and singing and singing. Being able to witness change in our world, our country, where every life is valued, cared for, fed and housed. I want a chance to have us mourn for those who died. I want to celebrate with you every life saved by our frontline workers. I want to hug and kiss my son Petter’s bruised N95 mask impaled face. I want to laugh with my daughter and read with my grandchildren. What is worth the wait in this time where patience is so critically needed? The list is endless.

“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” (Rom 8:24-25)

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jer 29:11)

Song [Be Still My Soul \(Kari Jobe\)](#)

Offering time

We invite you to continue your gracious offerings to our congregation. You can use Automatic Bill Pay, set it up with your bank and they will send it to the church. You can always send a check by USPS. If you would like to donate electronically,

Go To our website: www.tualatinumc.org

On the opening page of the Website,
you will find a blue link to donate on line.

THANK YOU so much for your generosity for the life of our church family, staff, and our ongoing ministry together. Mere words cannot express our deepest appreciation. With your help we will be able to pay our on-going bills and make employee payroll for the weeks ahead.

Song [Blessed Be Your Name](#)

A poem by Pastor Penny.....

Laughter

Humanity's touchstone
A bonding thing
A giggle, a chuckle, a snort
A glee filled song
A resonance of spirit
Gut busting, knee-slapping dance
A shared revelation-You too!
Self-recognition
Heart-opening
A healing ripple of sound
An audible hug
The conspiracy of lovers
A spiritual communion

Rev Dr. Penny Christianson
May 19, 2020

Prayer

God of the wilderness, be with us as we wander through this desert of our lives. Keep us from running back to the safety of old assumptions out of fear. Walk with us as we patiently learn to live the new life before us.

Lord of this morning. I awake to each new day with all of its possibilities, its uncertainties, its many faces and its underlying mystery. May I be able in your strength to move through this day free of fear, so that when I meet my neighbor or encounter the stranger, I may recognize your face.

Song [Spirit Song \(Maranatha\)](#)

Special thanks to our Music Director/ Pianist, Kathy Niguidula for our worship music selections for today.

Thanks to Cynthia Asai for our worship flowers today!!

I invite any of you to offer any items for our worship together. Prayers, pictures, joys, concerns etc. Email me; amytumc@gmail.com

Please send pictures of you, your family, your pets, yard, neighborhood, projects etc and I will work on a collage of pictures to include next week!!!!

