

MUMC At-Home Worship:

August 23, 2020

Are there any “hidden figures” to celebrate in your life? As we continue in our movie-themed worship, this Sunday’s scripture parallels the real life story of the women who worked at NASA as computers for the early space program, including the Apollo missions, as told in the recent movie *Hidden Figures*. Just as these women made an incredible impact but have long gone unnoticed, so too are there many saints of the church who have done incredible work for God but gone widely unnoticed. I hope today’s worship encourages you to think about these saints, tell their stories, and follow in their footsteps as we all follow Christ!

I’m praying for you. Have a blessed week!

-Pastor Dillon

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

God, you have called all your people to walk in your ways. May this time of worship open our eyes to the saints in the body of Christ around us and encourage us to aspire to their ways.
Amen.

Hymn: *I’m Gonna Live so God Can Use Me*, The Faith We Sing #2153 – [watch/listen here](#)

New Testament Reading: Proverbs 31:10-31

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Reflect:

1. This passage from Proverbs 31 is often referenced as an incredibly high standard that women are to aspire to, but the Jewish tradition sees the target audience as men. In fact, the men are to memorize this poetic scripture to sing as a song of praise to the women in their lives. Who are some Godly women in your life you might celebrate this week?
2. This passage may be as much about God as women in general; throughout the book of Proverbs, the author regularly invites the reader to aspire for a character called “Lady Wisdom” as an expression of God’s character and may still be drawing a similar parallel here. How might seeing traditionally female attributes reflected in God help expand or challenge our understanding of who God is? How might the specific attributes of this passage teach us more about who God is?
3. As you read this scripture, which of these attributes do you attribute to yourself? Which do you aspire to? How might this scripture endear you to the work God has called you to?

Hymn: *Rejoice in God’s Saints*, United Methodist Hymnal #708 – [watch/listen here](#)

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

Lord’s Prayer

Hymn: *God of Grace and Glory*, United Methodist Hymnal #577 – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

God of Grace and Glory, grant us the wisdom and courage to join all the saints in serving you. Grant us insight to see our own talents and gifts, that we might use them for your glory. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

I'm Gonna Live so God Use Me
The Faith We Sing #2153

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
2. I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

"I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me" words are an African American Spiritual and are in the public domain.

Proverbs 31:10-31 (CEB)

A competent wife, how does one find her?
Her value is far above pearls.
Her husband entrusts his heart to her,
and with her he will have all he needs.
She brings him good and not trouble
all the days of her life.
She seeks out wool and flax;
she works joyfully with her hands.
She is like a fleet of merchant ships,
bringing food from a distance.
She gets up while it is still night,
providing food for her household,

even some for her female servants.
She surveys a field and acquires it;
from her own resources, she plants a vineyard.
She works energetically;
her arms are powerful.
She realizes that her trading is successful;
she doesn't put out her lamp at night.
She puts her hands to the spindle;
her palms grasp the whorl.
She reaches out to the needy;
she stretches out her hands to the poor.
She doesn't fear for her household when it snows,
because they are all dressed in warm clothes.
She makes bedspreads for herself;
fine linen and purple are her clothing.
Her husband is known in the city gates
when he sits with the elders of the land.
She makes garments and sells them;
she supplies sashes to traders.
Strength and honor are her clothing;
she is confident about the future.
Her mouth is full of wisdom;
kindly teaching is on her tongue.
She is vigilant over the activities of her household;
she doesn't eat the food of laziness.
Her children bless her;
her husband praises her:
"Many women act competently,
but you surpass them all!"
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Let her share in the results of her work;
let her deeds praise her in the city gates.

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

Rejoice in God's Saints

United Methodist Hymnal #708

1. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days;
a world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.
2. Some march with events to turn them God's way;
some need to withdraw, the better to pray.
Some carry the gospel through fire
and through flood;
our world is their parish; their purpose is God.
3. Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
who bear someone's cross or shoulder their own.
They shame our complaining, our comforts,
our cares;
what patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!
4. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days;
a world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:
the way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

*"Rejoice in God's Saints" words by Fred Pratt Green, 1977
© 1973, 1980 Hope Publishing Co.
Used by Permission. CCLI License #11301689*

God of Grace and God of Glory

United Methodist Hymnal #577

1. God of grace and God of glory,
on the people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.
2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.
3. Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.
4. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

*"God of Grace and God of Glory" words are by Harry
Emerson Fosdick, 1930, and are in the public domain.*