

GUILFORD COLLEGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin for September 27th, 2020

17th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to GCUMC's Online Worship!

You are invited to share in this worship experience while watching the worship video that will premiere at 11am this Sunday on our Guilford College UMC YouTube Channel, [**\(CLICK HERE FOR LINK TO GCUMC YOUTUBE CHANNEL\)**](#) and that will also be available on our website for any-time viewing beginning at 8:45am on Sunday morning [**\(CLICK HERE FOR THE WORSHIP VIDEO ON GCUMC'S WEBSITE\)**](#)

Please note: next Sunday we will be switching to a Livestream online worship experience that will be broadcast from the sanctuary at 11am on Sunday morning on our YouTube Channel and Website. The service will remain up on our website and channel after that time for later viewing. Regretfully this change means that the online service will not be available early on Sunday morning at 8:45am as has been the case to this point. If worshipping during that time window is important to you, please consider joining us for our outdoor worship at that time.

Whenever and however you join us, we hope you will actively participate in the service by following the bulletin below, and by joining in the prayers, responses, and songs.

Let us worship God together: Praise the Lord!

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP:

"Don't Stop Believing" By Rickey Vaughn

GREETING AND WELCOME

Rev. Jeremy Troxler

OFFERING GOD OUR PRAISES +PRAYERS + GIFTS

OPENING HYMN: "My Life Is In You Lord"

The Faith We Sing #2032

**My Life is in You, Lord
My strength is in You, Lord
My hope is in You, Lord
In You, it's in You
My Life is in You, Lord
My strength is in You, Lord
My hope is in You, Lord
In You, it's in You**

**I will praise You with all of my life
I will praise You with all of my strength
With all of my life,
With all of my strength
All of my hope is in You!**

**My Life is in You, Lord
My strength is in You, Lord
My hope is in You, Lord
In You, it's in You
My Life is in You, Lord
My strength is in You, Lord
My hope is in You, Lord
In You, it's in You
In You!**

OPENING PRAYER

Led by Amelia Hicks

**Let us pray together:
Almighty God,
To You all hearts are open,
All desires known,
And from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
By the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit
That we may perfectly love You,
And worthily magnify Your holy name,
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Donna Ford (with Jordan)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Susan Suarez Webster

OFFERING OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

(Thank you for remembering our church and its ministries in the offerings that you make to God. You may mail your gift to Guilford College UMC at 1205 Fleming Road, Greensboro, NC, 27410, or may drop it off in our secure lockbox outside of our church office. To give to the church or to our community assistance funds online, please visit the secure online giving link at our church website by clicking here:

[GCUMC ONLINE GIVING](#))

LISTENING TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18 (NRSV)

Read by Sara Hardin

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them;
for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you,
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets,
so that they may be praised by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
so that your alms may be done in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites;
for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners,
so that they may be seen by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door
and pray to your Father who is in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites,
for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,
so that your fasting may be seen not by others
but by your Father who is in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

This is the Word of God, for us, the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**

SONG OF PREPARATION:

"Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord"

The Faith We Sing #2131

**Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord
(echo) Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord
Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord
(echo) Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord**

**And He (and He)
Shall lift (shall lift)
You up, higher and higher
And he (and He)
Shall lift (shall lift) You up**

**Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord
(echo) Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord
Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord
(echo) Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord**

**And He (and He)
Shall lift (shall lift)
You up, higher and higher
And he (and He)
Shall lift (shall lift) You up**

**SERMON MESSAGE:
"His Majesty's Secret Service"
Rev. Jeremy Troxler**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD **AND SENDING FORTH**

**SENDING SONG: "Cry of My Heart"
The Faith We Sing #2165**

**It is the cry of my heart to follow You
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All of the days of my life**

**Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord
So I can walk in Your truth
Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord,
And make me wholly devoted to you.**

**It is the cry of my heart to follow You
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All of the days of my life**

Open my eyes so I can see
The wonderful things that You do
Open my heart up more and more
And make me wholly devoted to You.

It is the cry of my heart to follow You
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All of the days of my life

NEXT STEPS AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Susan Suarez Webster

POSTLUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIGITAL ANNOUNCEMENT SLIDES

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OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP, GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE TOGETHER

WORSHIP

- **LIMITED IN-PERSON SANCTUARY WORSHIP BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH!** - To help us limit the crowd, you are asked to sign up for a spot in advance in order to attend in person. A sign-up link will be available through email and our website on Thursday around noon: please use this to reserve your spot. If you have difficulty with the online link, please call our church office at 336-292-5833. If the sanctuary spots are full, you will have the opportunity to sign up for livestream overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall.
- **"MERCY'S WELL" TO PERFORM THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH AT 6:30PM IN OUTDOOR WORSHIP** - The beloved Gospel group is returning to bless GCUMC. Please bring a chair, wear your mask, and sit six feet apart. To sample the music of Mercy's Well, [CLICK HERE](#)
- **HEALTHY DISTANCED SUNDAY OUTDOOR WORSHIP CONTINUES AT 8:45AM and 6:30PM (Please note time change)**- All are welcome: bring a chair, bring a mask, stay six feet apart, and worship God together
- **ONLINE WORSHIP WILL BE AVAILABLE AS A LIVESTREAM AT 11AM NEXT SUNDAY THROUGH OUR WEBSITE AND OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL** - The video will remain available there for later viewing as well. Regretfully this change means

that the online service will not be available early on Sunday morning at 8:45am as has been the case to this point. If worshipping during that time window is important to you, please consider joining us for our outdoor worship at that time.

GATHER

- **ORDER YOUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKE-OUT MEAL** - Please place your order by NOON on MONDAY through our church's website or by clicking on the following link, which includes this week's menu. (If you struggle with doing things online, you may also order by calling our church office at 336-292-5833.) Please also consider bringing a chair and eating your meal outdoors at the church with others on the front lawn.

[CLICK HERE TO PLACE YOUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT \(TAKE\)OUT ORDER](#)

- **PUMPKIN PATCH PANDEMIC BEGINS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH** GCUMC's famous youth sponsored Pumpkin Patch is still happening! We will be taking some special social distancing precautions to make the unloading, volunteering, and purchasing experience safe for all. A portion of the proceeds will benefit our community partners who are helping people amid the pandemic. Look for further information in the weeks ahead.

GROW

- **YOU ARE INVITED TO ZOOM DISCIPLE I BIBLE STUDY ON THURSDAY EVENINGS IN OCTOBER** - Disciple is a life-changing Bible Study experience for people who want to get serious about exploring the Scriptures and knowing God's word. Please Contact Donna Ford, dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org or 336-292-5833, or Bill Brubaker, wbrubaker@bellsouth.net or 336-292-5656, for more information.
- **GOSPEL OF MARK STUDY FOR WOMEN ON TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6PM, AND ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM** - Learn what it means that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Son of Man. Contact Donna Ford at dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org or 336-292-5833 to register or for more information.
- **UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY AT 4PM IN THE BACK PARKING LOT** - Questions? Contact Randy Wall at rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org
- **FAITH FILES (GRADES 4-6) AND FAITH FRIENDS (GRADES K-3) ON WEDNESDAY AT 6:30PM ON THE BACK FIELD** - Questions? Contact Donna Ford at dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org

SERVE

- **RED CROSS EMERGENCY BLOOD DRIVE ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 12TH FROM 10:30AM TO 3PM .** To volunteer, please contact David Saunders at dsaunders13@triad.rr.com . To sign up for a time to donate blood, please click on the link below or go to our church's website [.http://guilfordcollegeumc.org/](http://guilfordcollegeumc.org/)

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO DONATE BLOOD](#)

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THE NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF GATHERINGS:

Sunday

Outdoor Worship at 8:45am on the front lawn
and 6:30pm with Mercy's Well on the back parking lot
UMYF at 4pm in Back Parking Lot

Monday

Wednesday Night Take-out Orders Due by Noon

Tuesday

Gospel of Mark Women's Bible Study at 6pm

Wednesday

Gospel of Mark Women's Bible Study at 9:30am
Youth Lunch Bunch from 11:30-1:00 at the church
Noon Prayer Service in the Sanctuary
Wednesday Night Take-out from 5:30-6:30 pm at Ballinger Road Entrance
Faith Friends (K-3) and Faith Files (4-6) at 6:30pm on the Back Field

Thursday

Youth Fun Night at 6:30pm on the Back Field
Disciple I Begins Through Zoom at 6:30pm

Friday

Drive Up Communion from 11:00-11:30 at the church
Youth Lunch Bunch from 11:30-1:00 at the church

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CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

Among those we are praying for:

GRIEVING THE RECENT DEATH OF A LOVED ONE

Ralph Munday and Family (following the death of his brother)

SUSTAINING PRAYERS

*Laura Tew (hospice care)
Michael and Cari Ruley and Family
Gayle Luther (transitions)
Will Peabody
Terri and Allen Cheek
Rickey Vaughn
Betty Kirkman
Chris Blyshak*

SUFFERING FROM CANCER

*Doug Coley (bone marrow transplant in October)
Scott Allen (hospitalized recovering from cancer surgery))
Nick Lubchenko (stem cell transplant)
Corey Marion (cancer treatments)
John Hodges (cancer treatments and test results)
Gene Briggs (Carol Ingram's brother)*

RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS OR INJURY OR SURGERY

*Michael Eagle (recovering from surgery for aneurysm)
Marion McNeal (recovering from knee surgery)
Linda Isenhour (hospitalized with pneumonia and COVID)
Janet Van Hook (recovering from fall and shoulder surgery)
Judy Suarez (recovering from broken femur)
Nelido Ortiz (hospitalized with burns)
Denise LeHeup (broken wrist)
Helen Stone (knee replacement)
Pat Gunn (recovering from knee surgery)
Patty Elkins (kidney issues)*

UPCOMING TEST RESULTS OR SURGERY

Sandra Myers (cerebral aneurysm surgery on Sept. 23rd)

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

*Elizabeth and David Gamble + Palmer and Sophia Rae
(missionary service at U of Montana)
Ben Lasley (missionary service in Philadelphia)
For our Preschool Director, Teachers, Students, and Families
For our ministry partners in Kenya
for a cure and vaccine for COVID-19
for all law enforcement officers
for peace, justice, an end to racism,
and true inter-racial beloved community in our church and nation
for all teachers, educators, families and children
amid the challenges of school reopening
Survivors of Hurricanes Laura and Sally*

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**QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION
AND JOURNEY GROUP DISCUSSION**
(Choose any which most interest or speak to you)

1. What's one thought from either the sermon or Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18 that resonated with you in some way and that you'd be curious to talk more about?
2. Can you think of examples of times when you felt religious people were "play-acting" or practicing their faith in a way that seemed to be about getting attention or being well thought of by others? What are some forms of hypocrisy that you have encountered in your experiences with church?
3. Aren't all people "hypocrites" in some way? How should the church approach hypocrisy in its midst? How can you tell someone is authentic and real in their faith, and is not "play-acting?"
4. Didn't Jesus tell us to let our light and our good deeds shine before others, so that others will see God's goodness? How do you reconcile this with Jesus' invitation to give, pray, and fast in secret? Should we ever pray together in public?
5. In what ways can practicing our faith in secret be good for us and for others? Have you ever benefitted from an anonymous act of kindness? How did that make you feel?
6. Have you ever tried fasting before, or do you know someone who has? Why do you think this might be a helpful spiritual practice?
7. What's one act of secret service or faithfulness you might try to practice this week?