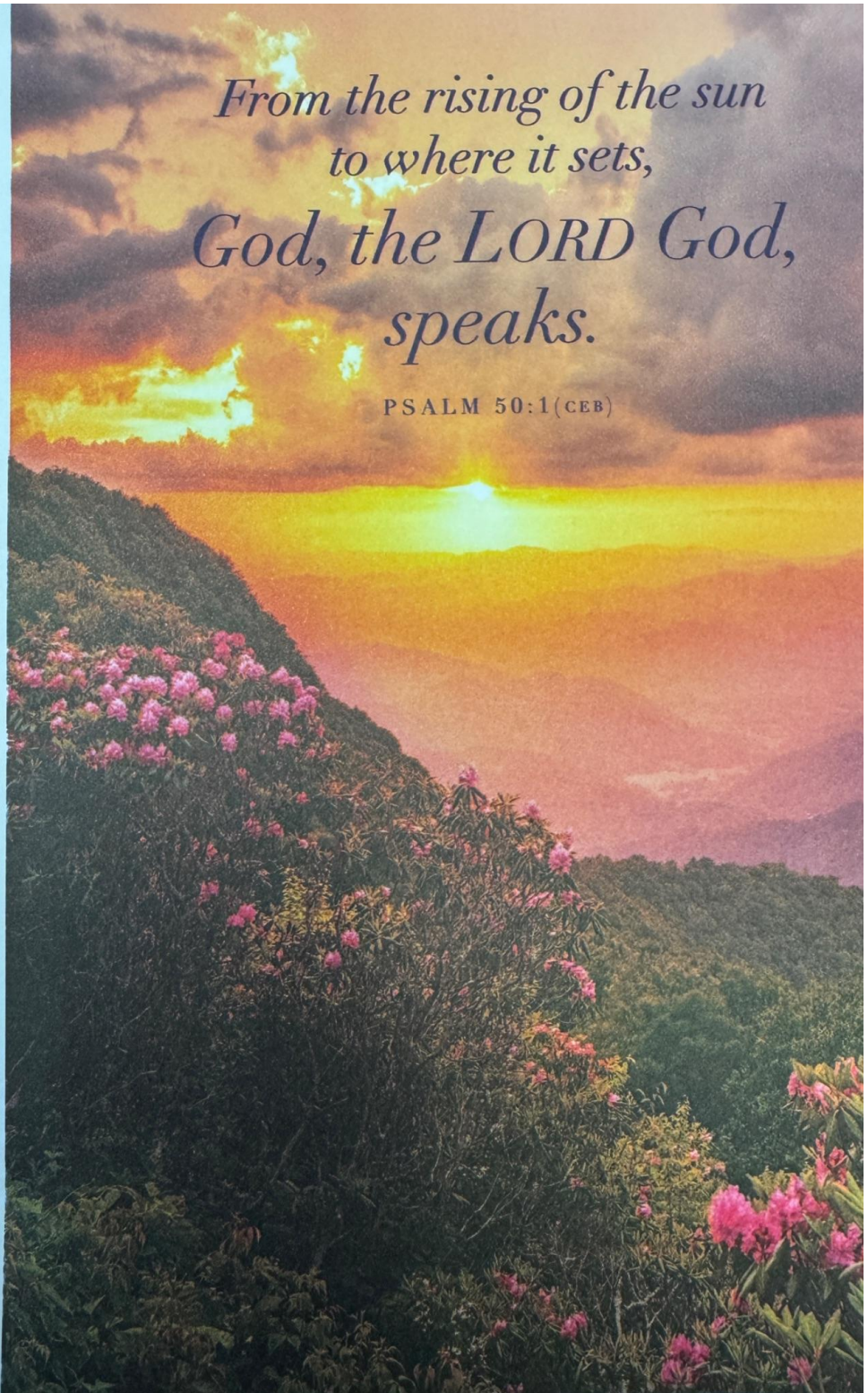


*From the rising of the sun
to where it sets,
God, the LORD God,
speaks.*

PSALM 50:1 (CEB)



9:30A.M.

Greenfield Avenue Presbyterian Church
1455 South 97th Street
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

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Preacher **Liturgist**
Elder Sue Smith / Elder Sandy Reichert

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Elder Sue Smith

What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God fourteen hundred years ago, and I do not also give birth to the Son of God in my time and in my culture? We are all meant to be mothers of God. God is always needing to be born.

Meister Eckhart (c. 1260-c. 1328)

Nancy Baumann

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” – Arr. Lori Line

God calls us together to worship this morning. From our work and play within the world, God gathers us to give thanks for creation's goodness, for the strength to labor, for the wisdom to relax.

From amidst our friends and family God brings us here to participate in a community of faith, Christ's people, a new family.

From everyday conversations, talk and chatter, God invites us to engage one another in dialogue, to speak in truth from the depths of heart and mind, to pray freely.

We will heed God's call, and rejoice in what God enables. Let us worship!

***HYMN # 300 “We Are One in the Spirit”**

THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Each of us has failed to live as God intends. Because we seek forgiveness, we pray now, together, in confession.

***PRAYER to CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we try. Or, we tell ourselves we try. But how often have we failed to fulfill the tasks for which you have chosen us? How often have we failed to share the joy of faith? If others were to imitate us, would the world be a better place? If they were to know all our thoughts and actions, would you, our God, be praised thereby? Forgive us, God, for our faith falters, and we have not given you our full loyalty and devotion. Help us to refocus our energies and reclaim the mission you have set before us. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God, whose ability to forgive transcends our human understanding, graciously pardons when we repent. Praise God, for in Jesus, the Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

**** # 582**

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

The Peace

Sharing “peace” with one another is an ancient Christian tradition, not only in the words of Jesus, but also in the practices of the Christian community. Paul begins every one of his letters by saying, “Grace to you, and peace”. This suggests that in the very early Church, “Grace to you and peace” was the way Christians greeted one another; it was their secret handshake.

Today, we greet one another with a “not-so-secret” handshake, hug, high five, or wave, saying “The peace of Christ be with you.”

ALL: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Rudy Bauman

“Grace Flows Down” – Louie Giglio, David Bell & Rod Padgett

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving Creator, we want to know more about you and your hopes for creation. Speak to us through the words of those who lived long ago. May their words and Christ’s example inspire in us openness and care for all you have made. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-10

The Call of Abram

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring^[c] I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

May God bless our understanding of this reading from the Holy Word.

All: Unto His Name be glory and praise.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-19 NIV

Faith in Action

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”

Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION “Seeing the Unseen” Elder Sue Smith

***HYMN # 684 “Faith Begins By Letting Go”** LUX PRIMA

AFFIRMATION of FAITH (basis is Luke 21, with a nod to Bruce Prewter)

We believe that when nation rises against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, hope is not lost: for there is a God of resilient, redeeming love. A Brighter Purpose is at work in the shadows, and the darkness cannot smother it.

When there are earthquakes, famines, and epidemics, and collisions among the stars, the end is not chaos: God the Creator of the heavens and earth will never forsake us. Harmony will again break out and gather to hasten towards consummation.

When believers are arrested and abused, dragged before authorities and judges, the Holy Spirit is always with you in all your trials and travail, and words will be given to confound your adversaries and shake the gates of hell. Thanks be to the God of Salvation, who sent Jesus, the Christ. We believe.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy and loving God, we live in anxious times...

Now please join me as we say together the LORD’S PRAYER, this version from the Maori people of New Zealand: it’s absolutely beautiful.

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,**

**Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION to OFFERING

As Christians, we are asked to help comfort a hurting world by sharing our gifts, so that others can flourish. Whether our gifts be great or small, God will use them for the benefit of all. The time is now; let's give as generously as we are able.

OFFERTORY

Nancy Baumann

“It is Well Within My Soul” – Horatio Spafford

DOXOLOGY: # 609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

****PRAYER of DEDICATION**

God, as we bring our offerings before you, we ask for your guidance in fine-tuning our faith. Help us to trust you more deeply, to step out in faith, and to follow where you lead. May our giving today be an expression of our growing faith in you. Amen.

HYMN # 730 “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God” GRAND ISLE

***BENEDICTION**

Elder Sue Smith

***Postlude**

“Shine, Jesus Shine”

Nancy Baumann

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CALENDAR

August 10th - Coffee Fellowship with Apostle, downstairs

August 24th - Potluck at the Gall\Long's

August 28th - Outreach meeting via Zoom - 6:30pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 2 - Cindy Nelson *

4 - Bud Brunett

6 - Angela Hosaka

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Aug. 2 – Angela & Dustin Hosaka

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 5 - Jeri Gamache

6 - Fran Burke *

7 - Jim Dickson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 1 - Lori & Scott Johnson