

October 26, 2025 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Prayer Day for Human Rights for Women
Worship Aid for Great Kills Moravian Church
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/352704864?pwd=V28wNGtRdXFESDBzRW9OSWdaQTZGZz09>
Call in number: 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 352 704 864 Password: 401272

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Watchword for the Week: Jesus said, “All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.” Luke 18:14

(Please Stand if able.)

Call to Worship: Psalm 84:1-7

L: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty!

A: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

L: Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young – a place near your altar, O Lord, Almighty, my King and my God.

A: Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

L: Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

A: As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

L: They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

(Please continue to Stand if able.)

Liturgy: Reconciliation MBW Page 13

Hymn:

LANCASHIRE

With joyfulness and longing we look to you, O Lord; receive us in your mercy and cheer us with your word. Crown us with love enduring and promises of grace, and let your holy blessing remain within this place.

The years have all been crowded with tokens of your love; and many who have sought you now worship you above. But we, O Lord, still need you, our pilgrim feet to stay, for evil often triumphs as faith to fear gives way.

Almighty God, enthroned above all, you alone are God over the nations of the earth. Even the planets, the stars, and the galaxies are placed by your hand.

Where could we go from your Spirit? Where could we flee from your presence? If we go up to the heavens, you are there; if we go down into the caves of the earth or the depths of the sea, you are there.

God of all creation, we sing praises to your name; we stand jubilant before your glory, power, and beauty.

God of certainty, God of truth, our confidence is in you and in you alone.

Yet we live in a fallen world and we are an imperfect people.

Our world is filled with pain and alienation.

We know of illness when body or mind is failing, and the loneliness of spirit it brings.

We know of separation from parent or child, from friend or neighbor, and the emptiness of life it brings.

We know of strangeness in new communities and in changing communities, and the longing it brings.

We know of alienation caused by unemployment or poverty or discrimination, and the pain it brings.

We have become strangers to our relatives, and foreigners to our own families.

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? Let our cry for help come to you.

I am a God nearby, says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? I am the Lord your God. I have called you out from the peoples and you shall be holy to me.

We declare your praise, the One who called us out of darkness into your wonderful light. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to you.

Hymn:

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the___ God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation; with healing balm my soul he fills, and ev'ry faithless murmur stills. To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing an ever-present help and stay, our peace, and joy, and blessing, as with a mother's tender hand, he leads his own, his chosen band. To God all praise and glory!

(Sitting)

Please join me:

Gracious God, we humbly confess that we walk in the way of the indifferent, who depend on their strength alone. We sit among the scornful, who deny the need for your guidance and power. Our hearts are not satisfied with riches vulnerable to moth and rust and thief, yet we zealously store up those very treasures. Set our minds on things unseen and eternal, that our emptiness within may be filled.

We humbly confess that we fail to welcome the stranger among us. We pass by the neighbor who is hungry and thirsty,

naked, sick, and in prison. We sing of your healing power and your unconditional love, but we fail to make our sanctuaries true havens for the suffering and the exiled. Give us the will to be ambassadors for our Savior and faithful stewards of the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Amen.

Without Christ we were strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus we who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. He is our peace.

We are no longer strangers and aliens, but citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, with Christ himself as the cornerstone.

Therefore, let us affirm our faith in the Triune God.

(Standing)

Please join me:

We believe in the one God who has created the land and sea and heavens and all that is in them; who established a world that was good; who gives to us the task of watchful and responsible care over it; who is certainty and truth.

We believe in the one God who in Jesus Christ assumed our humanity and knew our life as child, youth, and adult; who dined with sinners and lived with the homeless; who confronted popular opinion and power; who remained obedient in temptation and suffering; whose triumph was a servant's death and resurrection.

We believe in the one God who comes to us as comforter and advocate; who does not leave us as orphans; who brings peace and calms the troubled heart; who bestows gifts for serving, healing, showing compassion, and doing miracles; who alone is the power and the wisdom of our proclamation.

Let us in faith keep our eyes fixed on the promises of God, though we see them and greet them from a distance.

**We confess that we are strangers and foreigners on the earth,
a people who are seeking our true home.**

We desire a better place, that is, a heavenly one. Indeed, God has prepared a city for us.

**Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.**

Hymn:

EASTHAM

**O then what raptured greetings on Canaan's happy shore; what
knitting severed friendships up, where partings are no more! Then
eyes with joy shall sparkle that brimmed with tears of late, no
orphans left without a home, nor mourners desolate.**

**Bring near your great salvation, O Lamb for sinners slain; fill up
the roll of your elect, then take your power, and reign! Appear,
Desire of nations, your exiles long for home; show in the heav'n
your promised sign; great Prince and Savior, come. Amen.**

(Sitting)

Offering Our Gifts To God:

Offertory

(Standing)

Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" MBW Pg 817

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures
here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

Prayer Of Blessing: Please join me in the Prayer of Blessing.

Merciful God, help us to keep watch at all times, and pray that we may have strength and to pray to the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. You have dealt wondrously with us, gracious God. We have gathered together to praise you and to join in efforts to share faith with one another and with the world. Praise God whose Spirit blesses and empowers us! Through our offerings we extend our witness to our neighborhoods, and to the world. Bless and multiply our efforts. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Sitting)

Blessing of Prayer Shawls: Pastor Jesus Laguerra

God of love and comfort, we celebrate a shared ministry of the Great Kills Moravian congregation and Staten Island Moravians in Mission. We give thanks for the opportunity – out of love and out of concern for our Christian brothers and sisters – to share a tangible gift with those in need.

While we know that you are always present in our lives and that your love transcends all tragedy, illness and pain, we also know that sometimes a physical reminder can bring hope, healing and peace to someone who is crying out. We pray that these prayer shawls bring comfort to those who will receive them.

Oh God, open our eyes so that we might see, open our ears so that we might hear and open our minds so that we might know who is in need of your healing power and presence. Open our hearts so that we might reach out to them.

Without even knowing who would receive them, these shawls were made specifically for the ones who will receive them.

May they see the intricate love and care given to these shawls, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows upon all people.

These shawls were made to bring warmth to those who feel a chill.

May those who receive them feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap a shawl around their shoulders.

These shawls were made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone.

May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.

These shawls were made to bring peace to someone in need of prayer.

May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn winding through their fingers.

These shawls were made to remind the recipient that they are a part of this community.

May they feel touched by our love, moved by our guidance and upheld by our support.

God of creation, redemption and sustaining grace, we praise you for the opportunity to take part in this ministry so that we might see a world beyond our own need. We thank you for putting those in need on our hearts and in our minds so that we might fully live out your call to love and serve. We ask that you bless these shawls and those who will receive them. May they feel the love, comfort and peace of your presence. May your light shine in them and be a beacon of the hope that is promised to all of us. Amen.

Adapted from Prayer Shawl Blessing by (C) Sarah E. Weaver 2011, Rehoboth Congregational Church.

God's Word for Today

1st Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Pew Bible Page 1250 (Responsive Reading)

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation: “Standing In The Need of Prayer” vs. 1 ,2

Not my bro-ther, nor my sis-ter, But it’s me, O Lord, Standin’ in the need of pray-er; Not my bro-ther, nor my sis-ter, But it’s me, O Lord, Standin’ in the need of pray-er.

Refrain: It’s me, it’s me, it’s me, O Lord, Standin’ in the need of pray-er; It’s me, it’s me, O Lord, Standin’ in the need of pray-er.

Not the preach-er, nor the dea-con, But it’s me, O Lord, Standin’ in the need of pray-er; Not the preach-er, nor the dea-con, But it’s me, O Lord, Standin’ in the need of pray-er.

Refrain: It’s me, it’s me, it’s me, O Lord, Standin’ in the need of pray-er; It’s me, it’s me, O Lord, Standin’ in the need of pray-er.

The Gospel Reading: Luke 18:9-14 Pew Bible Page 1097

The Parable of the Pharisee and The Tax Collector

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalt himself will be humbled, and he who humble himself will be exalted.”

Message: Selfish Prayer Versus Submissive Prayer Pastor Jesus Laguerra

Hymn of Response: “Standing In The Need of Prayer” vs. 3, 4

Not my fa-ther, nor my mo-ther, But it’s me, O Lord, Standin’ in

the need of pray-er; Not my father, nor my mo-ther, But it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of pray-er.

Refrain: It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of pray-er; It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of pray-er.

Not the strang-er, nor my neigh-bor, But it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of pray-er; Not the strang-er, nor my neigh-bor, But it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of pray-er.

Refrain: It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of pray-er; It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of pray-er.

Prayers of The People

The Lord's Prayer: (All)

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

(Please Stand if able.)

Sending Hymn: "Spirit of God, Who Dwells" MBW Page 490

Spir-it of God, who dwells within my heart, wean it from sin, through all its pul-ses move. Stoop to my weak-ness, mighty as you are, and make me love you as I ought to love.

Did you not bid us love you, God and King, love you with all our heart and strength and mind? I see the cross there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek you and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that you are always nigh; teach me the strug-gles of the soul to bear, to check the ris-ing doubt, the reb-el sigh; teach me the pa-tience of un-ceas-ing prayer.

**Teach me to love you as your an-gels love, one ho-ly pas-sion fill-
ing all my frame; the bap-tism of the heav'n- de-scend-ed dove; my
heart and al-tar, and your love the flame.**

(Please continue to Stand if able.)

Benediction:

Musical Response:(All) In the name of Jesus. Amen.

(Please remain seated in quiet meditation during the postlude.)

Postlude

Pastor and Co-Leaders: Pastor/Co - Leaders

November 2, 2025 - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/Jim Jimenez

Guest Organist - Jose Diaz

November 9, 2025 - Muriel Timari - Stewardship Skit

November 16, 2025 - Sister Blondel Jones-Grant/Charlott Bramwell

November 23, 2025- Pastor Jesus Laguerra/Donna Ziegeler

Next Sunday, November 2, 2025, we will have the pleasure of enjoying Pastor Jesus Laguerra with us. We look forward to seeing you all here next week.

We want to thank Jose Diaz, our guest organist for playing the organ for us today.