



AT HIS GATE LAY A POOR
MAN NAMED LAZARUS

LUKE 16:20



UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Desna A. Henry Goulbourne, Interim Pastor

Sis. Goldine Nicholas, Vice-Chair, Board of Elders

Sis. Peggie Williams, Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Bro. Fabio Alvarez Organist/Choir Director

"In an atmosphere of love and unity we seek to spread the gospel through worship and service to all people."

Watchword for the Week: There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment. 1 Timothy 6:6

Those who are able please stand (*)

Musical Prelude

Bro. Fabio Alvarez

Introit

The Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship:**

Rev. Desna Henry Goulbourne

Leader: We gather today with thankful hearts, ready to praise God.

Response: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

Leader: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Response: All the days of our lives, our experience has been that God is love.

Leader: Let us sing a song of praise to God who has been our support all days.

***Processional Hymn # 533: "Now Thank We All Our God"**

***Liturgy for the Chronologically Gifted**

Rev. Desna Henry Goulbourne

Prayer of Invocation:

Leader: Almighty God, you have walked with all of your creation since the beginning of time. Your presence has brought wholeness, joy, and peace to our lives. Today, we ask that you help us to recognize the divine gifts and graces of the senior adults in our lives. Guide us to appreciate the love and services that they continue to offer. Through you today we seek to honor the ways our senior adults teach us, live as faithful role models, bring joy to our gatherings, and remind us of the values and wealth of a bygone era. Come, gracious God, remind us today of your steadfast love to us over all the generations.

Response: Loving Lord, we look to you for guidance to appreciate life in its fullness.

Hymn # 476: "His Name Is Wonderful"

His name is wonderful, (x 3)
Jesus, my Lord,
He is the mighty King,
Master of everything,
His name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.
He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,
Almighty God is he;
Bow down before him, love and adore him,
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Almighty and gracious God, we come with thankful and humble hearts to confess our sins. Too often, we let the world's sinful ways set our agendas. Regardless of our ages, the temptations to sin is often overwhelming. We trust that, in your mercy, you will continue to sustain us in our senior years and we will not become invisible to you, as often happens in the world in which we live. Forgive us of our unrighteous attitudes, behaviors, and judgments, O God. Let your Holy Spirit strengthen us in our walk along the Christian paths, and equip us all with courage not to shirk the duties to which you continually call us. Cleanse us from all evil and restore us to a faith that is worthy of your presence in our lives. We lift all our concerns to you today, O God, and beseech you to forgive us our sins in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(All Sit/Kneel)

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: God is mighty and eternal in all matters.

Response: God cares individually for us at every stage and in every season of our lives.

Leader: Receive God's grace as our lives are restored to wholeness today.

Response: We yield to God's unending mercy.

Leader: Our sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ!

Response: We honor and praise God for the gift of such loving kindness.

Hymn # 757 vs. 1 & 2: "Be Still, My Soul"

*Be still, my soul, the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change, God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul your God will undertake
To guide the future as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last
Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know
The Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below .*

[All stand]

Leader: The power and majesty of God are visible in all creation in the sky above, and in all the life that fills the earth below.

Response: Joining with the other creatures of creation, we offer our praise to the God who made us all.

Leader: O God, your power and your justice reach throughout the universe directing our feet as we strive to follow Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Response: Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Leader: Loving God, you teach us your ways; you challenge us in all of our thoughts. There is nowhere we can go to escape from you. In our childhood years of active learning, you are there to protect and comfort us. In teen years of questioning and challenging, you uphold us in your accepting love. As young adults building new families, you guide us through all the decision-making processes that we face. As middle age brings changes in our bodies and in our family relationships, you remain constant in your care.

Response: Merciful Lord, even when we reach our senior years and gray hairs multiply, do not forsake us. Lead us to proclaim your compassion and mercy to all generations.

Leader: Through our faith we see the hand of God in everything around us; we see the love of God in our human relationships.

Response: As we observe families, we celebrate the seasons of life: childhood, youth, middle age, and older adulthood. Holy Spirit prepare us for the coming years. Take away any fear of growing older, and replace our anxiety with faith, knowing that you will be with us always.

Leader: O Savior and Friend, we remember the needs of all people, especially those in their senior years; the lonely and the neglected; those who are living with various illnesses - such as diabetes, dementia, arthritis, cancer, and depression; and those who are experiencing emotional, financial, and spiritual challenges. We pray for healing and spiritual wholeness, so that we all may be empowered to live fulfilling lives no matter what challenges we face. Be the constant companion of those who grieve, be their source of comfort, peace and hope.

Response: Give joy to your people, O God; reassure us that our lives are safe

- The Eastern District Synod will be convened on June 24-27, 2020. The theme of this synod is, "Into the World. This is the Challenge of our Mission". The congregation needs to begin to prayerfully consider who will represent us next year.

Passing the Peace of Christ: Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with each one of us through the empowerment of Jesus Christ.

***Greeting Song: "Peace and love"**

***Praise Session:**

The Praise Team

***Intercessory Prayer:**

The Prayer Warriors

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Invitation (Unison): For if the willingness is there, our gifts are acceptable before God according to the blessings that we have received from God's hand.

Offertory Song # 529 (AAHH): "We bring the sacrifice of praise"

(Sing several times)

We bring the sacrifice of praise
 Into the house of the Lord. (x 2)
 And we offer up to you
 The sacrifices of thanksgiving;
 And we offer up to you
 The sacrifices of praise.

***Offertory Response Hymn # 817: "Praise God..."**

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):** Gracious and loving God, we are here today as blessed people who have received abundantly from your hands. We beseech you to receive the gifts we bring, along with our lives, and use them in the work of your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Selection:

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Bro. Julio Gumbs

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Preparatory Song # 64 (TCB): "Change My Heart, O God"

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;
 Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
 You are the Potter, I am the clay;
 Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
 Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;
 Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

1st Reading (Responsive):

Psalms 146

Sis. Kathleen Moodie

2nd Reading:

I Timothy 6:6 -19

Bro. Wendell Smith

*Ascription of Praise # 846: "Glory be to you, O Lord"

*Gospel Reading:

Luke 16:19-31

Sis. Myrna Higgins

*Ascription of Praise # 846: 'Praise, Praise, Praise...'

Sunday School Song # 176 (Master Chorus Book): "To Be Like Jesus"

(All Sunday School students & staff will stand and sing once & then depart for classes)

To be like Jesus, this hope possesses me;
In every thought and deed, this is my aim and creed.
To be like Jesus, this hope possesses me;
The Spirit's helping me, like Him I'll be.

Selection:

The Chancel Choir

Sermon: "Pursue righteousness"

Rev. D. A. Henry Goulbourne

* **Song of Response #419 (AAHH): "Higher Ground"**

I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

*Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's table land,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where those abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

***Benediction:** Children of God, the Lord shall preserve you from all evil: he shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. And may the peace of God,

which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

***Recessional Hymn # 409 (AAHH): “Faith of Our Fathers”**

Faith of our fathers, living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene’er we hear that glorious Word!

*Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.*

Ancestors, chained in prisons dark,
Were still in heart and conscience free:
How sweet would be their children’s’ fate,
If they, like them, could die for thee!

Faith of our mothers, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach thee, too, as love knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life.

Musical Postlude:

Bro. Fabio Alvarez

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|---------------------|----|
| Marcus Drew | 1. | Gersham Sangster | 17 |
| Marquis Drew | 1. | Marlene Murray | 17 |
| Donnamaria James | 4. | Tenisha Simon | 19 |
| Simone Merchant Taylor | 7. | Loretta Jones | 21 |
| Marsha Henry | 9. | Evelyn Lloyd | 21 |
| Eldridge Brown | 10. | Elfrieda Daniel | 23 |
| Anna Bishop | 11. | Melverton Newell | 23 |
| Trisha Simon | 12. | Patrick Bernard Jr. | 27 |
| Lorne Canton | 12. | Joel Lucas | 29 |
| Edward A. Davis | 15. | Keisha Merchant | 30 |
| Tyler Drew | 16. | Kieyen Merchant | 30 |
| Shareen Simon Edwards | 17. | | |

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**PRAY & GIVE SUPPORT TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Sis. Jannette Abel
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Sis. Ena Billy
Sis. Anna Bishop
Bro. Tralane Donovan
Sis. Henrietta Gumbs
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Sis. Evelyn Lloyd
Sis. Ruby Mitchell
Sis. Ena Morgan
Sis. Sylvia Pigott
Pastor Nigel Powell
Sis. Zenna Reid
Sis. Ethel Robinson
McKensie Smith
Sis. Maude Thomas
Bro. Maynel Thompson Sr.
Bro. Lurvey Williams
Sis. Murdel Wint

When we are not in the best of health it is always comforting to know prayers and support are available. Remember those who are unable to join us week to week. To add them to our list of infirmed members call the church office at 212-722-2109.

Listening to the Sermon

Use the space provided below to make your personal notes. Reflect prayerfully and thoughtfully on them over the coming week. Seek the help of the Holy Spirit to apply God's truth to your heart and life.

SERMON TITLE

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Main points to remember

1.....

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Having heard the sermon, I have decided on the following:

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3.....

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Who's at Your Gate?

“At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus.”

I once heard the story of a successful lawyer who passed a beggar daily. The lawyer always found time to give the beggar something. When questioned about it, his response was that the beggar was a constant reminder to him that his situation could change and their positions be switched. Today's lesson is of a rich man who chose to turn blind eyes and deaf ears to the cry of the needy person at his gate.

The story of the rich man and Lazarus challenges us to live into God's expectation of *koinonia*, Christian community. In this community, everyone is given an invitation to the table, for it is there that we experience fellowship with Christ and with each other. To be overlooked because of your social, racial, religious, political, or ethnic status or for any other reason, is not in keeping with Christian teaching. Lazarus was the rich man's daily reminder that nothing lasts forever, and that everyone has worth, regardless.

Lazarus is a very important part of the Christian community, offering opportunities for ministry away from the table, away from the everyday comforts. The rich man could have brought him an occasional plate or sent one—if only Lazarus weighed heavily enough on his conscience as he feasted.

Who sits longingly at your gate? How do you respond? It may be visiting someone in prison or the hospital, rolling down the window to give change to the panhandler on the corner, packing the gently used clothing to donate rather than trash it, taking a turn to volunteer at the local food pantry or the church's outreach ministry. If we remain oblivious to the Lazarus at our gates, those who need help the most, will continue to get it the least.

*Bevon White, pastor, Faith Moravian Church,
Washington, DC*

The Moravian Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 29, 2019

