

Grace Devotion

Week of March 23, 2025

Pastor Fred Young

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Luke 13:10-13

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

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Blackbird

The Beatles

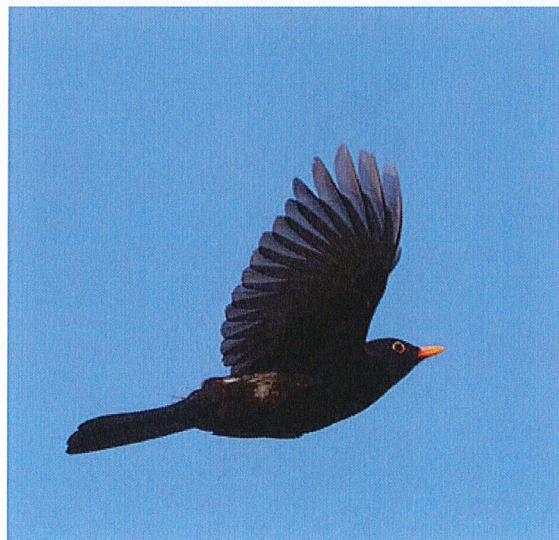
Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly
All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to arise
Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see
All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to be free
Blackbird fly
Blackbird fly
Into the light of a dark, black night
Blackbird fly
Blackbird fly
Into the light of a dark, black night

Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly
All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to arise
You were only waiting for this moment to arise
You were only waiting for this moment to arise

Songwriters: Paul McCartney, John Lennon. For non-commercial use only.

I read this text from Luke and instantly thought of the song, “Blackbird”. We know nothing more than this woman’s bent over disposition. I often wondered about her name. Why she was there in the Synagogue on that day? Who might have brought her, or had she travelled there alone? We know that her faith healed her. Jesus laid his hands upon her, and she stood upright. How often in life do you wish for the Christ to change your situation? How might your relationship with Jesus help you on your continued journey toward salvation? What do we, like that blackbird need to let go of in order to simply fly?

PRAYER: God, may we see beyond ourselves in order to allow Christ to enter into our hearts. Amen.



March 23, 2025

10AM

3rd Sunday in Lent

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Gathering Music

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes

Prelude

** Song: "Old Church Choir" #40

** Call to Worship

Come, everyone who thirsts,

Come to the waters. Come to the wells.

Our souls thirst for you, O God.

We lift up our hands and call on your name

Come, without money. Come without cost.

Incline your ears and listen for good news.

Our flesh faints for you, O God.

Our lips sing praises, beholding your glory.

Come, eat good. Come, feast upon true riches.

Be filled with that which sustains you.

Our souls are satisfied in you, O God.

In the shadow of your wings, we sing with joy.

** Hymn: "And Can it Be" #203

** Prayer:

We come before you, gracious God, seeking what money cannot buy. Only you can provide nourishment for our souls.

There is no other source of meaning in our mixed-up world. We can find no fountain of strength or sustenance apart from you.

Surely you can be found where two or three are gathered. As a community of faith, we call you, believing that you are nearer than our next breath, more available to us than we can think, more caring than we ever dare to imagine.

Uphold us now that we may worship on wings of joy. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others/Lord's Prayer

Call to Repentance

Prayer of Reflection and Growth

We confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from seeing our missteps. Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change. There is another opportunity to bear good fruit in a world full of spoiled and rotten produce, and systems designed to kill We are called to be the change that sustains generations. Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Special Music

Scripture Readings:

* Psalm 63:1-8 (Responsive)

Luke 13:1-9

Time for the Young at Heart

Sermon: "Figs and Faith"

** Hymn: "Just As I Am"

#342

Celebration of our Gifts

* Offertory Response: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Refrain

** Prayer of Dedication

** Song: "And all the People Said, Amen"

#8

** Final Blessing

"A Choral Benediction" (circle around sanctuary)

** Postlude

* On the screen ** Please stand, if you are able.

Announcements

An offering for the Deacon's Fund will be taken during the month of April. Please look for the house inside the chancel rail. Thank you for your consideration

Upcoming Events

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday: 7PM at Trinity, Gettysburg

Good Friday: 7PM at Grace, Hanover,

Easter Sunday: 6:30AM Sunrise at Straban Township

REC Park, Gettysburg

9AM – Trinity, Gettysburg

11AM – Grace, Hanover

Financial Information

General pledge as of March 16, 2025: \$3,936.00

General pledge March 16, 2024: \$4,316.00

YTD income: \$28,074.19

YTD expenses: \$44,200.09

YTD deficit: \$16,125.90

Upcoming Meetings

- Worship and Music – March 24th @ 6:30PM
- Pastoral Relations – March 26th @ 6PM
- Finance – March 31 @ 11:30AM



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Thank you for today's worship leaders:

Fred Young - Pastor
Liturgist – Len Bankert
Christian Keller – Organist
Glenn Ruhlman – Head Usher

THE BARREN FIG TREE

Luke 13:1-9

E U W F G A D I I E K I E Z J B R W T X R R N A D P
T P E R I S H U G P X M P L N S A B B A T H Y E Q Y
I B E H O L D G Y E O J J L C I W K F P W L C Y Y E
S C L O D G E D K C E C W K E J X N Y S I I W R Q Q
H D T J T N C E M E H F C Z F A X O B R O N S M T I
Q G E Z O W L V I Y R L J I H H D W E J U X Y Y K N
Y B Y X K F R Z P B S J Z O S Z A V E F J O W F B Z
W M C C T O R A Q A B T H E M U N R C R M K Z C S U
S U F S C W V K U E R J R S W I S J U E X M L Q A B
P H R T W K K J M H Z A T A M S W S D S E D O H D L
U O U R R T Y T E H M E B Y I F E B D K A T H E N C
M Y I A E D A X B S E Q D L Z T R C I Q W V D X C R
I U T I P Y G U R R U G W D E I E L A I M Y L G L M
I T G G N S A W T U F S A M S T D X R L G U N S F O
T W E H Z Q T S R Y G U O L M L U D J Y L I X D A R
X Q K T K L H R B H E D N W I D Q R C W Y E O O L R
B Q I X L A E P X W G L T B H L B S A A X I D Y X O
A F D A K Y R D O N T T H O L T A O S D R H H B H W
P P H T I T E B I A S U S Q W I K E P Z F S Y W Q B
V S T U N H D K H A F C Y W J A R D A T B R X U H O
T C Y E L H U T L Y C R O V U C R R W N E N E C H K
P S P H S I G L C J X R O R N V C D J P S L X I X L
Z E G I I Q K X I R D O R M B K J A O E Q C L H X L
R L H N A I X E A D I G E U O B A K N T Q L N P B W
H T S U T Z A D N Y O X C F Y E A R Y M C V I I Q G
S Q X W K E L R W A K C L V K J C L M Y O O C Z Y X

GALILAEANS
JESUS
REPENT
THAT
PERISH
PARABLE

STRAIGHT
ANSWERED
LEAD
THIS
REJOICED
SHALL

KNOW
STREETS
FROM
KINGDOM
COME
LAST

FRUIT
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THEN
SABBATH
BEHOLD
CALLED

LODGED
LIKEN
LIKE
TOWARD
THEM
STRAIT

SAYING
TELL
MORROW
GATHERED
VERILY

PSALM 63

H U N A M E W B O A H A W A R
 M P A R T S L N T D H U Y V Y
 P U J G P Q D K D T A M N V T
 I O V O J W A Q J P R T E X W
 O Y R M U R H T W E D K X M H
 S I Q T J H N I G H T B C S B
 C A H C I T H E E T X D H I E
 P Y T I T O Z Q P M L J X D T
 B O H I S U N E W F U N E S T
 L T W C S I R E J O I C E P E
 D J Y E K F T Y N X Z E N R R
 N S U O R W I K O Y L E X Y I
 C G X Y O K D E N W E P N M O
 I P Q C N O N J D B D K R D R
 X Y Z R U G R A I D X L G I T

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for _____, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

To see thy _____ and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Because thy lovingkindness is _____ than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy _____.

My soul shall be _____ as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the _____ watches.

Because thou hast _____ my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

My soul followeth _____ after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower _____ of the earth.

They shall fall by the sword: they shall be a _____ for foxes.

But the king shall _____ in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

THEE
 POWER
 BETTER
 NAME
 SATISFIED
 NIGHT

BEEN
 HARD
 PARTS
 PORTION
 REJOICE