

The Youth Sunday – May 7, 2017

Journey to the Cross in Prayer

Prelude “First Prayer at Dawn” **David Paxton**

Welcome and Announcements **Lou Johnson and Ruthie Brock**

Gathering of God’s People “How I Love Your Word” **Mark Hayes**
Larisa Capparuccia, Melina Matthews, and Holly Weaver

Call to Worship **Ruthie Brock**

Leader: We are God’s Church.

People: We come together to pray and praise him.

Leader: He has given us his Word.

People: We come as a community of faith to learn from him.

Leader: He has filled us with his power and grace.

People: We go out to bring others to him.

Leader: He has called us into his family.

People: We come together to share our lives and faith with each other.

Leader: He has put his words on our lips.

People: We go out and tell the world about him.

Leader: He has given us his Spirit.

People: We come to celebrate his life, his love, and his faithfulness.

Leader: He has showered us with his riches.

People: We go out to share his goodness with others.

Leader: He has freed us from our past.

People: We come together to move forward.

Leader: He has planned for us a glorious future with hope.

People: We go out to share his love and devotion to all we meet.

Leader: Let’s worship together!

Invocation and the Lord’s Prayer **Isabella Faison and Claire Tart**

Loving God, as we come to you in prayer, silence our rushing minds and allow us to focus on you. We are reminded that you call us to turn away from our own selfish interests, to take up our cross and follow after you, and to find our lives by giving them up to your greater purpose. So we come before you today with open eyes, open hearts, and open hands, eager to sense your presence, to hear your Word, and to know your will. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, move within us and

among us as we worship. Open our eyes to your presence; open our ears to your call; open our hearts to one another as we seek ways to go out into the world, to live and work as your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord who taught us to pray saying...

Leader: Our Father in Heaven,

People: Remind us constantly that you are the parent to all your children, whoever they are, or wherever they were born.

Leader: Hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come,

People: Establishing peace and justice, hope, and life for all people.

Leader: Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

People: Disturb us into awareness of the needs of others.

Leader: Forgive us our sins,

People: Our pride and our prejudices.

Leader: As we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation,

People: Especially keep our hearts and minds open to see the good in others.

Leader: Deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom,

People: Just and true,

Leader: The power,

People: Gentle and fair,

Leader: And the glory,

People: Seeing with the colors of love,

Leader: Are yours for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

***Hymn # 475** “Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing” **Nettleton**

Call to Confession **Ella Faison**

Gracious God, we weave a circle of prayer around our sanctuary today, asking for your protection of this time and space from sin and evil. Let our troubled thoughts be dropped off in the parking lot along with our misunderstandings and bitterness. Let our selfishness be left on the steps and our pride surrendered in the narthex. Let our dislikes be left at the door and all hard feelings be put away in the Banner room. May we enter this hour of worship without any burdens as your children willing to meet you here. Let us confess our need for our God as we join together in our Prayer of Confession.

Prayer of Confession

Elizabeth Coleman

Let us pray: **Equip us, dear God, for this holy time of worship. Let love be present in every handshake and every meeting of eyes. Let our spirits be open to your presence ready to feel your welcoming embrace. Let the music touch our deepest chords and our prayers be the melody we take home. Let us leave this hour of devotion carrying the blessings of this worship experience with our family of faith.**

Confession of Sin

Gabriel Capparuccia and Olivia Williford

For we are people here like Peter sinking. We step out in faith because we want to follow you, but we fall short. We are afraid of what other people think of us. We are not sure we have the ability to do what you ask. We think the job is too big for us, yet we try and make a feeble attempt to pray.

We are people here like Thomas doubting. We are not sure what it means to be a Christian. We are not sure what good it does to come to church. We are not sure what you can do in this world that is so wounded. We won't take one step until we see the whole way ahead. We attempt to pray, but we doubt if our prayers will reach you.

Olivia Williford

We are people like Mary weeping. We stand at the foot of the cross, where sin's power does its worst. We weep for people who are persecuted for the color of their skin. We weep for people whose lives are shackled by poverty. We weep for people who hear the sound of gunshots aimed at them. We weep for all who are tortured. We weep as we pray.

We are your people here. We believe and we pray, but please help our unbelief. Fill us with grace and courage to be your disciples, faithful, true, and filled with love to the end. We ask this in Your precious son's name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Melina Matthews

The wonder of our faith is this: God cares for us; God believes in us; God empowers us; and when we seek his forgiveness, He is willing to help us. Therefore, let us be confident in God's love, pray without ceasing, and live without fear. For our God is faithful. He is near to us and with us always.

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!***Hymn # 465****"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

Converse

Passing of the Peace and Prayer Request

Claire Tart

It is through each one of us that the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit are made known. In that spirit, let us reach out and greet one another in Christian love.

Greeting: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

As you have greeted one another with the peace of Christ, you are also invited to come forward to present your prayer request as an offering to God in the bowl at the front of the Sanctuary.

Hymn # 175**"Seek Ye First"****Children's Moment:****"The 5 Finger Prayer"****Shawn Matthews and Olivia Williford****Prayer of Illumination**

Tucker Fox

Lord, as we have come to you in prayer this morning, we ask that you open our eyes, hearts, and minds to your holy presence and especially to your spirit. We come seeking a quiet time of silence, meditation, singing, and visions for your will for us and for our church.

Old Testament Lesson**2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 29:11-13**

Logan Dodson

Choir Anthem**"Our Father Who Art in Heaven"**

Dennis

New Testament Lesson**Ephesians 1:15-19; Mark 11:24**

Logan Dodson

Hymn # 469**"Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"****Message****Guided Taize Prayer "Seeking God's Presence"****Hymn # 471****"O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (v. 1)** Melina Matthews – Cantor

Prayer – Shawn Matthews

Silent Prayer

Leader: Lord in Your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer**Hymn # 204****"Stay with Me" (v. 1)** Melina Matthews

Prayer – Shawn Matthews

Silent Prayer

Leader: Lord in Your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer

Hymn # 635 **“Sing, Praise, & Bless the Lord” (v. 1)** Larisa Capparuccia - Cantor
Prayer – Gabriel Capparuccia
Silent Prayer
Leader: Lord in Your Mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer

Hymn # 814 **“In God Alone” (v. 1)** Larisa Capparuccia
Prayer – Gabriel Capparuccia
Silent Prayer
Leader: Lord in Your Mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer

Hymn # 90 **“Wait for the Lord” (v. 1)** Holly Weaver - Cantor
Prayer – Logan Dodson
Silent Prayer
Leader: Lord in Your Mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer

Hymn # 544 **“Bless the Lord” (v. 1)** Holly Weaver
Prayer – Logan Dodson
Silent Prayer
Leader: Lord in Your Mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer

Hymn # 654 **“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” (v. 1)** Sean Capparuccia - Cantor
Prayer – Lou Johnson
Silent Prayer
Leader: Lord in Your Mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer

***Affirmation of Faith** **Bailey Spell**

Let us stand and state what we believe:

Leader: We believe we are called to join together in a common ministry of fellowship, prayer, and study.

People: We believe we are called to communicate the gospel with one another, to care, and to serve as a congregation with a spirit of love and forgiveness.

Leader: We believe as children, youth, and adults that we all need this community of faith to grow, to learn and to be nurtured in our faith.

People: We believe as children of God we are to move among this community of faith with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control.

Leader: We believe we should love God with all that we are and pray for His daily guidance, while seeking forgiveness as we look to the future for our church and ourselves. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

Lizzy Tart

Gracious Lord, we understand how powerful prayer is. We come to you today to say “thank you” for the opportunity of praying for others. We have been the recipients of others’ prayers so many times. We ask now that you cleanse our hearts and show us any sins we have not confessed that may hinder our prayers for those in need or want. We come boldly with confidence, knowing that you hear our prayers and that they are answered according to your will.

We pray for those in our neighborhoods, in our city, and in our church who are sick, lonely, or afraid. We pray for those who follow you and ask you to help them influence others for good. Let them be a light pointing to you. Deepen their love for you and for those around them. Guard them from wrongdoing and temptations that could harm the cause of Christ. Inspire our leaders who will serve you faithfully at all costs. Turn our mothers’ and fathers’ hearts toward their children and our families toward you. Help them exemplify your values, and make them bold in their faith. Strengthen our own families and those closest to us, Lord. May our love for you help us forgive others and make a difference in our hurting world.

We pray especially for our teachers, leaders, students, and all in authority both locally and throughout the world. Give them your mind, and surround them with Godly people who will exercise integrity while working for justice and a better world. Help us to praise you and renew a right spirit in each of us. Amen.

Offering

Julian Beaujeu-Dufour

God of grace, we hear your call to generous giving in the way you meet our needs each and every day and in the peace you give which passes all understanding. Having received so much, we offer all we have our time, our talents, and our money for the expansion of your kingdom. As we receive these gifts, we pray for your continued blessing of them and their work in our church’s ministry, mission, and outreach. Let us receive our morning offering.

Ushers: Tucker Fox will hand out plates to... Ruthie, Ella, Lizzy, and Claire

Offertory

“Come Sunday”

Duke Ellington,

1966

Larisa and Gabriel Capparuccia

Prayer of Dedication**Tucker Fox**

Prayer is essential in our relationship with God. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for as we give back to God a portion what we have this morning. We have hope in a generous God who meets our needs. We believe in a creative God who multiplies our gifts. We pray to a mysterious God who invites us to kingdom living. God of grace, accept our gifts and use us for your service. Amen.

Doxology #592*“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”***Prayer of Thanksgiving****Larisa Capparuccia**

God of grace, mercy, and peace, we thank you for who you are and what you mean to us. We thank you for the ministry to which you call us, the power of prayer that helps us know your will, teachings which guide us, and the intercession of Christ when we stumble and fall. We are mindful of his suffering for our sakes and grateful for his victory over evil. No longer can the powers of death claim control over us because we belong to Christ, and he is our victor over death.

We thank you for the Spirit which nurtures us toward our first steps in faith. The Spirit keeps us from falling and plants our feet on solid ground. By the Spirit we can see beyond today and catch a glimpse of a new heaven and a new earth.

With your Spirit to guide us and Christ to intercede for us, we venture forth with confidence on this journey of faith. We give thanks for our families who have been wonderful examples of faithful disciples. We stand on their shoulders to view the heavenly city. Their stories are rich in legacy and insight. They faced trials and remained steadfast. Their testimony is etched forever on the hearts of your people, O God. Send us forth in their spirit and make us worthy of generations to come. Amen.

Hymn # 306**“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”****Dennis****Charge****Will Dodson**

Today the youth would like to challenge you as a congregation to go into your week with a prayerful heart, willing to devote some time each day to praying for those closest to you, those in leadership, our Sunday school teachers, those in our congregation who are weak, yourself, and your church, as we seek God’s direction and guidance for the future of GMPC.

Benediction**Will Dodson**

And now: Go into your week with your ears opened to the sound of God’s voice calling your name. Go into your week with your eyes opened for the face of Jesus in unexpected places. Go into your week with your souls ready to receive the Spirit of God. May the Spirit of Peace be with you all now and forever more. Amen.

Postlude**“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”****arr. By Roger C. Wilson**

We are thankful for our youth advisors, their leadership, and dedication to our youth.

Russell Byrd, Joy and James Dodson, Trey Fetterman, Lou Johnson and
Glenda Underwood

We appreciate all the youth who participated in our worship service today!

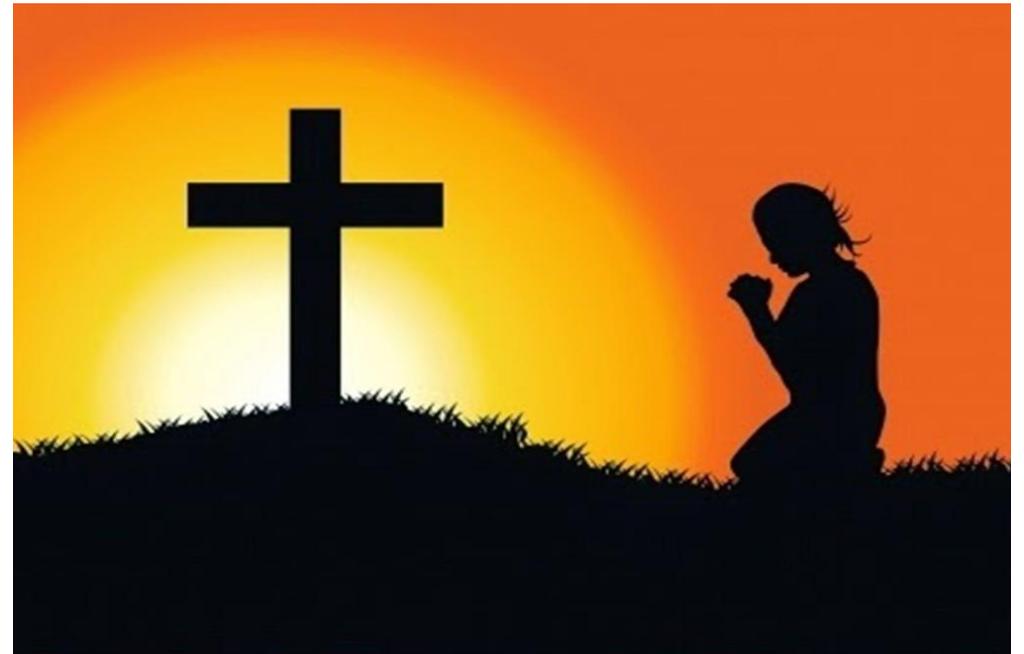
Ruthie Brock, Gabriel Capparuccia, Larisa Capparuccia, Elizabeth Coleman,
Logan Dodson, Will Dodson, Julian Dufour, Ella Faison, Isabella Faison, Tucker
Fox, Melina Matthews, Shawn Matthews, Bailey Spell, Claire Tart, Lizzy Tart,
Holly Weaver, Olivia Williford

Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church

Youth Sunday

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"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ." Philippians 4:6-7