

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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



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Call to Worship — based on Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 16:21-28

We gather together to worship the God of our fathers and mothers — the God of Abraham and Sarah, of Miriam and Moses — who hears the cries of His people and comes to their aid; who meets us on holy ground and calls us to follow; who invites us to leave our selfish ways behind, take up our cross, and discover what it means to truly live.

This is our God! Let's worship together!

Opening Prayer: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b (NRSV)

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. ² Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. ³ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. ⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. ⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, ⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones. ²³ Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham. ²⁴ And the LORD made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes, ²⁵ whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants. ²⁶ He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen. ^{45b} Praise the LORD!

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 16:21-28; Romans 12:9-21 (*Kingdom New Testament*)

Sermon: "What Do You Want to Be?"

Affirmation of Faith: A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

FYI: The prayer adapted by John Wesley can be challenging for modern-day Christians due to our tendency to want to meet God on our own terms. But this is a prayer of surrender to God's will, a prayer of abandonment to God's desires for our lives, trusting that God, being all-knowing, all-loving, and all-powerful, knows what our best possible life is and will guide us into that life if we bend our will to his in the power of the Holy Spirit. When we follow Jesus in his obedience to the Heavenly Father, "Not my will, but yours," then God can demonstrate his saving power in our lives and through our lives.

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for

thee or brought low by thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou are mine, and I am thine, So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Prayers of the People, and the Lord's Prayer

— from the *Book of Common Prayer*

FYI: John and Charles Wesley, both Anglican priests, were BIG fans of 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 ~ Karla Stubblefield

Offering Prayer — based on Matthew 16:21-28

Thank you for your continued support in prayer and finances.

God of Compassion, sometimes we are reluctant to follow your divine authority and to place our entire trust in you. We feel more secure trusting in our own ability and our own strength. Thank you for this moment in our worship service when we are reminded that your unwavering, steadfast love engulfs us like a mother's gentle caress. Bless these gifts and we who give them. Trusting in your heavenly grace, we pray, amen.

Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort ... at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with righteous indignation ... at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears ... to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness ... to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

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

Prayer for Family and Friends

Updates and New Requests This Week

Please pray for the family of Darrel lobe (Lynne Melvin's friends). Darrel was diagnosed with cancer two months ago and passed away Monday. Please pray for his wife, Tammy, and children, Rebecca and Scott, and three grandchildren.

Tim Melvin is home from the hospital, and he and Lynne are getting used to the new "Home Healthcare at the Melvins' ". But each day is getting better.

Previous Requests

Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

Midweek prayer meeting

On Wednesday evenings 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.

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 PIN: 815 342 983# .

In Service to Our Country

Walker Polsinelli
Tyler Smith

Geoff White

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

8/31 Jo Ann Cain

9/1 Kylie Tuinier

9/3 Carmen Moreno-
Parsons
Kelsie Tuinier

9/5 Aurelia Reed

James Tarnier

Anniversaries

9/2 Robert & Car-
men Parsons

For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz
Barb Griner
Flossie Lang
Nona Mattheis
Beverly Nimmo

Robert & Carmen Parsons
Marv Starbuck
Mina Willett
Betty Witcher

Outside/In-person Worship continues!

Sunday, September 6

9:30 a.m.

Vicksburg High School parking lot

(east side by the lacrosse field)



Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 p.m. this Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Office hours

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



United Methodist Women...then and now

United Methodist Women (UMW) began its legacy in 1869, a year before our church building was built in Vicksburg. And what a legacy this group has! John Wesley knew the key to social change would be mostly by small group meetings, and UMW have always abided by this core belief. Create circles of women that are intentionally diverse in terms of age, ethnicity and interests. Keep prayer and study as the basis of each meeting.

It all began when a missionary with Methodist Church, home on leave in Boston, told his sister what a hard time women and children had in India with no healthcare and mostly no schooling. The sister was deeply touched and sent out notices to the women of the Methodist churches in her area. A terrible snow storm occurred, and only eight women attended the meeting.

They began Women's Foreign Missionary Society in response to a lack of women's health in India. Did they get help from the men? No...and no! Women and children, at this time, were legally classified as chattel, legally dead, or non-persons. Pastors and church leaders of the Boston area were in favor of the women's work, but the executives of the General Methodist Church were not. First, they doubted the abilities of the women to get the job done, so they proposed, "You raise the money, and we will administrate the project."

Undeterred, the women pressed on...the newly formed group raised funds and sent Isabella Thoburn, an educator, and Clara Swain, a doctor, to India. By its 70th year, in 1919, the church paid tribute to 1,559 missionaries, 20 hospitals, 1,114 schools in 17 nations.

Quite a success for non-persons!

In Vicksburg, the women's group was known as Women's Society of Christian Service, (WSCP) until 1968, when the Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren Church merged. The merged group was named Women's Society of World Service and Wesleyan Service Guild, with administrative responsibility assigned to Women's Div. of the Board of Missions. In 1972, they chose to make their four-year-old group to be henceforth known as United Methodist Women (UMW) inclusive to everyone. This decision was ratified at the 1972 General Conference. Founded in 1869, this group of eight women have grown this entity into the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members.

In Vicksburg, the UMW have always been a busy and active group, abiding by The Purpose of UMW:

1. Know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ.
2. Develop creativity and support fellowship.
3. Participate in missions through the Global Ministries of the church.

How does this purpose play out in the everyday life of UMW in Vicksburg?

Penny Sult, current treasurer, tells me their duties have been curtailed since March 2020 because of shut-down due to the Coronavirus. They have not been able to conduct business as usual, such as: monthly meetings consisting of devotions, educational programs with outside speakers (sometimes). Of course, there is desert and fellowship! There are no dues, but they do hold an annual Pledge Drive, where members may donate any amount they wish. They range from \$10 to hundreds of dollars. The BIG FUNDRAISER for this group in the last 8-10 years has been a semiannual rummage sale, which raises close to \$8,000. The first rummage sale only raised around \$300. UMW pledged \$7,000 annually to Global Ministries, while also supporting South County Community Services, Wesley Foundation, Pastor's Emergency Fund, and many others.

Both our own church members and community members are appreciative of the funeral luncheons prepared, served and cleaned-up by UMW. They also prepare and direct an annual Christmas program for all to enjoy. MANY THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO.

Suzanna Wesley Circle was so named in honor of Suzanna, who was the mother of John and Charles Wesley. Both sons play a pivotal and important role in the beginning, and currently, of UMC. SWC meets monthly, mostly mornings, and covers a wide range of ages, and includes a variety of contemporary topics both locally, nationally and internationally. They hold annual bake sales, sub sales; earnings are used for a variety of local needs. SWC also honors us with an annual Mother and Daughter Banquet and sometimes a Father and Son Banquet. Currently, two people each month take charge of meetings. THANK YOU LADIES FOR ALL YOU DO.

Priscilla Circle was so named in honor of the Jewish person who became Christian and worked along-side her husband Aquila. Paul speaks very affectionately of their work in helping establish the church of Jesus Christ. Priscilla worked diligently to establish small home groups to begin and prosper. Priscilla Circles were begun to support working women, especially younger women, and made their meetings in the evenings in homes of their members to encourage attendance. They now have a variety of ages attending in 2020 but have changed their meetings to Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. and only schedule meetings from April through August. Their focus is Bible Study through a book series led by members or outside speakers. They hold three bake sales each year, and our church members are the beneficiaries, plus they are able to give in the neighborhood of \$400-\$500 to South County Community Services with the designation to use for South County's Christmas gifts. In 2020, Jean Philport is president of PC. THANK YOU LADIES FOR ALL YOU DO.

Thoughts, memories and research by Nancy Fulton