

Sunday  
October 4, 2020  
9:30 a.m.

## Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,  
serving God's world.



Plain print indicates worship leader.

**Bold print indicates the people.**

\*Indicates please stand as able.

### Call to Worship

Temptation surrounds us: do more, take more, have more. More food, more money, more power — less life? “What could it hurt?” we hear — from well-meaning friends, the media, our own souls: More hunger, more suffering, more need, more fear, more anger. So we gather in God’s abundance and remember: God rested. We were slaves. God gave us Sabbath for renewal. In Christ we have everything! Let us drink deeply from God’s Spirit. God gives us all we need to live fully, love deeply, and serve faithfully.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Opening Prayer: Psalm 92 (NRSV) *A Song for the Sabbath*

<sup>1</sup> It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; <sup>2</sup> to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, <sup>3</sup> to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. <sup>4</sup> For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. <sup>5</sup> How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep! <sup>6</sup> The dullard cannot know, the stupid cannot understand this: <sup>7</sup> though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever, <sup>8</sup> but you, O Lord, are on high forever. <sup>9</sup> For your enemies, O Lord, for your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered. <sup>10</sup> But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil. <sup>11</sup> My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants. <sup>12</sup> The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. <sup>13</sup> They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. <sup>14</sup> In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, <sup>15</sup> showing that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

**Amen.**

**\*Scripture Lesson:** Matthew 11:27-30 (*Kingdom New Testament*)

**Sermon:** “Stop and Rest”

**Sharing God’s Gifts, and Offertory** ~ *Barb Hosner*

### Offering Prayer

*Thank you for your continued support in prayer and finances. Gracious God, you create more than we could ever hope to return. You share more than we could ever hope to deserve.*



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And yet, we pray, accept these humble gifts. May they honor and glorify you in all creation, and may they empower us for the work of witness and service, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of peace, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

Holy God — time out! — we will be honest: this is really hard. It is really hard to wear masks, to keep social distance, to spend so much time watching screens. It's easy to lose patience and hope — maybe even our grip on faith. We're caught between the selfishness of wanting to do whatever we want without regard for others, and wanting to be helpful and generous. Please help us. Help us to lean on you and each other when things get hard and when we get depressed. Remind us every day that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Encourage our hearts, and help us to be your people, to the best of our ability in these strange days. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who is with us always.

**Amen.**

### **Assurance**

Sometimes, O God, we forget people, or we toss them aside – the difficult ones, the needy ones, the ones that are hard to get along with, the ones who confront us. And sometimes when we do things like that, it's not really about the other people, but about us. We are uncomfortable, or we feel guilty, or we look at brighter, shinier people, or we worry about what will make us look good. We are in such desperate need of your forgiveness. We need to be forgiven for our sin, for our mistakes, for mistaking what the world values with what you value. Help us to be better, and to see more clearly, and to care more thoroughly. In Christ we pray.

**Amen.**

### **World Communion Invitation**

Kindred in Christ, we are called to prepare a table, to provide a feast where all are welcome, and to serve one another as Jesus Christ, the host of this table, served his friends and his community. This table is the place where we gather to proclaim our relationship with Christ and with all our

sisters and brothers of faith wherever they may be, near or far.

### **Blessing the Elements**

Gracious God, we know that Jesus shared table fellowship with many. We recall that as he was gathered with his friends, he took bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to them saying, "This is my body which is broken for you. Take and eat, all of you, in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to them saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant poured out in my blood. Drink of it, all of you, for the remission of sins. Do this in remembrance of me." May we gather at this table in solidarity with all who proclaim:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in our mission to all the world until Christ comes in his glory...

### **Congregational Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer**

Companion God, we praise you for the grace which is always on the move, from death to life, desolation to hope, famine to feasting.

As we travel this road of pain and rejoicing, we give thanks that you go with us as our guardian and friend: that you have taken us by the hand and led us, giving guidance and support. Your presence travels with us:

**You will give us rest.**

We give you thanks that you have strengthened us for the work of faith, the labor of love, the steadfastness of hope.

Your presence travels with us:

**You will give us rest.**

We give you thanks that you have made us imitators of your saints and disciples, and of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your presence travels with us:

**You will give us rest.**

We give you thanks that as we have received your Word with joy, even in the midst of our suffering, you have revealed to us your

ways. Your presence travels with us:

**You will give us rest.**

We give you thanks that we belong to you and you have shown us your glory. Your presence travels with us:

**You will give us rest.**

We give you thanks that through our example others have been encouraged and inspired. Your presence travels with us:

**You will give us rest.**

Almighty God, ruler of the ends of the earth, we pray for those to whom you have entrusted power and responsibility. We think first of our own country and those elected to office as members of Congress, those who serve in government, whether in cabinet office, in the courts, or junior office. We pray for functional government, for civil and constructive debate. We pray for the President and the leaders of all other parties. Grant them wisdom, insight, patience, dedication, integrity, open-mindedness, and humility, that each may be equipped to honor the trust placed in them.

**Give them rest.**

We pray for those in state and local government, entrusted with representing the interests of people in their communities, making decisions which will directly influence their lives, wrestling with limited resources and numerous demands. Give to them the qualities they need to serve faithfully, staying true to their convictions yet putting people before party.

**Give them rest.**

We pray for those in authority in other lands, leaders of nations large and small, super-powers and tiny states, shaping the lives of millions or relatively few. Grant them also the guidance and the gifts they need to govern wisely, that they may work for the good of all their people, and strive to promote justice, freedom of speech and opportunity, inner harmony and international peace.

**Give them rest.**

Finally, on this World Communion Sunday, we pray for those nations affected by an abuse of power, divided by rival factions, oppressed by military dictatorships, exploited by corrupt regimes, suppressed by totalitarian authorities. Support those who are oppressed under such government, and strengthen those who struggle to bring justice to those places, so that the time may come when truth and justice prevail. Lord, your presence travels with your people all around this world:

**Give us all your rest.**

All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Messiah, our Sabbath Peace, our King, who taught us to pray...

**Our Father...**

**Sharing the Elements**

The Bread of Life broken for you. The Cup of Blessing poured out for you.

**Thanksgiving**

Creator God, many details went into the making of this meal and divine hands participated in its preparation. We are grateful for all who planted and reaped and prepared so that we might share with all the faithful around the world in witnessing to the power of faith, the grace of redemption, and the beauty of fellowship in your name.

**Amen.**

**Benediction** — *Father Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Chaplain, New York City Fire Department, who perished in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers.*

Lord, take us where you want us to go. Let us meet who you want us to meet. Tell us what you want us to say — and keep us out of your way.

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

**For Cheer and Hello**

|               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| David Bretz   | Robert & Carmen Parsons |
| Barb Griner   | Marv Starbuck           |
| Flossie Lang  | Mina Willett            |
| Nona Mattheis | Betty Witcher           |

**In Service to Our Country**

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Walker Polsinelli | Geoff White |
| Tyler Smith       |             |

## Prayer for Family and Friends

### Previous Requests

Beverly Nimmo passed away on Sept. 8 at the age of 92. Please remember her family in prayer.

Pray for Vera and Chuck Walker and family, as Vera's sister, Joyce, passed away.

Pray for those in the areas of the fires on the west coast.

Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

## This Week's Celebrations

### Birthdays

|      |                 |                      |                    |
|------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 10/4 | Mina Willett    | 10/9                 | Brad Addis         |
|      |                 |                      | Jeff Johnson       |
| 10/5 | Drew Geiger     | 10/10                | Charlie Cannizzaro |
|      | Lori Lash       |                      | Lucas Cannizzaro   |
|      | Tamra Puckett   |                      | Ken Cron           |
| 10/6 | Alex Cannizzaro |                      | Greg Culver        |
| 10/7 | Breanna Dailey  |                      | Mike Pendola       |
|      | Ken Franklin    | <u>Anniversaries</u> |                    |
|      | Mary Ruple      | 10/5                 | Greg & Joanne      |
| 10/8 | Mary Ann Kudary |                      | Culver             |

## 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.

To join the on-line prayer meeting, please click this link: [meet.google.com/hii-yaux-ggs](https://meet.google.com/hii-yaux-ggs).

Otherwise, to join by telephone, dial: +1 415-604-0783 and enter PIN: 815 342 983#.

## UMCOR needs your help

UMCOR-trained volunteers are assisting people in Iowa and Texas/Louisiana following the storms. Your help is needed to provide the items necessary for relief work, including personal protection equipment.

A donation to UMCOR will go a long way to help as cleanup continues. Make checks payable to VUMC with UMCOR storms on the memo line, or give online at [advance.UMCOR.org](https://advance.UMCOR.org).

## Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15.

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.

## World Communion Sunday

Throughout the year, we encourage giving to United Methodist Church special offerings. **Today is World Communion Sunday.** This offering is collected the first Sunday in October and supports World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

If you would like to give, please make your check payable to VUMC and write World Communion Sunday on the memo line and mail it to the church or bring it to church Sunday morning with your regular giving. Or give online at [UMCgiving.org/giveWCS](https://UMCgiving.org/giveWCS).

We invite you to join us!

## Sunday Worship

9:30 Sunday mornings

Family Life Center

The service will also be transmitted to the church parking lot via FM signal for those who wish to remain in their vehicle.

- Please wear a mask.
- Use the ramp leading into the Family Life Center. Other entrances will be closed.
- Upon entrance to the Family Life Center, your temperature will be checked. Hand sanitizer will be available, and no common surface items will be handed out (bulletins, hymnals, etc.).
- No hugging, other than "air hugs"; avoid crossing within six feet of each other; there will be no coffee and refreshments.
- Restrooms outside the Family Life Center will be available.



## Story of Doris and Lee Weick and Their Donation

As far as any recall in my memory or any record I can find, Doris and Lee Weick gave to VUMC the largest one-time endowment in our history. On December 29, 2005, we received two checks from the estate totaling \$655,970.72. WOW. WOW. The checks were each for \$327,985.36. One check was to go to the church's General Fund and the other to The Leland Weick Scholarship Fund.

Normally, we would not make much mention of donations, but the story of Doris and Lee is so extraordinary and yet such an ordinary life and history in Vicksburg, I believe it deserves telling. ***Especially for current and future recipients of the scholarship funds.*** Would not each of us reading this be so happy to give so much money away after our deaths that would benefit so many people? Doris and Lee also gave substantial amounts to the Vicksburg Historical Society and the Library, to name a couple more, plus personal donations to those who had shown love and care for them in their last few years, and maybe others unknown by me.

Doris and Lee were the proprietors of the Doris-Lee Sweet Shop on Prairie Street in Vicksburg. They lived above the shop in an upstairs apartment until they built a very nice home on Sunset Lake, where they lived until they passed. They worked long hours, six days a week, with shorter hours on Sunday, because they had to get out the Sunday newspapers to homes in Vicksburg.

It was a favorite spot for those who wanted some homemade ice cream, which Lee made in a back room. All of us who were teenagers in the 1950's and 1960's remember their sodas, three grace sundaes, and malts. Lee told me once how you can tell high quality ice cream: "if you can chew it and it is not icy or all air." Plus, they had big bins of chocolates -- you could choose a few or a lot. Always a hard decision which one to buy. During this era, families came into Vicksburg on Friday and Saturday nights just to hang out, sprawled on

their cars and talk with friends. Of course, why not have an ice cream cone while you were hanging around outside. They had booths, and teenagers were welcome, but no hankie-pankie. Vera Walker tells that she and hubby-to-be, Chuck, would go for treats, and Lee allowed them to hold hands. Nothing more. Doris and Lee's shop was also the stop for people waiting to catch the bus to Kalamazoo. A good place to shop while waiting. He was a bit stern and reserved, but who knows, maybe he knew teenagers, even though he and Doris had no children of their own. He ran a tight ship with the newspaper boys who worked for him, but everyone got their newspaper on time. My husband, J.R., was one of those boys.

In later years, they took out the ice cream and most of the candy bins. They gradually morphed into more of a fine gift shop. First in the area to have Hummel figurines, Hallmark cards and other popular "hot" items. They were savvy business people who knew how to, and were unafraid of, change. Upon their passing, they donated all the furniture, soda fountain, etc. to the Historical Society. Today there is a building on the grounds of the Historical Society bearing their name that houses all these old fashioned items. FUN!

What I am hoping to convey in this story and to scholarship recipients: You do not always have to be the best looking one in the room, the smartest one in the room, nor even the one who always seems to get all the lucky breaks! You do need to work hard and steady, stay inside your income (not outside), save a little for hard times, and who knows? You might just be the next Doris and Leland Weick who always had what they needed and still left some behind for others. I think God would approve, don't you? We, at VUMC, thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

*Thoughts, memories and research by Nancy Fulton*