

MUMC At-Home Worship: May 9, 2021

Before we get to worship notes, I'm excited to share that the church has a new custodian! Following Bob Gillow's retirement at the end of last month, Todd Ducsay was hired and has already begun the important and appreciated work of keeping our church building clean. Todd has served so faithfully in a great many ways around the congregation already and we are lucky to have him taking on the custodian position.

Today's worship includes some dense but valuable scripture from the book of Hebrews, which invites us to remember that the fullness of forgiveness offered in Christ ensures that our faith is not built on a foundation of fear but confident assurance. May we hear this good news and find ourselves once again in the presence of God, forgiven and deeply loved. Thanks for worshipping with us today!

~ *Pastor Dillon*

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

Holy God, our guide and guardian: you have led us away from the busy world into the quiet of your presence. Grant that our time in this space might comfort our souls as it renews our spirits, that we may worship you in word and deed all the days of our lives. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *Blessed Assurance*, United Methodist Hymnal #369

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10:11-23

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

Hymn: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*, United Methodist Hymnal #361

Reflect:

1. Jesus is described in this passage as a priest who offered a single sacrifice that didn't need to be repeated and would stand for all time (see v.11-14 especially). What difference might it make for us to know that forgiveness through Christ is sufficient for everything that we might yet do?
2. In contrast to the one-and-done aspect of Jesus' sacrifice, the author describes us as a people who are "being made holy" (v.14). Where might the Spirit be working in your life right now to draw you into holiness? How might we regularly remind ourselves that the confidence to draw close to God, as this author describes, relies not on our perfection but on the fullness of Christ's forgiveness which is at work in our lives?
3. This passage ends with an encouragement to "hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering." From this passage and your own life, how might you describe your confession of hope? What are some ways we might practice holding on to this confession of hope?

Hymn: *My God, I Love Thee*, United Methodist Hymnal #470

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

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Standing on the Promises*, United Methodist Hymnal #374

Closing Prayer: Holy God, bless us as we go from this place that we might be witnesses to your gospel and messengers of your love. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

Blessed Assurance

United Methodist Hymnal #369

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

[Refrain]

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

[Refrain]

“Blessed Assurance” words by Franny J. Crosby, 1873; music by Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873; and both are in the public domain.

Hebrews 10:11-23 (CEB)

Every priest stands every day serving and offering the same sacrifices over and over, sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when this priest offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, he sat down at the right side of God. Since then, he’s waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for his feet, because he perfected the people who are being made holy with one offering for all time.

The Holy Spirit affirms this when saying,

This is the covenant that I will make with them.

After these days, says the Lord,

*I will place my laws in their hearts
and write them on their minds.*

And I won’t remember their sins

and their lawless behavior anymore.

When there is forgiveness for these things, there is no longer an offering for sin.

Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by means of Jesus’ blood, through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the curtain, which is his body, and we have a great high priest over God’s house.

Therefore, let’s draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water.

Let’s hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable.

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

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
United Methodist Hymnal #361

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.
2. Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” words by Augustus M. Toplady, 1776; music by Thomas Hastings, 1830; and both are in the public domain.

My God, I Love Thee
United Methodist Hymnal #470

1. My God, I love thee, not because
I hope for heaven thereby,
nor yet because, if I love not,
I must forever die.
2. Thou, O my Jesus, thou didst me
upon the cross embrace;
for me didst bear the nails and spear
and manifold disgrace.
3. Then why, O blessed Jesus Christ,
should I not love thee well?
Not for the sake of winning heaven,
nor of escaping hell.
4. Not with the hope of gaining aught,
not seeking a reward,
but as thyself hast loved me,
O everlasting Lord.
5. So would I love thee, dearest Lord,
and in thy praise will sing;
because thou art my loving God
and my eternal King.

“My God, I Love Thee” words are 17th cent. Latin, trans. by Edward Caswall, 1849; music from Est.’s “The Whole Booke of Psalmes,” 1592; and both are in the public domain.

Standing on the Promises

United Methodist Hymnal #374

1. Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing, standing
on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing
on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear
assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]
3. Standing on the promises of Christ, the
Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong
cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]
4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

*“Standing on the Promises” words and music by
R. Kelso Carter, 1886; and both are in the public
domain.*