

Sunday
October 11, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Nineteenth 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 — based on Psalm 106:1-6; 19-23

Let us praise God, whose goodness and steadfast love are everlasting. With joy we praise God's wonderful deeds. Happy are those who act justly and whose lives reflect God's righteousness at all times; so look on us with favor, O God, for we rejoice in all your faithful dealings with those who have gone before us. Like them, we have sinned; we fall far short of your goodness. Like them, we forget you and replace you with idols of our own making. Yet, as you heard Moses' prayer for his people and delivered them from certain death and destruction, so you hear Jesus' prayers for us, and graciously grant us the gift of salvation. Let us together praise God, whose goodness and steadfast love are everlasting.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Lord God of the Universe, we are forgetful people. We forget that you made this world and that we are to care for it and protect it. We forget that you created each of us with wonderful talents and interests to enjoy and to use in serving others. We forget the rules you have given us for good and happy lives. We forget that we are your people — people with a divine call. Sometimes we "forget on purpose." At other times, we just are so busy or want something so badly that we really do forget. We try to go our own way, do what we want, and make our own plans. Forgive us in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Another thing we forget is that God loves us very much. God loves us enough to forgive us again and again and again. God loves us so much that God lived among us, died, and rose again in Jesus the Messiah. So whatever you forget, always remember that God loves you and forgives you.

Thanks be to God!

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 32:1-14 (*NRSV*)

Sermon: "Gold or Stone?"

The Stone Standard— based on Exodus 20:2-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-17

You shall have no other Gods but me. You shall not make for yourselves an idol. You shall not misuse the name of the



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LORD your God. Remember the sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

Congregational Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer

Holy God, we know that whatever we have, and whatever we are...these things have been given to us. We know that salvation lies in Jesus Christ alone and that before the beginning of time, he was purposed to us as our Savior. Before the beginning of time, you purposed to provide for our greatest need — that our question might be the same as the question of the people gathered at Pentecost: "How may we be saved?" You knew the answer to this question before time immemorial. And you give an answer, Loving God, that we might be saved in Jesus Christ by your grace through faith in him. We give you thanks that you have given us your Son, that we have the grace to stand before you, having no righteousness of our own, but only his righteousness to depend upon, the grace that allows us to be heard. This grace is your gift, Lord God, that not only are we given new hearts, but those hearts are in synch with you. And so we pray, God, as Paul the apostle once said, to be about completing that good work you have begun in us, that it might be complete in us when the Day of our King Jesus Christ comes for judgment of the quick and the dead.

We look forward to the time when again, as the scriptures say, the Triune God will live among the people here on this earth. We look to the day when we might look upon Jesus Christ and see him as he is. We look to the day, Lord God, when there is no need for sun and moon, because all the light we need will be Yahweh, the Living God, and the Son, the Lamb of God. We look forward to the day when we sin no more and we will no longer be in the presence of sin. Until that day we pray that you would be at work in us, that you would help us to focus on that mirror, the perfect law of liberty.

Healing Lord, we are incapable of changing ourselves, but by your Holy Spirit's work in us to will and to do according to your good pleasure. Shape us into the image of Jesus, as hard and as difficult as that might be... and give us joy in the transformation of our minds, for we know that true joy comes only from the Triune God.

Father, we give you thanks for Christ's church. We give you thanks that you have set it on earth, that together we are the Body of Christ. We thank you, Sustaining God, for Christ's church wherever we find it. We know that it suffers from without and from within, that it suffers without from persecutions in various places and that it suffers from within from unfaithfulness. We pray, O God, for those who are persecuted, that you would alleviate the persecution and that those who persecute them might repent and be washed clean by the waters of baptism.

And we pray, O God, may your perfect judgment begin here at the house of God. We are not a perfect church, and there are none. We know that a day is coming when Christ's church will be without wrinkle or blemish or any such thing. May your Son be about that business of washing his church by the Word as if with water. And, Lord, may we respond to that. Use us or remove us.

Look upon our many concerns. You know more than we can ever ask or imagine. You know better than us what must be prayed in times such as this. Your Holy Spirit completes our prayer for us. Lord, in the deep recesses of our hearts, our pains, fears, and bitterness, our distresses and our disappointments — we lay those before you and ask that by your Holy Spirit they might be prayed for effectively in groaning that human tongues cannot utter.

And Lord, we pray, give us joy — the joy of knowing that your Son is risen — the joy of knowing that your Son lives and reigns, and that with him we are victorious over sin, death, and the evil one.

Holy God, all this in Christ's name we pray...

Our Father...

Sharing God's Gifts, and Offertory

Offering Prayer

Thank you for your continued support in prayer and finances.

God of all creation, thank you for the wonderful things you have made. Thank you for the universe full of stars and planets. Thank you for our world, full of life. Thank you for making each one of us. Thank you for loving each one of us. Take these gifts we now offer back to you. May they be used to the glory of your name. We offer you ourselves and all the gifts you have blessed us with. Take us and use us to share your love with the world.

Amen.

Benediction — “May Peace Become You,” by Kelly Ann Hall

In the cross-fire, In the cross-contamination,
At the cross-roads that call you forward but
give you no sign, May peace become you.
In the seemingly impossible In the human
tragedy In the unworkable situation of
division and strife, May peace become you.
May peace become you, Beloved, and
courage carry you when you cannot see
your way forward But, nevertheless, take
one more step in the direction of love.
+ 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

Pray for Brad and Barb Addis and family as Brad's mother passed away last Sunday.

Previous Requests

Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

Welcome!

The service is also 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 are available.

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.

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-qgs.

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

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

10/12 Margie Thomas
10/13 Joan Smola
10/14 Olivia Cannizzaro
10/15 Natalie Hansson

Anniversaries

10/11 Paul & June French
10/12 Wil & Eloise Emmert
10/15 Greg & Mary Burke

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	



Stained Glass Windows at VUMC

Sanctuary Total 4:

1. I have written before about the two windows in the choir loft so will not repeat here. Installed in circa 1924 they are 96 years old and reportedly very valuable at auction! Round window on the west wall: Dr. Millard Roberts, a retired surgeon and one of our members, made this window for us circa 1985, making it 35 years old. His surgeon hands still had the dexterity he needed to do this fine detail on the windows, even though he was somewhere around 80 years of age. It is referred to as **The Rose Window** and represents God's care for us in all things and our communion with the Father and Son.
2. The tall curved top window on the east wall was also made by Dr. Roberts for us circa 1990, making it 30 years old. At this point on, Michael Hardy, one of our in-house artists, did the art work as the windows became either larger or more detailed. This window is known as **The Resurrection Window**, and you will be able to pinpoint the symbols. Dr. Roberts once commented to me that he was "disappointed in the selection of colors he had to use." He thought they were too light in tone. My feeling is they emit a lot of light and express our feeling of hope as we honor Jesus and Easter. What do you think?
3. The tall window on the back west wall shared between the sanctuary and chapel has an interesting story. It once was in the Congregational Church across from us, and when the church was being demolished, members Henry and Pauline Yapple, plus their children, rescued three of these window and stored them over many years. When our church was doing remodeling during 1984, they donated this window to us. In our Public Library on Michigan Ave., you will find its "sister". Date is unknown of original structure, but my guess is somewhere in late 1800's. Thank you, Yapples.

Inside Bell Tower Total 2: Made by Dr. Roberts

1. Half round window speaks of Jesus in prayer in Gethsemane Garden while awaiting his accusers to arrive for his upcoming execution. He was in prayer all night and in anguish all alone, even without his disciples. Matthew 26:36-45.
2. The tall narrow window speaks of the dawn when an army came to arrest Jesus while he was still in prayer. Judas is there to pinpoint and betray Jesus. Matthew 26:47-56

Outside Bell Tower Total 3:

1. All three of these windows were installed in July 2020 after all repairs were completed on the Bell Tower. The work was researched by our then custodian Ryan Miller, and the Trustees approved the company titled Wiskerchin Studio located in Ohio. The total was \$19,000 which included installation and plexiglass. The caveat for such a good price was to allow them artistic freedom. Our instruction to them was "no ultra-modern design"!

Entrance off Main Street: Total 1

1. This window was commissioned by Ann Hallam, a member, in honor and memory of her husband Bud Hallam, a partner of Ken Krum Chevrolet. No records, but memory would put it circa late 1990's. It seems to depict Jesus' victory on the cross over Satan, and the colors seem to say "it is a new day"!

Family Life Center West Wall: Total 1

1. This round window was commissioned by Dr. Lloyd Appell, a member, in honor of his wife, Grace. Dr. Appell asked Pastor Buff Coe: what were the church's symbols of grace, and then chose a "dove". No other records on file on price or who executed it.

Lower Lobby Entrance: Total 4

1. These four small windows were commissioned by the Memorial Committee and used funds donated in memory of other saints. They depict the four seasons and Jesus' care for us in all things.

Thoughts, memories and research by Nancy Fulton

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 Thursday, Oct. 15.
- Items for the November newsletter are due to Polly (reception@vicksburgumc.org) by Monday, Oct. 26.

Wesley Woods work session

It's time to spruce up our cabin, Sycamore, at Wesley Woods. If you can offer your services next week (not Saturday), please call Brad Ad-dis at 649-1328 or 269-532-2296.