

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY
Weekly E-Mail Greetings from Rev. Lacy Sellars

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – July 5, 2020

Call to Worship (Psalm 34: 1-3)

I will bless the Lord at all times; the praise of God shall continually be in my mouth.

I will glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;

Let us exalt the name of God together.

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”

Deleen Davidson, Soprano – Kristen La Madrid, Pianist

My country, ‘tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims’ pride,
From every mountainside let freedom ring.

My native country, thee, Land of the noble free, Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills like that above.

Our fathers’ God to Thee, Author of liberty, To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright with freedom’s holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King.

Prayer of Confession

By Jill Duffield

Merciful God, you reveal your will to us through the Word and by the Spirit, but we refuse to listen and follow. We do the very things we hate and then feel trapped in guilt and shame. We long to know the abundant life Jesus came to give, but neglect to take up his yoke and learn from him. Forgive us for not doing that which we know to do. Forgive us for not being who you call and create us to be. Accept our confession and free us yet again from the burdens we can no longer bear.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus said: “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Friends, believe the good news. Through Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11: 25-30

“A Yoke that Fits”

[Click here for worship video.](#)

Prayers of the People

By Jill Duffield (abridged)

Holy God, we enter this time of prayer mindful of our inability to be content. We are restless and dissatisfied, even when we have all we need and then some. As we acknowledge our total dependence on you, reveal to us the abundance you pour out upon your people.

We rejoice in the myriad of colors that show your glory around every corner—the green leaves on the trees, the oranges and purples and pinks of blooming flowers, the flash of the red cardinal and the shiny black crow. Help us to stop and notice the beauty you so lavishly create and share.

We give thanks for those closest to us, the people who love us at our worst, cheer us when we are at our lowest, care for us when we are at our weakest and want for us what is best. They show us what it means to be beloved and significant.

We praise you for the gift of this day, whatever it entails, knowing that you are present with us, that Christ prays for us, that the Spirit intercedes for us. We rest in these promises—so that emboldened by your power we can share these truths with those yet to know their priceless worth in your eyes.

We lament the suffering so pervasive in our world. We cry out to you with sighs too deep for words for those who go to bed hungry, the people fearing for their lives, the vulnerable too long exploited and your children denied justice. We lift up the sick and the broken-hearted, the lonely and impoverished. As we are yoked to Christ, yoke us to those who need their burdens lightened and their souls refreshed. We make our prayer in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught to say when we pray, *Our Father...*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Terri McKissack's mother, Ann Marshall, is home from the hospital and progressing well. Terri thanks the church for our prayers.
- Carroll Bridges was buried Monday at Greenwood Cemetery. Pray for his wife, Pat and their three children and families.
- Jamie Williams requests prayers for her cousin, Stephanie, who has recently been diagnosed with an invasive cancer. Pray for her health and strength.
- Peggy Leonhard's mother, Rita, is recovering well from hip-replacement surgery in Porte Vallarta, Mexico. Pray for her continued recovery.
- Leon and Priscilla Davis ask for prayers for their daughter, Donna, in Little Rock who contracted COVID-19 and is recovering at home.
- Linda Glover received good results from her MRI last week and is grateful for our prayers. She is also recovering well from a recent fall.
- Gail Baum requests prayers for her daughter, Betsy, who is an ICU nurse in Houston. She has been reassigned and is no longer working in the COVID-19 unit. Pray also for Gail's grandson who is a firefighter and EMT in Atlanta.
- Beverly Black thanks us for our prayers for her son, Kevin, who works in the ER at CHI Hospital, Hot Springs. Pray that he remains healthy.
- Pray for Bill Randall, Sr. at Brookfield Memory Care, Marilyn Davidson at West Shores Retirement Center, and Grayce Leonhard at a local senior care home.
- Pray for Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, and First Presbyterian Church, Malvern.
- Pray for all military personnel, both domestic and abroad, who protect and defend our freedoms, and for all first responders who provide our safety and security.