

Sunday
August 23, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Greg



Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



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Call to Worship — based on Exodus 1:8 - 2:10; Psalm 124;
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Our help is in the name of the Lord our God, the maker of
heaven and earth, who comes to our aid in times of need,
who gives us the courage to do what we know is right, who
invites us to turn away from the influences of the world
around us and confess him alone as Savior and Lord.
This is our God! Let's worship God together!

Opening Prayer: Psalm 124 (NRSV)

Thanksgiving for Israel's Deliverance

¹ If it had not been the Lord who was on our side —let Israel
now say— ² if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us, ³ then they would have
swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against
us; ⁴ then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent
would have gone over us; ⁵ then over us would have gone
the raging waters. ⁶ Blessed be the Lord, who has not given
us as prey to their teeth. ⁷ We have escaped like a bird from
the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have
escaped. ⁸ Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made
heaven and earth.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20 (*Kingdom New Testament*)

Sermon: "Razing Hell"

Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

*FYI: The Apostles' Creed is the affirmation of faith most widely
used by trinitarian Christians. It derives its name from its use
in the Christian church from as early as A.D. 150 and the
early belief that it was used by the apostles. Beginning in the
3rd century, this creed was used by the church at baptisms.
Through the years it has been used widely by the Eastern
Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Protestants as the formative
statement of the faith into which Christians are baptized.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and
earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and

was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People, and the Lord's Prayer

— from the *Book of Common Prayer*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, David Bard, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, Donald Trump, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this village of Vicksburg, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For (pause for personal petitions), let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners

and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who teaches us to pray... *Our Father...*

Offertory ~ Barb Hosner

Offering Prayer — based on Romans 12:1-8

Thank you for your continued support in prayer and finances.

Merciful Lord, you have provided each of us with many similar, yet unique gifts. Thank you, Lord, for the talents and abilities of people within this congregation. We are a blessed people! Now, we unite as one body to share in this worshipful act of the offering. Giving is such a joy-filled experience! Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity to support the transformation of people's spiritual lives through the ministry and mission of this body of Christ. Amen.

Blessing

The grace of the Word of life rest upon you; the love of the Source of life embrace you; and the transforming power of the Breath of life help, strengthen and surprise you, this day and all your days.

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer for Family and Friends

Praise

Laverne Swinehart is very happy to announce the birth of her fifth great-grandchild. Paul Anthony was born to Wes and Kim Swinehart at home Aug. 13. He measures 8 lb., 11 oz., and 23 in.

Updates and New Requests This Week

Tim Melvin was in surgery for over 12 hours last Thursday (Aug. 13), then, because of complications, he had three more lengthy surgeries throughout the day Friday. He has come through the hardest days of recovery and is doing well and expects to be home tomorrow. Please continue to pray for Tim's healing and patience for him and Lynne.

Previous Requests

Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

Midweek prayer meeting

Every Wednesday evening from 8:00 to 8:45, Pastor Greg hosts an online "**Midweek Prayer Meeting**" when people are invited to log-on for "on-the-spot" prayer regarding the joys and concerns of the congregation and on behalf of our world.



If you have a prayer need for yourself or on behalf of another, you may "stop by" however briefly or as long as you want during the time of our online prayer meeting. Each meeting concludes with the "Great Litany" from *The Book of Common Prayer*.

To join the on-line prayer meeting, please click this link:

<https://meet.google.com/hii-yaux-qgs>.

Otherwise, to join by telephone, dial:

+1 415-604-0783 and enter this PIN: 815 342 983# .

For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz
Barb Griner
Flossie Lang
Nona Mattheis
Beverly Nimmo

Robert & Carmen Parsons
Marv Starbuck
Mina Willett
Betty Witcher

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

8/24 Mark Harrison
8/28 J.R. Fulton
Marlene Sherman

Anniversaries

8/23 Doug & Dorothy
Smith

In Service to Our Country

Walker Polsinelli
Tyler Smith

Geoff White

Outside/In-person Worship continues!

Sunday, August 30
9:30 a.m.



Vicksburg High School parking lot
(east side by the lacrosse field)

Coming deadlines

- Items for the September newsletter are due to Polly (reception@vicksburgumc.org) by 2:00 tomorrow afternoon.
- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Donate through consignment

UMW has an account at Home Again Consignment Store at 815 W. Prairie St., Vicksburg. Anyone can drop off good new/used items at the store for consignment, and the proceeds will be donated to UMW. You must make an appointment by contacting Home Again, 269-649-1944, Facebook page and <https://www.homeagainvicksburg.com/>. The Facebook page and website have the rules for consigning, limits on items brought in at one time, etc. Good clothing and housewares and even collectibles and antiques are welcome. Be sure to really look things over before you take them in. Thanks for any donations.

VUMC's Mission Statement



The General Rule of Discipleship

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Trustee and Finance Committees

You may wonder why I am combining Trustee (TC) and Finance Committees

(FC) in my article. More than any other work committees in VUMC, these two committees are locked together at the hip. At some smaller UM churches, the two committees are just one. At our church, the two are separate, with each having the Nominating Committee appoint members to assist with operational duties.

The FC is further developed with Ad Hoc committees, such as Wills and Trust, Generosity and Stewardship, and Scholarship Committee. The FC is also supported by a chair, lay leader, chair council, lay member to annual conference, a SPRC and trustee representative. Also FC has the assistance of financial assistant, church treasurer, assistant treasurer, and member-at-large.

- A. *The FC is responsible for raising, managing, and distributing the necessary funds for ministry in the church.*
- B. *The basic responsibilities of the TC are to:*
 1. oversee, maintain and supervise all local church property.
 2. report annually to the charge conference on the state of the church's property, equipment, resources and investments.
 3. receive (or decline) and administer all gifts made to the congregation.
 4. make sure that all trust funds of the congregation are invested properly.
 5. ensure that the articles of incorporation are kept up to date.
 6. be responsible, with the help of the pastor, for all use of the church grounds and buildings.
 7. maintain adequate insurance coverage on all church properties and develop appropriate risk management policies.
 8. submit to the FC budget requests for insurance, property maintenance and

improvement, and new property purchases.

9. be accountable to the annual charge conference and to the Church Council.

As I mentioned, the TC and FC are almost interconnected all throughout the year. The FC works primarily with other committees ***only when it is time for the FC to produce a budget for the forthcoming year.*** Once the new budget is completed and approved by the Ad Council, it is unlikely that other committees, such as Member Care and Worship, will need FC to provide additional funds. Of course, the TC submits a budget as accurately as possible for their needs in the coming year, but many unexpected events occur, and they have to ask for additional funds, sometimes in the thousands of dollars. This just happened in the years 2019-2020 when over \$120,000 had to be raised to renovate the bell tower. The TC had been doing their best to maintain the tower, but it just became impossible anymore without a lot of corrective action. (In a later article, I plan to write about this renovation in detail.) At this time, the TC has a nagging worry that the elevator could become unfixable at any point, as parts are no longer available for this 36-year-old structure. You can see how closely the FC and TC committee have to work together to raise funds for these unforeseen events.

When the FC receives a request for too many dollars to be accommodated within the pre-approved budget, they have to seek other sources; sometimes by asking for donations from the congregation, funds from Wills and Trust, etc. In my 60 plus years at VUMC, I have never witnessed a truly needed request being turned down. This church has always stepped up so many times that it makes my heart sing! WELL DONE.

Thoughts, memories and research by Nancy Fulton

Office hours

The church office is closed until further notice, but Polly is working from home and will check voicemails and emails regularly. You can also call her at home at 649-1984.

Daily Devotionals

The devotional emails we have been receiving each weekday have been a blessing. You are encouraged to share devotionals as well. Email them to Polly (reception@vicksburgumc.org), and she will send them out to everyone.