

Sunday
October 18, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

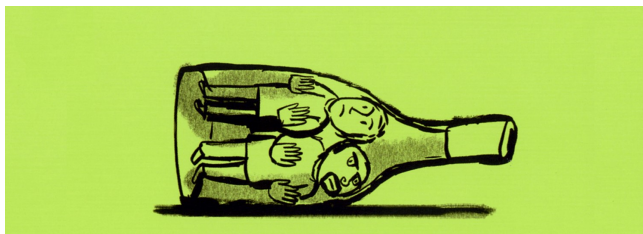
Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



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Plain print indicates the worship leader.

Bold print indicates the people.

*Indicates please stand as able.

Gathering

Video: "The Welcoming Prayer," by Father Thomas Keating

Welcome, welcome, welcome. I welcome everything that comes to me today because I know it's for my healing. I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions. I let go of my desire for power and control. I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval and pleasure. I let go of my desire for survival and security. I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person or myself. I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within. Amen.

Call to Worship — based on Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

The earth has its kings, but God is ruler of all. Praise God above all, the giver of life! The mountains may tremble, the oceans may roar, but God's presence is more powerful than the earth itself. Come into God's presence, for God is among us now. O God, show us your glory; we seek your ways. Come to the Rock, the God of life, for God is present now.

Opening Prayer

Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love.

Amen.

Prayer from the Book Jesus Used: Psalm 99 (*NRSV*)

¹ The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! ² The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. ³ Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! ⁴ Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. ⁵ Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! ⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and

he answered them. ⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. ⁸ O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. ⁹ Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.

***Scripture Lesson:** Matthew 22:15-22 (*Kingdom New Testament*)

Sermon: "Sideways"

Prayer of the People, and the Lord's Prayer —
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 reasonable 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 the coming national election, 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.

All this in the name of Jesus Christ we pray...

Our Father...

Sharing God's Gifts, and Offertory

Offering Prayer — based on Matthew 22:15-22

Thank you for your continued support in prayer and finances.

God of Wisdom, we rejoice that you have provided us with numerous examples of generous giving. We obediently share this offering in full knowledge that all of our resources and assets are ultimately a gift from you. Help us to use them wisely and to share them generously. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life, so we may live abundantly.

Amen.

Benediction: Ephesians 3:16-19 (*Kingdom New Testament*)

My prayer is this: that [God] will lay out all the riches of his glory to give you strength and power, through his spirit, in your inner being; that the king may make his home in your hearts, through faith; that love may be

your root, your firm foundation; and that you may be strong enough (with all God's holy ones) to grasp the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the king's love – though actually it's so deep that nobody can really know it! So may God fill

you with all his fullness.
+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***Postlude**

Prayer for Family and Friends

Updates and New Requests This Week

Pray for Jerry Stenstrom (Mary's son), as he recovers from open heart surgery.

Previous Requests

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

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.

In Service to Our Country

Walker Polsinelli
Tyler Smith

Geoff White

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

10/18 Roger Kroshinsky
Mardi White
10/20 Amelia Murray
10/24 Jeff Kudary

Anniversaries

10/18 Jim & Jen
Thompson
10/21 Mark & Michelle
Harrison
10/23 Rob & Rachel Ball

For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz
Barb Griner
Flossie Lang
Nona Mattheis

Robert & Carmen Parsons
Marv Starbuck
Mina Willett
Betty Witcher

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#.

Coming deadlines

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



1999-2005 Construction Project

Yes, you read this correctly. It did take 6 years to survey, plan, raise money, start up and complete the construction of the Family Life Center (FLC), which included new offices, bathrooms, kitchen, classrooms, storage, preschool rooms, etc. The final price tag was approx. \$1.5 million. Currently, by end of 2020, we will have a mortgage remaining of approx. \$546,000. We have done well, considering the ups and downs of finances over the last 15 years.

After the 1994 Long Range Committee report and approval by the Ad Council of building a youth center and other improvements, the project was shelved due to acquiring houses and businesses to make room. By 1999, the Finance Committee ruled that we could begin to investigate the process of costs and who would take charge of this process.

Building Phase I Task Force met the first time June 19, 1999. Members who agreed to be on this Task Force were: Brad Addis, Char and Don Dailey, Matt DeLong, Cindy Kole, Dennis Forsythe, Ron Hayward, Dan Oswalt, and Arden Sult. The purpose of Phase I was to study the needs of the congregation, the old plans, and the feasibility of an additional building space. Further, it would seek several architectural evaluations, costs involved, timelines, and then present to the congregation. Don Dailey was chosen as Chair. Anticipated that Phase I would be completed by the end of November 1999.

As of July 19, 1999, this group had made a great deal of progress. They were visiting other churches, interviewing architects and contractors, and meeting after church with members of the congregation for a meal and discussion, asking members for input. *The congregation still had*

their initial enthusiasm from 1994 for needing increased space, especially for youth. Our youth program was in a successful period, led by Youth Director Heather Humm. Heather was well liked by both the youth and their parents.

Then, for some reason, minutes stopped. Dated August 2001, I found someone had typed up "Where We Were at Our Last Meeting." Dan Oswalt and Dennis Forsythe were selected as co-chairs. Previous survey results had been used to develop a top 10 list of priorities. They had met with construction companies and accepted a *design proposal* from Cornerstone Construction. Rich Cole of Architecture One was selected to develop the design plans in two stages. Stage I for \$9,000 and Stage II was to be \$88,000 for a total of \$97,000 in fees. Later, Rich Cole determined he did not have sufficient time to complete the project and recommended Bill Briggs from Envision Studio. Briggs later joined VanderWeele Construction. Finance Committee approved \$8,000 needed to complete the plans for review by the congregation. It was noted the Building Task Force I had lost momentum due to lack of funding and some members of the committee had left the church. Pastor Buff was instrumental in bringing together a renewed Building Task Force I in 2001 to restart the project.

Cornerstone Construction provided us with sq. ft. estimate costs. Phase I Task Force presented the information to the congregation in January 2001 and had overwhelming support for the project. With this, Phase I group concluded their work and turned information over to Phase II Task Force to determine financial support and to go forth with the building project.

More next week about Task Force II.

Thoughts, memories and research by Nancy Fulton

Office hours

The church office is open with limited hours for now. Polly will be in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 1:00 and will continue working from home Mondays and Thursdays. The church is still closed, so call ahead during office hours if you need to drop something off.

Do we have your information?

We like to acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries in the bulletin and newsletter and with the announcements on the screen before Sunday worship. Do we have your information? If not, please contact Polly in the office and let her know.