

Memorial United Methodist Church At-Home Worship

Sunday, March 29, 2020

I'm so glad you're taking this opportunity to participate in worship with us. While we are not gathering in the sanctuary, I trust and believe, we are gathered together with God in spirit and in truth.

—Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome and Prayer

Holy God, we gather in new ways, in uncertain times.

We come to this moment wondering, worried. We come questioning, doubting.

We come with praise and gratitude. We come with frustration and grief.

So much to carry, and still we come together, to be with You, and with each other.

And in our gathering we remember

Your compassion never fails; Your mercy is new every morning.

Great is Your faithfulness. Amen.

Music to Center Ourselves: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Debbie Hubbard

We Share the Story of God

Sharing from the Prophets: Jeremiah 8:18-22 (NRSV)

The Prophet says: My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: “Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?”

(*But God says, “Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”*)

Still the people cry, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

The Prophet continues: For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

A Prayer with God's Children: "Dear God ..." by Matthew Paul Turner Joy Jorgensen

Joy Jorgensen

Sharing from the Gospel: Mark 14:3-9 (NRSV)

Lorna Benson

While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.

But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, [nearly a year's wages] and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.

But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me."

"She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Message for Today: “What We Feel, What We Do”

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

The Word in Music: “There Is A Balm in Gilead”

Debbie Hubbard

We Respond to God

Offering Our Gifts and Commitments

Please give online at www.gladstonechurch.org

Or mail checks payable to: Memorial UMC, 1920 Lake Shore Dr., Gladstone, MI 49837

Offering Our Prayers with The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Please email prayer requests to mumc@gladstonechurch.org or call (906) 428-9311

We Go, Blessed to Serve

Blessing: Numbers 6:24-29

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

Music for Going Forth

Debbie Hubbard

To prayerful ponder or discuss:

- *What have you been feeling this week? (Often we feel many things at once, so please take time with this to be aware of all that you are feeling.)*
- *What is contributing to your feelings of anger, fear, sadness, gratitude, compassion, joy, or whatever other feelings you have?*
- *What has this time of worship contributed to how you feel?*
- *What can you do to express your feelings in a healthy way?*
- *Where can you find a “balm” for your spirit?*
- *What can you do to be with someone else in what they are feeling this week?*