

MUMC At-Home Worship:

July 5, 2020

Thank you joining us in worship this week! We're taking a different tact with our scripture today and are focusing in on Jeremiah, a reluctant prophet convinced by God to speak out against Judah, his own nation. It is an intentional choice this Independence Day weekend as our country is divided on much and particularly struggling with our history and complicity with racism. Like Jeremiah, I hope that we might find ways to celebrate our nation while also recognizing where it falls short and working for its betterment.

As worship reminds us, we are citizens of the Kingdom of God and called to be witnesses to God's love and justice wherever we live. Stay healthy!
-Pastor Dillon

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

God of all people and all places, who sees the suffering and pains of the world, may our worship prepare us to bring about your kingdom until all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well. Amen.

Hymn: *O Freedom*, The Faith We Sing #2194 – [watch/listen here](#)

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 8:4-11

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Reflect:

1. Much of this scripture reading focuses on the people's unrepentant behavior, choosing not to do the natural work of repentance and correction like a person who stands up after falling (v. 4). What are some of the challenges to repenting and correcting our behavior? How might we seek out opportunities to learn from our mistakes and regularly return to God?
2. While we often read scripture as speaking to us individually, Jeremiah's writings were directed to the whole nation of Judah and not individuals. What difference might it make to the message here to know that there were likely a variety of individuals all held accountable for their overall actions as a nation?
3. Jeremiah indicts the false prophets of his day proclaiming that "all is well" when, in fact, nothing is well (v. 11). Similarly, we also frequently overlook the troubles of our community and world, particularly if they do not directly impact us. What are some things you see today that are not all well? What might God want us to do about it?

Hymn: *There Is a Balm in Gilead*, United Methodist Hymnal #375 – [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Guide My Feet*, The Faith We Sing #2208 – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

Holy God, we hear the cries of the prophets of history. Open our ears to the prophets of today. May we work together this week and always at opening the floodgates until justice rolls down like water. Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

O Freedom

The Faith We Sing #2194

1. O freedom! O freedom!
O freedom over me.

Refrain:

And before I'll be a slave,
I'd be buried in my grave,
and go home to my Lord and be free.

2. No more moaning, no more moaning,
no more moaning over me. (*Refrain*)
3. No more weeping, no more weeping,
no more weeping over me. (*Refrain*)
4. There'll be singing, there'll be singing,
there'll be singing over me. (*Refrain*)
5. There'll be shouting, there'll be shouting,
there'll be shouting over me. (*Refrain*)
6. There'll be praying, there'll be praying,
there'll be praying over me. (*Refrain*)

"O Freedom" words are an African American spiritual and are in the public domain.

Jeremiah 8:4-11 (CEB)

Say to them, The Lord proclaims:
When people fall down, don't they get up?
When they turn aside, don't they turn back?
Why then does this people, rebellious Jerusalem,
persistently turn away from me?
They cling to deceit
and refuse to return.
I have listened carefully
but haven't heard a word of truth from them.
No one regrets their wrongdoing;
no one says, "What have I done?"
Everyone turns to their own course,
like a stallion dashing into the thick of battle.
Even the stork in the sky knows the seasons,
and the dove, swallow, and crane
return in due time.
But my people don't know the Lord's ways.
How can you say, "We are wise;
we possess the Lord's Instruction,"
when the lying pen of the scribes has surely
distorted it?
The wise will be shamed and shocked
when they are caught.
Look, they have rejected the Lord's word;
what kind of wisdom is that?
Therefore, I will give their wives to others
and their fields to their captors.
From the least to the greatest,
all are eager to profit.
From prophet to priest,
all trade in falsehood.
They treat the wound of my people
as if it were nothing:
"All is well, all is well," they insist,
when in fact nothing is well.

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

There Is a Balm in Gilead
The United Methodist Hymnal # 375

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.
(Refrain)
2. Don't ever feel discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend,
and if you look for knowledge
he'll ne'er refuse to lend.
(Refrain)
3. If you can't preach like Peter,
if you can't pray like Paul,
just tell the love of Jesus,
and say he died for all.
(Refrain)

"There Is a Balm in Gilead" words are an African American spiritual (referencing Jeremiah 8:22) and are in the public domain.

Guide My Feet
The Faith We Sing #2208

1. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!
2. Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
for I don't want to run this race in vain!
3. Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
for I don't want to run this race in vain!
4. I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race.
for I don't want to run this race in vain!
5. Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race.
for I don't want to run this race in vain!
6. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

"Guide My Feet" words are an African American spiritual and are in the public domain.