

MUMC At-Home Worship: June 20, 2021

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

Father's Day Prayer

Loving and Merciful God,
our thoughts and prayers today are turned toward our fathers.

For those whose fathers have increased the joy in their families' lives, we give You thanks. For those good men who sustain and support us in our living, who love us no matter what, we give You thanks.

For those whose fathers have been a source of hurt and pain, may their wounds be healed and may they find in You, in us, in others, the nurturing love that is needed for their well-being. We also pray that these fathers find forgiveness.

For those fathers who are separated from their children, give them the insight and perseverance to parent in whatever ways are open to them. Give them the courage to make the decisions that allow their children to thrive.

For those fathers whose relationships with their children have been difficult or disappointing, we pray. For single fathers who struggle to be both parents to their children, may they find the strength and wisdom for their task. We pray, too, for those fathers who have lost a child. We turn to You, most holy God, for consolation where consolation seems impossible.

For those who have recently lost or who are facing the imminent loss of their fathers, may they find comfort in the love that their fathers have given them. Amen.

Hymn *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* United Methodist Hymnal #474

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" words and music by Thomas A Dorsey, 1932. © 1938 Hill & Range Songs, renewed Unichappell Music, Inc.

Scripture Lesson

Storytelling: 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49

17:1a Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

17:4 And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath,

whose height was six cubits and a span.

17:5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

17:6 He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders.

17:7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him.

17:8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.

17:9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

17:10 And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together."

17:11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

17:19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

17:20 David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry.

17:21 Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army.

17:22 David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers.

17:23 As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

17:32 David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

17:33 Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

17:34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock,

17:35 I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it.

17:36 Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God."

17:37 David said, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may

the LORD be with you!"

17:38 Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail.

17:39 David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them.

17:40 Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

17:41 The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him.

17:42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance.

17:43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

17:44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field."

17:45 But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

17:46 This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

17:47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand."

17:48 When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

17:49 David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

Mark 4:35-41 (NRSV)

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

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

Reflect:

This week, as we think about the story of David and Goliath, consider these questions:

1. What are the giants in your life that cause you to be afraid? What are some common situations we face that paralyze us the way this situation paralyzed God's people? What might it look like to rethink our situation and view it the way David viewed the situation?
2. What armor are you putting on, or what sword are you carrying to try to protect yourself from what makes you feel afraid? What armor do groups of people put on to protect them from scary "giants?"
3. How does this story cause us to rethink how we view what it means to be strong?

Hymn *Guide My Feet* The Faith We Sing #2208

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!

Hold my hand while I run this race...

Stand by me while I run this race...

I'm your child while I run this race...

Search my heart while I run this race...

"Guide My Feet" words and music are an African American spiritual; harm. by Wendell Whalum. Harm. © Estate of Wendell Whalum

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

Hymn *Rise Up, O Men of God* United Methodist Hymnal #576

Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things.
Give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God! The kingdom tarries long.
Bring in the day of brotherhood and end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God! The church for you doth wait,
her strength unequal to her task; rise up, and make her great!

Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod.
As brothers of the Son of Man, rise up, O men of God!

"Rise Up, O Men of God" words by William P. Merrill, 1911; music by William H. Walter, 1894; and both are in the public domain.

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)