

First United Methodist Church
Building A Village of Faith
Sunday, August 7, 2022, 11:00 AM



**Worship Theme –
Of Prophets & Kings 5: The Bitterness of Babylonian Exile**

With the siege and fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, the destruction of the city, and the burning of the Temple of the LORD, the warnings of the Prophets came to fulfillment. As the victorious Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar drove the strength of the Hebrew people into exile in chains for their refusal to submit to his mastery, the Babylonian Exile of God's chosen people – the unthinkable, the catastrophic – began.

And while most felt hopeless in the face of the unbelievable, there remained the prophetic voice speaking not only anguish, but hope, not only the hard reality of God's judgement, but the renewing reality of God's grace.

The Prophets of the period of the Exile – Jeremiah, Second Isaiah, and Ezekiel spoke of repentance, redemption, and return. While not robbing the Exile of its power to evoke repentance, we consider some of their visionary and life-sustaining words in worship over the next couple of weeks.

**“By the rivers of Babylon—
there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.”
– Psalm 137:1 [NRSV]**

**Contemporary Worship – 9:00 AM (no printed worship order)
Traditional Worship – 11:00 AM**

* It is customary to stand at these times; however, please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

Words of Welcome & Greeting / Introduction of Today's Theme Pastor Steve

Music to Set the Tone for Worship
Chorale Prelude on “Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness” Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Op 65
Joe Henry/Organ

*** Call to Worship** Constantine Daniels

Leader: Long ago, God declared through the Prophet Amos:

People: “The time is surely coming when the LORD will send a famine on the land.”

Leader: “A famine not of bread, nor a thirst for water...”

People: But a want for hearing the words of the LORD.

Leader: Let anyone who has an ear to hear...

People: ...listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

[Adapted for this series from Amos 8:11 and Rev. 2:7 (NRSV)]

*** Hymn of Celebration** UMH #117
“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”, vv. 1-3, & 6

*** Prayer of Confession**

O God, as we consider the course of the Kingdom of Judah under the voices of the Prophets, bring to our remembrance the many times and many ways we have neglected to listen to you. Diagnose our sickness even today and point us to your purpose for the church. Some of us have been complacent in our appreciation of the ministry we have been privileged to share; others have chosen to heed personal preference rather than seek your will. ... Turn us, even

**against our hesitation, toward you and let us walk in the way of repentance and transformation.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

[Adapted from Prayer of Confession for the Church, in *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, ed.'s (New York: The Pilgrim Press, 1990), p. 196]

* Gloria Patri	"Glory Be to the Father"	UMH #70
Scripture Reading	Psalms 137 [NRSV]	Constantine Daniels
Special Music	"On the Willows" (from <i>Godspell</i>) Joe Henry; Pastor Steve; Rita Van Thiel	Schwartz
Message	"The Bitterness of Babylonian Captivity"	Pastor Steve
Holy Communion Liturgy		Pastor Steve
Prayer After Communion & The Lord's Prayer		Constantine Daniels
* Doxology	"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"	UMH #94
Living Our Faith	See the "What's Cookin'" on the Church Website: fumcgj.org/connect and click <u><i>Current Week</i></u>	Jeannie Lewis
* Going Forth in Song	"Christ for the World We Sing"	UMH #568
* Benediction		Pastor Steve
Postlude	Toccata on "St. Anne"	Gordon Young

Prayers for our People & Beyond



For Karen Ray who had knee replacement surgery on Weds., August 3rd. Cards may be sent to her at home: 2877 Tyndale Way, GJ 81503

For Brian Hunter who is the son of Wayne & Joyce Smith. Brian has been diagnosed with AML Myeloma and is undergoing chemotherapy. He resides in Kansas City.

For Carol Pollard continues in-home hospice care. Care cards can be sent to her at 3151 Ellingwood Ave. St., GJ 81504

For Roger Walt who is in Mesa Manor receiving hospice/palliative care as of 7/13. Cards may be sent to him at his home: 775 Jordanna Rd., GJ 81506

To add someone to the phone prayer chain, please call Peggy Price at 970-242-4206