

TUMC Worshiping Together on Sunday June 21, 2020

Rev. Amy Overton-Harris

Happy Father's Day and Blessings on your Celebrations

Song: [I Need Thee Every Hour](#) Fernando Ortega

Dear Ones,

Come meet us in a group zoom chat today at 11:30. I have been openly requesting and receiving names and emails from folks over the last weeks and sending out a zoom 'invitation' directly. Today I am going to post the invite here and we will see where that takes us!!! ALL are welcome! Blessings on each of you!

Tualatin TUMC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: church chat for all!

Time: **11:30am today** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/99206622148>

Meeting ID: 992 0662 2148



From Kelly Myers

Prayer

Gracious God, you have been our shelter from one generation to the next. In the shade of a tree, the blush of a rose, the rising of the sun we find ourselves in your presence. May we find everyday practices filled with the call to love and peace. Open our arms to carry another's burdens. Speak with our lips the words of hope. Urge our feet to march in solidarity with the wounded and teach us to be the household of God together. Amen.

Song [Lead Me Lord](#) DJ Xioan, Chan-Chan (cover)

Joys and Concerns (please send me your joys and concerns for prayer)

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

- New Covid-19 outbreak in La Grande, Oregon.
- The frontline people who work on our behalf.
- Those who march and call for justice.
- The Bowlsby Family as George's son David (58) is now on Hospice.
- Mildred Wells, Colleen Rivers and family.
- Leona Ulberg, as she cares for her sister and gives respite to her nephew.
- Clare Roach is a driver now!
- Sam Roach is growing food at home to donate to the Food Pantry.
- Sam Richardson as he helps to settle his mother's estate.
- Summer vacation for students and teachers!
- Melissa Brown and her fiancé are wedding planning!!



Life finds a way...

Prayer

O God, your Spirit works without ceasing, flowing as a great river through our lives. We have felt the power of your Spirit of grace seeking us out, lifting us up when the mire of the day seems too difficult to bear. We praise you, O God for grace abundant, for merciful love when we find ourselves in the midst of struggle and change. As we work for a new wave of justice, healing and wholeness for everyday life, may we RISE UP to follow your call. Amen

The Lord's Prayer (Alternate Version from the New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book)

*Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:*

*The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!*

*Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.*

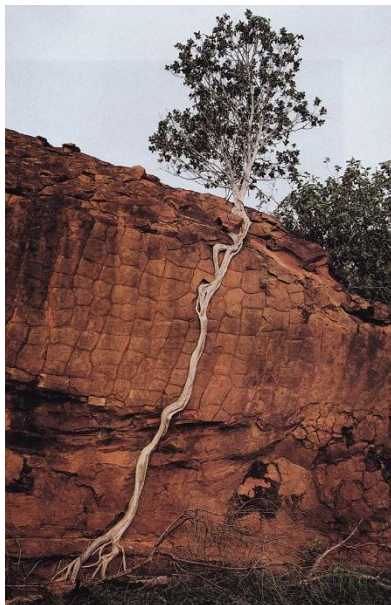
*With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.*

*For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.*

Song [Rise Up](#) Andra Day

Scripture Reading: Luke 5: 17-26

¹⁷One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the LORD was with Jesus to heal the sick. ¹⁸Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and



tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.

¹⁹When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friends, you are forgiven." ²¹The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive but God alone?" ²²Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³Which is easier: to say, 'You are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise Up and Walk'? ²⁴But I want you to know that the Son of God can forgive and bring new life." So, he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, rise up, take your mat and go home." ²⁵Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

²⁶Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Reflections from Rev. Amy
RISE UP

Rise up! Really? Right now I feel like we are living in the movie “Groundhog Day” starring Bill Murray (Old movie, I know). If you have never seen the movie, I highly recommend it. It fits our current circumstance and it is a parable about new life for me. In the movie, Bill Murray is trapped repeating the same day over and over again (yes, Groundhog Day). At first, he can’t believe it is happening when he wakes up on day 2 and finds himself in an exact replay of the day before. And then when each and every morning begins another day just like the one before, he gets stark raving mad, outrageous, and out of control. Maybe with the thought “WHY NOT?” especially since nothing is changing, just throw caution to the wind and go insane. As you can imagine, that strategy loses its appeal when each day is still the same day after day. He then goes through a period of WHY BOTHER!!

Does any of this sound a bit familiar for our time apart for 3 months?? Not a carbon copy I imagine, but when day after day is somewhat repetitious, filled with protocols, we may feel forlorn. How we can move forward in some safe but meaningful way? Loosely interpreted, Bill Murray finally decides to put forth his best self, invest in people and situations with authenticity and sincerity and much to his surprise, things begin to fall into place with love and grace. Healing begins and a new path forward comes to light. (trust me, my condensing is unfairly simplistic!)

Our Gospel reading today is a story of love, grace, creativity, determination and a new beginning. When word spreads that Jesus is the healing kind of guy, people from near and far come running. A large crowd gathers, each person trying to grab some healing and new life, or maybe just to see what the heck is going on.

As we read on in the story, a paralyzed man lying on a mat is being carried by friends who have traveled together to see this Jesus. They seem determined to get healing for their friend. The crowd was overwhelming, each person determined to stay in place. There was no place to get through this huge crowd. Too daunting to even try? Too frustrating? Feeling angry and discouraged? Maybe the only thing to do is force your way through the crowd? That, of course, usually goes poorly.

These friends will not be deterred one bit. Finding another way in fuels their determination. Who would have thought of this solution?? Find a way around and over the crowd?? Are they nuts? They climb up on the roof, hoisting their friend the whole way!! They move some roof tiles (no way!), and lower the man down right in front of Jesus. These are friends, we all want right?? Out of dedication and love, they rise up, literally! Raise the roof, right? And they lay their friend at the feet of this Jesus.

I can only imagine the astonishment all around. Who knows what Jesus might have thought, but true to himself Jesus greets them as friends and grants them true acceptance. This is no ordinary day, no ordinary story. It is a radical declaration of the love and healing found in friendship, determination and the love of God in Jesus.

Check out the picture right next to the scripture. Rachel Elliot send that picture to me. I LOVE it! The first time I saw it, I just sat in my chair, eyebrows furrowed and mouth open. I enlarged it. Still staring, mouth open. Every time I look at it, I find myself repeating my first encounter. This tree.... This tree rises up... not just rises, but rises and rises and rises! This inspires me! This seems almost impossible to me! How does this happen?? Life finds a way, right? Life finds a way, that is the crux of the story Luke tells. Against all odds, the friends in this story find a way for new life. There is a crowd? Go around. Still no room to get to the door? Climb the wall. No way down?? Remove the roof tiles. Out of the most impossible looking circumstance, new life rises up.

The incredible spirit of healing comes. In us and through us, through our friends and endless giving to others. We are those friends and even in the midst of this storm of life, we rise up in the grace and love of God. One of the things I love about this story that Luke tells, is the part where Jesus receives the man with grace and his roof topping friends with welcome.

Did you notice when Jesus gives the paralyzed man acceptance and new life, and those 'in charge of regulating' how God's love is shared are not happy. Really?? Who is in charge of God's love? Only God of course. Among themselves, they deride Jesus. "Who is this fellow?" Who does he think he is? He can't be doing that!! Oh yes he can! No one owns the love and forgiveness God lavishly offers. It is a free gift. We are called to rise up and to reach out to others, to rise up from complacency to speak our minds, to rise up for one another, friends and strangers alike. Rise up and proclaim that new life is in our midst and it cannot be held down or owned.

The last line of the scripture for today is :“We have seen remarkable things today” Sometimes, Luke cracks me up! WE HAVE seen remarkable things today. It is easy to notice and repeat the things with which we disagree or find distaste. BUT To see the remarkable things each day is a gift. I have started jotting down the remarkable things I see and experience every day. Sure, I could keep a list of disagreeable things, (of which there are many) but the outcome of that for me is a sense of illness and paralysis. I invite you to try something. Get out a piece of paper or your phone/device and list the remarkable things you see today, and tomorrow and the next day. I believe that the healing power of the remarkable will proclaim to us “Rise up and walk”. There are remarkable things every day.

In the movie I referenced earlier, Bill Murray falls into despair until he begins to notice and embrace the remarkable elements of life right in front of his face. He rises up out of bed and claims new life, and the repetition fades away.



The roots of the tree above are deep..... sooooo deep and the journey it had to travel to get to the light, extraordinary! The tree on the left, rose up through a rock (through a rock?!) indeed! Buds and blossoms galore. And a whole new day has dawned. Rise up. We are called, rise up and walk.

Rev. Amy

Song [Arise](#) Don Moen

Offering time

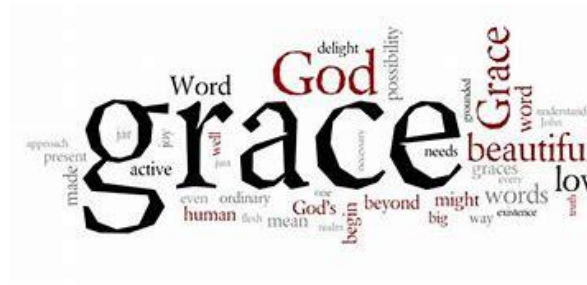
We invite you to continue your gracious offerings to our congregation. You can use Automatic Bill Pay, set it up with your bank and they will send it to the church. You can always send a check by USPS.

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.



Prayer: Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy Peace.

Where there is hatred,

let me sow Love.

Where there is injury, thy Pardon, Lord.

Where there is doubt, let there be Faith.

Oh Lord, make me an instrument of thy Peace.

Where there is despair,

let me bring Hope.

Where there is darkness, let there be Light.

Song [What a Friend](#) Matt Maher

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

We NEED YOU!!! If you have some time during the week, we desperately need some yard care helpers! We are down to two people doing our yard maintenance: mowing, flower bed care, bush trimming etc. Email me if you can help!! amytumc@gmail.com

Thanks to all of you who have come to help so far!!!!



Thank you Cynthia Asai.....