

Welcome to Worship with Memorial United Methodist Church

November 8, 2020, Worship Guide

(On-line Worship Video available any time after 8:30 a.m. Sunday, www.gladstonechurch.org)

We Gather to Worship God

Opening Hymn: “A Mighty Fortress” UMH 110

Call to Worship: adapted from Habakkuk 3:2

Lord, I have heard of your fame;

I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.

Repeat them in our day,

In our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

Opening Song: “We Praise You”

Dave Hagen

Let praise be a weapon that silences the enemy. Let praise be a weapon that conquers all anxiety. Let it rise, let praise arise.

We sing your name in the dark and it changes everything. We sing with all we are, and we claim your victory. Let it rise, let praise arise.

Chorus: We'll see you break down every wall. We'll watch the giants fall. For fear cannot survive when we praise you. The God of breakthrough is on our side. Forever lift him high. With all creation cry, "God we praise you." Oh, we praise you, Oh.

Let faith be the song that overcomes the raging sea. Let faith be the song that calms the storm inside of me. Let it rise, let faith arise.

Bridge: This is what living looks like. This is what freedom feels like. This is what heaven sounds like. We praise you. We praise you. ... Give him all your praise!

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We Share the Story of God

Sharing from the Prophet Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Mary Bastian

The problem as God gave Habakkuk to see it:

God, how long do I have to cry out for help before you listen? How many times do I have to yell, “Help! Murder! Police!” before you come to the rescue?

Why do you force me to look at evil, stare trouble in the face day after day? Anarchy and violence break out, quarrels and fights all over the place. Law and order fall to pieces. Justice is a joke. The wicked have the righteous hamstrung and stand justice on its head.

...

What’s God going to say to my questions? I’m braced for the worst. I’ll climb to the lookout tower and scan the horizon. I’ll wait to see what God says, how he’ll answer my complaint.

And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn’t lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It’s on its way. It will come right on time.

“Look at that man, bloated by self-importance—full of himself but soul-empty. But the person in right standing before God through loyal and steady believing is fully alive, *really* alive.

The Message. Used by Permission.

Sung Response: “We Praise You” (Reprise)

Dave Hagen

Sharing from the Letter to the Romans 12:1-2

Mary Bastian

So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

The Message. Used by Permission.

Message for Today: “Fix Your Attention on God”

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Respond to God

Sung Response: “Sometimes A Light Surprises”

Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while he sings; it is the Lord, who rises with healing in his wings: when comforts are declining, God grants the soul again a season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain.

In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue the theme of God’s salvation, and find it ever new; set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say, "Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may." Words: William Cowper; Music: John Hullah. Public Domain.

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 and The Lord’s Prayer

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

We Go, Blessed to Serve

Blessing

Thank you for worshipping with us. I hope you’ll join us next time. Until then, with our attention fixed on God, may God be the strength that sustains, may Jesus be the light that surprises, and may Spirit be the agility we need, no matter what we face.

W&S (Worship & Song), TFWS (The Faith We Sing), UMH (United Methodist Hymnal), UMBOW (United Methodist Book of Worship).