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(Parts of the service in **bold** are for everyone to speak in unison.)

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Video

Prayer of Invocation

**Son of God, you walk on the waters of turmoil to meet us in the midst of our journey to you. Help us to recognize your presence, remember your promise, rely on your grace, and receive your peace through every storm. Amen.**

Hymn 444

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

(next page)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

**Jesus Walks on the Water**

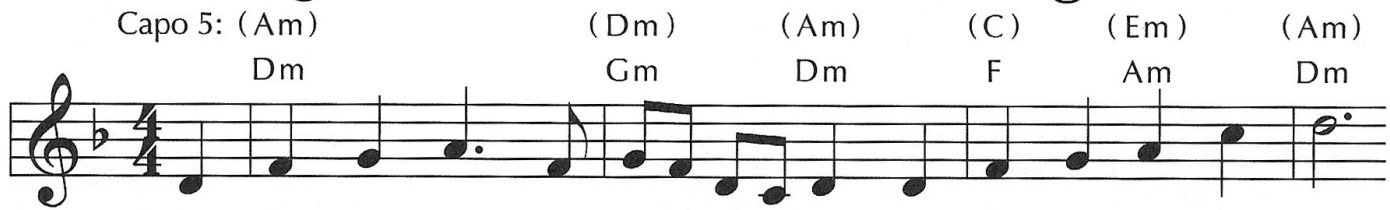
Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Sermon

(continued)

# Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive 444



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for-giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re-sent-ment cease.



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!  
 Then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Few petitions of the Lord's Prayer are as difficult to pray as this one, and we would not dare to pray it if we had to depend on ourselves rather than the example of forgiveness we are given in Jesus Christ. The shape note tune sets these words with appropriate spareness.

TEXT: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983, alt.

MUSIC: *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820; harm. Margaret W. Mealy, 1985

Text © 1969, 1983 Rosamond E. Herklots

Music Harm. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

DETROIT  
CM

*Mark Boykin, lead vocal and piano; Wil Smith, organ; Andrew Bunin, bass; Ken Parks and Chuck Stevenson, back-up vocals*

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in an innovative God,  
who does not wait for us to find ourselves  
but comes seeking us and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative,  
that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power  
to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us,  
calling us to follow into an obedience which is true freedom  
and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people,  
called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations  
as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.

These things we believe, because God the innovator first believed.  
Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn 463

*How Firm a Foundation*

(next page)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*Precious Lord*

played by Mark Boykins

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Good Shepherd Staff

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Bethany Benz-Whittington  
Choir Director: Sara Tyburczy

Office Admin: Teddie McConnell  
Accompanist: Dr. Jonathan Morris

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## How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!  
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."



# Good Stuff @ Good Shepherd



This week, the PC(USA) has been participating in #WeekOfAction. I encourage you to go to [pcusa.org/weekofaction](https://pcusa.org/weekofaction) to see what's up. In the mean time, here is an article about a church in Georgia doing their best to embody the spirit of Matthew 25. Enjoy!

## Congregational vitality moves Georgia congregation to embody love for all

Matthew 25

August 5, 2020

Thanks to Matthew 25, Light of Hope congregation in Marietta becomes a people of action

by Paul Seebeck / *Presbyterian News Service*

LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz at Light of Hope Presbyterian Church in Marietta, Georgia, says the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Matthew 25 invitation has given the congregation language to articulate what they've been doing for a while — out of necessity.

Before it became Light of Hope, three older, white congregations were in decline. Realizing they needed to make a radical change, all three churches in Cherokee Presbytery closed. Dissolving their congregations, they started something new together, a worshipping community — and now PC(USA) chartered congregation — that is 50 percent people of color and 50 percent white.

Matthew 25 invites congregations work on at least one of these three priorities: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty. Gonzalez-Gertz said Light of Hope is primarily focused congregational vitality, which Gonzalez-Gertz describes as, “the embodiment of love — faith in action.”

But when people from the community, which is 60 percent people of color, started coming to Light of Hope, their focus was on race, because there wasn't much acceptance of each other. Gonzalez-Gertz said many of the older members in the new faith community were embarrassed to have a Hispanic pastor. A native of Puerto Rico, he was told on several occasions that he was not invited to funerals of those who had passed, even though they were members of the congregation.

So, Gonzalez-Gertz began to talk about racism. If he perceived there was a struggle in the church related to him being Hispanic, it became part of the conversation on Light of Hope's leadership team. It was there that he discovered the practice of white silence — that many white people will not speak when they see injustice being done to somebody who doesn't look like them.

“I experienced it here walking through our campus,” he said. “I asked one of the wonderful matriarchs here, ‘What is that?’” After she told him, they had a conversation. The woman said growing up that they were taught not say anything, as a way of being polite. When Gonzalez-Gertz asked her, “Polite to whom?” he said it was as if a whole new insight came to her, and something fell off her eyes. “Oh my gosh,” she said.

In addition to having these kind of conversations, Gonzalez-Gertz brought in resources of understanding to help build cross-cultural, multi-cultural, and intercultural relationships. And he kept telling Light of Hope that the minute they became a multi-ethnic congregation, everyone lost the right not to find out about each other's lives.

“Why is my Black sister worried about Black Lives Matter? Why are Hispanics afraid to go into public now?” he said.

Pam Jones was a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee that called Gonzalez-Gertz to serve the new congregation in 2013. She said Light of Hope made her realize a lot of things about herself that she didn't know existed.

“Racism?” she said. “I'm not racist.”

(continued)

But as leaders of the congregation continued to meet and talk through difficulties — and as Light of Hope grew into a multi-ethnic congregation — Jones realized she couldn't say that anymore.

"Things I had absorbed, you know just absorbed, were racist," she said. "It's amazing to me, about me, the difference that has made in my attitude towards a lot of things."

Over time, Shirley Hamilton, who is a ruling elder at Light of Hope, said the church has become one of a few churches — if not the only one she's attended — that doesn't care whether a person is Black, white, or brown.

"It doesn't matter whether you have money or don't have money," she said. "It treats everyone the same."

Last year, Light of Hope started hosting a monthly meal for its community. At first there was no preaching or singing — just praying for the food. When leaders decided to transform it into a dinner service, Gonzalez-Gertz said the people loved it. Diverse racially and economically — able-bodied and those experiencing disability — attendees were all were eating, singing and having communion together.

"What vibrancy, what vitality is that, but the body of Christ in action," he said. "Congregational vitality and Matthew 25 moves people to action. It is no longer what we believe, but this is who we are. This is what we do."

*For resources addressing congregational vitality, visit [pcusa.org/Matthew25](https://pcusa.org/Matthew25).*

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## Joys and Concerns

**Please pray** for Teddie McConnell and David Wolters as they celebrate their marriage this morning and their honeymoon this coming week; for Barbara Myers, whose husband Duane passed away; for Mary McCarron as she continues to recover from a hip replacement; for Jerry Wetzel's grandson, Jay Wolcott, who had a kidney transplant; communities affected by COVID-19 here in the United States and throughout the world, and for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.

Let us know what's happening.... e-mail it to us at [office@thegoodshepherd.org](mailto:office@thegoodshepherd.org)

Please honor the office hours (M-F 9 am to 2 pm) when contacting Teddie.

**Because Teddie will be on vacation this week, there will be no weekly email on Wednesday.**

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## When should Good Shepherd have in-person worship?

Session has the responsibility of determining when Good Shepherd resumes in-person worship. At the last session meeting, session discussed criteria for reopening including guidelines from the Presbytery and government saying it is safe to do so. Session endorses keeping live stream worship after the in-person worship resumes. When live worship resumes, the following would need to happen: temperatures need to be taken, hand sanitizer needs to be used, masks need to be worn, social distancing needs to be practiced, there also would be no bulletins and no singing. Session did not determine if in-person worship would resume before either a vaccine or a cure for Covid 19 happens. In other words, session did not set a date to resume in-person worship.