

TUMC Worshiping Together on Sunday May 17 2020

Rev. Amy Overton-Harris

Flowers for our worship this morning from Sherris Harrell

“For the beauty of the
skies, for the love
and around us lies;
this our hymn of



earth, for the glory of the
which from our birth over
Lord of all, to thee we raise
grateful praise.”

Good Morning Dear Ones,

I have heard from a number of people that their Mother’s Day and graduation celebrations were filled with creativity, joy and tears. It is so hard to be physically distant from one another, but many folks are finding interesting ways to cope with things like Mother’s Day, Graduations and the like.

One fabulous grandmother bought a graduation banner for her granddaughter and drove it 68 miles round trip to drop it off. Yay! Her granddaughter will get some well-deserved recognition from her neighborhood (and her grandparents).

Celebration things happened: food baked, BBQ’s lit up, flowers delivered, cards mailed, calls made, emails sent and drive-bys galore. So much love shared with abandon. So much time to think of creative ways to “be together”. It doesn’t measure up to the actual experience of being together, but in this time, it measures up with the most deeply felt love.

For a time such as this, we treasure being together in any way possible.

Song: [Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah](#)

Opening Prayer

Mighty God, we know for sure that change can turn our lives upside down in a moment. Sometimes we long for change and sometimes it is loathed. There is no doubt that we are scared and worried about what the future will bring. As we make life giving changes, help us to embrace a new life. Give us an unending love for our families, for our friends and neighbors, for strangers and far-off peoples, and, as Jesus taught, for our enemies too. You wrap us all in your salvation and you will never leave us desolate. At every turn you embrace us, not just a few of us but all of us together. Help us to repair the fabric of life. Restore and renew our creation. You are our source, our goal, our hope, and our joy. 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.
- Sherris' friend Bud Stone.
- 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.
- Celebrate HS Grads: **Kristen Poore** (PSU), **Carson Poore** (PCC), **Suzanne Harrell** (OSU)
- Celebrate College Grads: **Sharona Shnyder** (applied for work with Sen. Merkely, taking CPA exam, working at Portland Gear, moving to Israel in Spring 2021.)
Eric Breyer (business, finance) and **Emily Breyer** (Linfield Sch of Nursing)
Congratuations!!
(please send Amy additional prayer requests) amytumc@gmail.com

Song ["His Eye is on the Sparrow"](#)

Prayer

Most compassionate God, hear the thoughts of our hearts and the prayers of our souls. Even before we utter a word or thought, you O Lord know our need. We pray for all those who have been lifted up. We pray for a world in need. May we not lose sight of one another in this global tragedy. Your love spans all time, all places and all situations. Help us to reach out to those in greatest need. Help us to lift up others with perseverance and hope.

All these things we lift up to you as we pray together, **The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

*Thy kingdom come, thy will
as it is in heaven. Give us
us our trespasses, as we
us. And lead us not into
For thine is the kingdom and
Amen*



*be done on earth
this day our daily bread. And forgive
forgive those who trespass against
temptation, but deliver us from evil.
the power and the glory forever.*

Psalm 67: 1-3

May God be gracious to us and bless us

and make his face shine on us

²so that your ways may be known on earth

your salvation among all nations.

³May the peoples praise you, God;

may all the peoples praise you.

John 14: 1-3, 15-20



¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be^[a] in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Song ["Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"](#)

Reflections

I just read a note that arrived in my email this morning.

Here is what it says:

*"I miss seeing everyone so much! I know that there are periods that I do not see TUMC folks" (like when I travel)...
"But it has always been my choice and for fun reasons.
Now, with enforced isolation, it is no long my choice and I realize how very dear my church family is and how much I miss congregating and seeing everyone's smiling faces!!
I will never take that blessing for granted again."*

I dare say that this might be a common experience for many of us. We miss our church folk, we miss our families and friends, we miss our routine and the places we love to see. By design, I don't think we are meant to be 'solo' people. I think that deep within our souls we long to spend time with others. Sure sometimes, we like to have 'alone' moments, but right now after weeks on end, we long to seek others out.

We can talk on the phone, email, Zoom, talk to someone across the street but we long for something more. It is kind of an old-fashioned turn of phrase to say "may I accompany you?" (Yes I have been watching a lot of Britbox!) But I think that is the heart of the gospel message, to accompany one another. The good news for us is that we are accompanied by God and God seeks us out in all walks of life.

*"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
that we may be known upon the earth." (Psalm 67)*

One of the first things Jesus did was to form a group to accompany him in his work and on his journeys. Disciples of all sorts, right? Men, women, wealthy, poor, young and old. People to accompany him along with his desire to accompany them along the way. I think in this time of waiting and uncertainty, we long for accompaniment.

In the gospel reading for today. There we find the heart of accompaniment.

*"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believer also in me.
When I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself that where I am you may also be.
I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you.
You will see me and because I live, you also will live." (John 14: 1-3)*

Also?? Yep, we are accompanied. Accompanied by Jesus and one another. Beginning, encouraging and sustaining relationship is at the core of Jesus' ministry and calling. John's gospel says "God will give you another counselor, you will know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." Or maybe more accurately, we might remember that the Holy Spirit is often described as 'she'. "God will give you another counselor, you will know her, for she dwells with you and will be in you." (just sayin....)

The imagery of accompaniment is threaded throughout the Bible. This passage in the Gospel of John almost always makes me think of the book of Ruth in the Old Testament. In the story of Ruth, a number of tragedies befall her family. Ruth and Orpah are the daughters-in-law of Naomi. Catastrophe happens and the husbands of all three women die and they are left widowed and without resources. They begin a journey together and not long after, Naomi tells the two daughters-in-law to move on and find new husbands to create families of their own. Orpah decides to journey off to find new life back in her home town. Ruth tells Naomi that they are bound together and she won't leave her Mother-in Law. The well-known passage goes like this:

Ruth said, "entreat me not to leave you; for where you go I will go, and where you stay
I will stay; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." Ruth 1:16

There is a bond that we share with others in our life story. Have you ever had a friend that you can immediately re-connect with even after much time has passed? I got a phone call about an hour ago from just such a friend. It felt like we were again 'together' as we once were long ago. We talked about families and friends in the midst of this Covid -19 virus, catching up on so many events in our own lives since we last spent time together. It was as if we haven't been apart for years. I love when that happens, it is a gift. It gives you a reminder that we 'accompany' one another.

We come alongside others in all times and places. Often, it isn't about distance, similar traits, cultural backgrounds, it is more about the intersections where our paths have crossed and we walk alongside one another again in an instant. Like homecoming.

This morning I woke up and had a song stuck in my head. Does that ever happen to you?? Sometimes it is a silly song like "The Rainbow Connection" from Sesame Street. (a million years ago yes!) And even more weird in the life of our family.....one of us can start singing a song from Disney Soundtracks, Sesame Street or Queen's greatest hits etc, and all five of us chime in with heartfelt gusto. Apparently, the 5 of us carry these accompaniments in our heads. YES! We all need therapy! But truthfully, it is a gift to be able to 'pick up' where we once were years ago and accompany one another again.

Having spent the vast majority of my life in the church, I started singing as a young child. I joined choirs at school and at church. There were concerts galore. Frankly, singing the melody is awesome BUT then I heard the addition of harmony. When you add harmonies, suddenly there is a blend, a new dynamic that takes off together.

Not being a "musician", my analogies here are rudimentary I admit, but music inspires me. I love the "pairing parts". Solos are wonderful, but they long for listeners, right? It is a team endeavor. In the wave of a counter-melody, it must have a counter-part as they weave together in the score. Accompaniment right?

Right now, in a world that feels isolated, tentative, anxious, we long for accompaniment. And I want to assure you that we are never left desolate. We may not have a house full people but even when we find ourselves at a distance, we do not travel alone, we are accompanied by the song of a shared life.

The difficult emotions are real, valid and worth giving voice to. This time is one of the hardest times I have experienced in ministry, as a mother, and grandmother. I lament not being with all of you. I desperately miss my children and grandchildren. Being together is at the core of who we are in life. The note that I quoted at the beginning of my sermon, so heartfelt and it speaks such truth, I couldn't help but cry. AND at the same time, I know that God is with us, and when I see you all in my mind's eye, we are together, when I close my eyes and hear us sing "Ancient Words", we are together. Harsh realities are not new to people and creatures of the earth. AND harsh realities DO NOT have the last word. God accompanies us, walking out in front, inviting us to accompany others. Jesus is in our midst, in the face of our neighbor, in care for one another, reminding us that we are never ever alone.

And..... who wouldn't want to teach the world to sing!!
Amy

Offering time

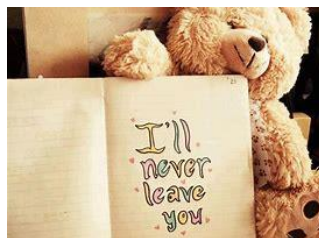
We invite you to continue your gracious offerings to our congregation. You can use Automatic Bill Pay, set it up with your bank and they will send it to the church. You can always send a check by USPS. If you would like to donate electronically,

GO TO OUR WEB SITE 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 ["You Are Mine" by David Haas](#)



Good for Your Soul

Making masks for those in need



Another act of kindness that has been popular is making masks for those in the health-care field. Laquitta Herbst of Centerville has been hard at work sewing to help her niece, who works in the Miami Valley Hospital respiratory department.

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 learn to live the new life of abundance 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 ["The Blessing"](#)

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

Thanks to Sherris Harrell 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

Announcement: The garden is doing great! You can come and volunteer to weed on your own schedule. Pick your area, lots of weeds to go around. Social distancing is easy in the big space, just be mindful. At least 10 feet apart would be great. If it feels too crowded, come back another time. You are encouraged to wear a mask. Bring your own tools and bag for weeds. Bring your own water bottle.

(email Larry McClure with questions: larry.mcclure@gmail.com)