

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (together)Led by Colum Dillon

**Lord, you know that we love you, And we know what you ask us to do.
You know our good intentions, And we know your will.
You know our deepest desires, And we know the vision of your kingdom.
You know our potential, But what is your purpose for our lives?
In our uncertainty and in the knowledge of your faithfulness, Prepare us for your way, O Lord.
Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

KYRIE ELEISON (Congregation & Choir) #63 Lift Up Your Hearts

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us. (repeat)

THE DECLARATION OF PARDON Rejoice! All that binds us shall fall away Katie Jan

* THE RESPONSE IN PRAISE #28, Lift Up Your Hearts

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! (repeat)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hearing God's Word

TIME FOR CHILDRENMelissa Courtney & Katie Jan
Blessing of the Backpacks and Presentation of Bibles to 1st and 6th Graders

* HYMN OF PREPARATION #399 *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* Dunlap's Creek

THE FIRST LESSON: Matthew 9:35 – 38 Atticus Speis

THE ANTHEMSean Aurigemma & Susan Mills, cello
Will O' the Wisp H. A. Malan
Come, Thou Almighty King F. DeGiardini
Pierrott in the Moonlight French Folk Song

THE SECOND LESSON: Luke 5:17-26..... Melissa Courtney

THE SERMON "We Have Seen Strange Things Today" (Luke 5:26) Massanetta Youth & John Dillon

Our Response to God's Love

* THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (together) The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Sean Aurigemma

Dear Lord, we pray for those who have binds that block the light in which you offer to shine. We pray for those who are bound physically and for different reasons are unable to worship you. But also, for those who are bound spiritually and cannot see your will. In your name we pray...

(Please pause for a moment of silence as we remember the victims of 9/11)

For we are all the children of God, let us say together the Lord's Prayer...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY SOLO *Amazing Grace* Alec Wyton

* THE DOXOLOGY #592, The Hymnal

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER Atticus Speis

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. We dedicate this money, Lord, for the work of the church, and we ask you to use all that we have and are in your service. Amen.

* THE HYMN OF PARTING #302 *I Danced in the Morning* "Simple Gifts"

* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE Colum Dillon

Leader: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.)

* SUNG BENEDICTION *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* Dennis

(Please join hands as we sing the Benediction)

**Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.**

Going Forth in God's Love

* THE POSTLUDE Simple Gifts

* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preachers	John Dillon and Middle School Youth
Liturgists	Middle School Youth
Organist	Judith Brown
Time for Children	Melissa Courtney and Katie Jan
Child Care.....	Julie Hudson
Greeters.....	Middle School Youth
Coffee Hour	Randy & Nadene Stroup (Cathy & Mike Levitas on Sept 21)
Ushers	Mike and Laura Fiscus and Middle School Youth

Pharisees

In biblical times, the Pharisees were supposedly “men of God”. They separated themselves from the rest of the crowd as the lawmakers, judges, and dignitaries of the faith. In fact, the word “Pharisee” is Hebrew for “the separated.” In many scriptures, we hear of the Pharisees accusing and rebelling against Jesus. They believed that God, and only God, should have the healing power Jesus had.

The same thing happened in the story with the paralytic. When Jesus healed the man, the Pharisees were outraged and accused Jesus of blasphemy. But what, many times, we fail to understand is that the Pharisees aren't the bad guys, they just didn't know any better. They were probably afraid that people wouldn't need or listen to them if Jesus continued to do such great and miraculous things. That would mean that their livelihoods and reputations would be destroyed. Many of us don't realize that the Pharisees had a lot to lose if they didn't fight and rebel against Jesus.

Crowds

Crowds are an interesting and complicated part of society. They can be friendly and upsetting, large or small, and excited or timid. We all face crowds daily and whether we're conscious of it or not, crowds change and mold who we are.

Youth group and church communities sculpt our religious identities. Festivals, sports activities, and various entertainments shape our personal opinions, likes, and dislikes. All of these have to do with crowds.

In the bible, crowds played many different roles. There were disciples, Pharisees, believers, and skeptics. In the paralytic story, the crowd was diverse. The Pharisees were all in the front listening and full of skepticism. The believers were listening and taking in God's word. The disciples were probably acting as crowd control. And the people who were questioning His word were listening to the teaching.

But perhaps the most important thing was that the crowd was huge. Because of its enormous size, the paralytic and his friends couldn't get to Jesus, which sets the stage for the great show of friendship that happens next.

Friends

In the paralytic story, friends are the key characters. They were obviously loyal to the paralytic as they walk him all the way to Jesus and don't quit when they can't get in the door. They dig away the roofing with their bare hands and then lower him down through the remaining hole. His friends show a great deal of courage when they lower him through the roof in the midst of about 4,000 people and Jesus himself. They also show their true bond of friendship by sticking with him even though he was paralyzed, which in those days meant he had sinned in some way.

Even today we hear about extraordinary acts of friendship such as someone sacrificing their life for someone else or taking in a child when they have no where to go. Friendship has many shapes and forms and knows no boundaries. Friends bring joy into our lives and share our pains. Everyone has and needs friends. Thankfully, God is our true friend and is always there for us!

What's Happening This Week:



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (14)

- 9:00 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:15 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 AM Worship Service, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Massanetta Youth Service, Blessing of Backpacks
Presentation of Bibles, On the Air WCBC
- 4:30 PM GAFOSAC Meeting
- 5:30 PM Sunday Evening Book Study

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER (15)

Newsletter Articles Due

- 9:00 AM Church Office Open
- 9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School
- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Book Study
- 12:00 Noon Highlanders Lunch at Sand Springs Restaurant in Frostburg
- 7:00 PM 200th Anniversary Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (16)

- 9:00 AM Church Office Open
- 9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School
- 6:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER (17)

- 9:00 AM Church Office Open
- 9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School
- 6:15 PM JoyBells Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER (18)

- 9:00 AM Church Office Open
- 9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER (19)

- 9:00 AM Church Office Open
- 9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER (20)

- 4:00 PM Church Camping at Rocky Gap State Park
- 6:00 PM Covered Dish Dinner & Camp Fire at Rocky Gap State Park

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (21)

- 8:00 AM Morning Service at Rocky Gap State Park
- 9:00 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:15 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 AM Worship Service, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
On the Air WCBC
- 12:00 Noon Congregational Meeting in Sanctuary
- 4:30 PM GAFOSAC Meeting
- 5:30 PM Sunday Night Book Study