**Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church Sunday Worship**

**March 24, 2019 Third Sunday Lent**

**~*We Gather and Greet~***

**Greeting and Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements,**

**Joys and Concerns of the Church –-**Please sign the red Friendship pad in the pew and pass along to others.

**Gathering Song:** #177 I Will Come to You *(Refrain)*

**Opening Prayer**

**\*Call to Worship** *(Psalm 34: 1-2, 4-8 The Message)*

One: I bless God every chance I get; my lungs expand with his praise.

**All: I live and breathe God; if things aren’t going well, hear this and be happy:**

One: God met me more than halfway, he freed me from my anxious fears.

**All Look at him; give him your warmest smile. Never hide your feelings from him.**

One: When I was desperate, I called out, and God got me out of a tight spot.

**All: God’s angel sets up a circle of protection around us while we pray.**

One: Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see—

how good God is.

**All: Blessed are you who run to him.**

**\*Hymn of Praise:** #624 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

**~*We Confess our Sin and Receive Pardon*~**

**Call to Reconciliation:** Let us join together in our unison Prayer of Confession:

**Prayer of Confession:** *(Unison)* **Father God, who has never shied away from hurting or helpless people, we confess sometimes we are fearful about standing up or be put on the spot to defend those who are oppressed. Help us remember you stand with us in Jesus***.… (silent prayer)*

**Assurance of Pardon:** One: The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. *(Ps. 103:6 NRS)* *(Unison)* **In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven and invited to walk with Jesus to assist others in this the Kingdom of God.**

**\*Gloria Patri** #581

***~We Hear a Word from the Lord~***

**Children’s Message**

**Hymn of Meditation** #379 We Shall Overcome

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Scripture passage:**  Esther 3 Responsive Reading from the Message *(see insert)*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Scripture Passage:** Esther 4 The Message

**Sermon**: An Invitation to Belong: From Mordecai

***~We Respond in Joyful Service~***

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology** #606

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** The Apostle’s Creed p.35

***~We Go Forth to Serve*~**

\***Hymn of** **Trust:** #307 God of Grace and God of Glory

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response: #307 last refrain from vs. 4**

**“Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.”**

**Postlude**

Tom Greenawalt, Lay Leader

Beverly Hughes, Organist

Rev. Karen Greenawalt, Pastor

\**You are invited to stand*

**Welcome to Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church. We are glad you are here!**

If you are a first time guest, we have a gift bag just for you in the window by the front door. Please also fill out the Red Friendship pad in the pew. If you are a returning worshiper, we invite you to prayerfully consider GPC as a place to continue to grow your faith through active membership and discipleship. For more information please talk to Pastor Karen or make a note on the Red Friendship pad.

**Children are a vital part of our congregation.** Each Sunday morning we offer Sunday school at 9:45am downstairs, a Children’s Message in worship and Children’s Church downstairs after the Children’s Message. Child care is also available in the nursery downstairs for all those 2 years and younger.

**GPC Vision Statement:** We are followers of Jesus who make disciples by loving, sharing, serving, praying and believing.

**Upcoming Events- Mark your Calendars**

* **Sunday mornings 9:45am Coffee and Conversations –** *Paul, a Biography*by NT Wright. Join us in the Gathering Room (the room directly behind the Sanctuary)
* **Choir Practice Wed. March 27 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary**
* **Tuesday March 26 Free Community Dinner in the Hall 4:30-6:30pm**

 *(Fellowship Hall is located down the side walk past the parking lot, just past the 2 story white house (Manse). There is a sign that says Fellowship Hall in the front of the Hall.)*

**HELP!** If you know anyone in need of help with addiction or mental illness, WV has a 24 hour hotline 1-844-HELP4WV. The Suicide Prevention Lifeline number is 1-800-273-8255. If you know anyone who is having trouble paying a light bill, rent or needs mortgage help and other social services can be found by calling 211.

**To contact Pastor Karen** please call the church office 304-229-2316, her cell 407-619-2821. The church email is gerrardstpc@gmail.com **, Like us on Facebook at Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church Life. Webpage** [**http://gerrardstownpc.com/**](http://gerrardstownpc.com/)