

Glade Weekly News

June 24-30, 2024



Glade Church, a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation, is a progressive Christian community—welcoming, compassionate, and joyful—seeking to embrace all people wherever they find themselves in life. We strive to discern God’s still-speaking voice through worship, study, fellowship, and service. We work for God’s peace and social, economic, and ecological justice. We seek a greater understanding of ourselves and others, recognizing that all persons are members of our one human family, God’s family.

Lectionary Readings for the Week

Psalms 30 Lamentations 3:23-33 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43

Scripture for the Week

Psalm 30 (CEB w/ Inclusive Language)

I exalt you, God, because you pulled me up;
you didn’t let my enemies celebrate over me.
² My God, I cried out to you for help,
and you healed me.
³ God, you brought me up from the grave,
brought me back to life from among those going down to the pit.
⁴ You who are faithful to God,
sing praises to Them;
give thanks to Their holy name!
⁵ Their anger lasts for only a second,
but Their favor lasts a lifetime.
Weeping may stay all night,
but by morning, joy!
⁶ When I was comfortable, I said,
“I will never stumble.”
⁷ Because it pleased you, God,
you made me a strong mountain.
But then you hid your presence.
I was terrified.
⁸ I cried out to you, God.
I begged my God for mercy:
⁹ “What is to be gained by my spilled blood,
by my going down into the pit?
Does dust thank you?
Does it proclaim your faithfulness?
¹⁰ God, listen and have mercy on me!
God, be my helper!”
¹¹ You changed my mourning into dancing.
You took off my funeral clothes
and dressed me up in joy
¹² so that my whole being
might sing praises to you and never stop.
My God, I will give thanks to you forever.



Word for the Week

Healing

Pastor Kelly's Comments on the Scripture

This psalm is labeled as a song of thanksgiving for recovery from a grave illness and is attributed to David. We don't really know why or how the psalmist was sick – whether it was an illness or from an injury from one of their mentioned enemies. What we do know is that the psalmist was down and out – way down – in Sheol, the Pit, the realm of death.

Sheol was a quiet, dark, underground place where the deceased would go to be. It's not at all like the modern idea of hell, fire, and brimstone. Instead, the psalmist has been feeling so badly that they described themselves as being low – so low that they felt lower than the world of the living – so low that they would be separated from and unable to praise God.

The psalmist felt so poorly that it felt as though they had already been separated from God. Verse 7 declares that God had hidden Their presence from the author and they were terrified. But finally, the psalmist began to get well, and to them, it felt as though God had returned to their side. Verses 11 and 12 state that God “changed my mourning into dancing. You took off my funeral clothes and dressed me up in joy so that my whole being might sing praises to you and never stop. My God, I will give thanks to you forever.”

Whatever our theology on the role of God in the midst of suffering, it is clear here that the psalmist attributes their healing completely to God's grace and returning to the author's side. Now, thanks to God's work, the psalmist is compelled to sing praises and, in verse 4, encourages their community to do the same.

While I don't believe that God ever leaves our side for a moment, I can relate to the feelings of the psalmist. Illness in our bodies, or chronic pain, for that matter, can bring our spirits so low – low to the point where we cannot feel God's presence any longer. We only feel suffering and pain. Once we start to recover, it is as if the sun begins to shine again in our lives. We are able to be aware of something other than the pain that has racked our bodies, and it can, indeed feel as though God has returned to our side.

It's difficult to have faith while we suffer. It's difficult to feel the Spirit. It's difficult to have ears to hear God's voice when we are consumed with agony. But the good news is that our perception of God's presence does not determine whether God is actually here. God is always here. And while we may not be able to bring ourselves to be conscious of Their presence during our dark times, our faith tells us that God's “eye is on the sparrow.” And they are, indeed, watching over us.

Kelly Bryant

Office Days Next Week: Monday the 1st and Tuesday the 2nd. Kelly isn't listing hours so as to not place limits on their availability to you. Please contact them for a meeting at a time that fits your schedule on office days. Should you need Pastor Kelly outside of these days, please don't hesitate to contact them.
540-521-9993, bryantkj@gmail.com.

In Other Words

Taken from:

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

by Civilla Durfee Martin

<https://youtu.be/HMtoYD4NhkE?si=h83guaqeoUFroSWkR>

Why should I feel discourage? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he.
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

Announcements for the Week

Join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday Morning

Attend in-person at 1600 Glade Rd. Blacksburg, or on Zoom at

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88914981619?pwd=Q3E4Rk95d2llZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdz09/#_success

Interested in Being Part of the Emergency Response Team?

Let Pastor Kelly know if you are interested in participating in the church's Emergency Response Team.

Bottle & Jar Caps have ALL been collected — Thanks to everyone

There is a **no longer a need to save bottle & jar caps!** A special thanks to everyone who contributed to this project!

Opportunities for the Week

Coffee & Devotion Group Meets via Zoom on Wednesday, June 26 at 10:00 am

This virtual get-together meets at 10 a.m. on Zoom and lasts for about an hour for a time to meet people, share thoughts, hear a brief devotion, and join in prayer.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89240288592?pwd=KzhRWlJiQTkzWWRIYTNUkRkdPaUNqUT09>

Radical Conversations Meets Saturday, June 29 at 11:00 am

Radical Conversations meets from 11:00-12:15 each Saturday morning at the church. This is a time for open discussion of a wide range of topics. We are currently doing a study of Ezra & Nehemiah + Esther from the Hebrew scriptures. It is a topic with considerable meaning for contemporary times.

Everyone is welcome to this informal discussion and fellowship group — many who attend do not attend Glade and we enjoy a wide variety of opinions in our discussions each week.

Laundry Love is Looking for Volunteers on 1st & 3rd Sunday & 2nd & 4th Thursday

Laundry Love has opportunities to volunteer. This is a great way to put “Words” into “Actions” of faith and love. We do this at the laundromat on North Main across from the Y-Thrift Shop. This is not an “evangelism” outreach and we do not say it is a ministry of Glade Church unless someone asks. Like Jesus, we do this out of love and sharing God’s grace, meeting people where they live.

The next Laundry Love will be on Sunday, July 7 from 2:00-4:00 pm at North Main Laundromat.

VOLUNTEER FOR LAUNDRY LOVE

**JESUS SAID TO
LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
THERE ARE
NO EXCEPTIONS.**



**HAPPY
PRIDE
MONTH**