

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

**\* 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]

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

### **Prayers for our People & Beyond**



For Karen Ray who had knee replacement surgery on Weds., August 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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***