Land Me Safe

REV. GINGER E. GAINES-CIRELLI

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side. Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

In moments of particular stress and difficulty, hymns often float into my mind. It is as though some wise being has placed words and melody before me as a blessing. This hymn, Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, has emerged as I’ve grappled with the implications of the worldwide public health crisis caused by the novel coronavirus and with discerning and implementing Foundry’s response.

I’ve been mindful of the season through which we are journeying as a faith community. During Lent we remember the 40 days and nights of flooding in the days of Noah, Israel’s 40 years of wandering in the wilderness from Egypt to Canaan, the promised land, and the 40 days of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. Lent reminds us of these significant moments in “salvation history.” And, wow, are we in a significant historical moment this Lent.

While I don’t feel great fear, I am deeply aware of the anxiety now sapping our collective energy. We are already, as a nation and a world, traversing a perilous stretch; the pandemic adds another dimension. The hymn is an apt and powerful prayer, calling upon God to journey with us and lead us safely through our fear to the promise: death of death and hell’s destruction! That sounds like Easter to me!

Just as Noah, the Israelites, and perhaps even Jesus didn’t know how long their difficult journeys would be, I don’t know where we will be as a community by the time these words are shared. I don’t know if we’ll be again gathering for worship in our sanctuary or back to business as usual in our daily lives. But what I do know, as sure as the sun rises, is that Easter is coming and – in this life or the next – the promised land is assured.

Thanks be to God. Peace,

Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli
Senior Pastor
A Week Away, A Widening World

EVA YOUEL PAGE

In my past two years participating in the Appalachia Service Project with Foundry, I have had more amazing experiences than I can count.

My first year, we traveled to Magoffin County, Kentucky, and my site crew worked to build a wheelchair ramp for our elderly homeowner. It was really hard work, but our team was able to finish the ramp by the end of the week, and it was immediately put to use.

Last year, in Cocke County, Tennessee, my double crew worked on roofing an addition, replacing rotting flooring, and building a new staircase for our family. In addition to learning valuable construction skills through hands-on practice, we were able to build meaningful relationships with our homeowners.

Most memorably, we had the chance to spend a lot of time with our homeowners’ two young children. During our many trips to the neighborhood playground throughout the week, we met their neighbors and friends, and had conversations about life in Tennessee and life in general.

At the end of the week, it was hard to say goodbye to our family, but we were so grateful for the time we were able to spend with them. We also formed great memories outside of the worksite, whether it was listening to local musicians at culture night, talking to volunteers from other churches at the center, or going out for nightly ice cream at an amazing parlor in town.

ASP has been the highlight of my past two summers, a way for me to make tangible change where it is needed while also expanding my worldview and faith. This year, I am so excited to make new friends, from Foundry and beyond, to help a community in need, and to make more memories that will last a lifetime.

Eva Youel Page has attended Foundry since she was born and is currently a junior at Sidwell Friends School. She enjoys playing softball and spending time with her family and friends.

This June, nineteen Foundry youth and six adults are currently planning to travel to West Virginia to participate in the Appalachia Service Project. The youth are asking the Foundry congregation to contribute to support the trip, beginning their “Path to West Virginia” fund-raiser on Sunday, April 19. Watch the weekly bulletin and www.foundryumc.org for information on how you can support them in this important mission.
ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

As of March 25, Foundry is planning one online worship service at 11:15 am each Sunday through May 10. To the extent possible, all Holy Week events will be online, including one service on Palm Sunday and one on Easter Sunday.

Our building remains closed. Because plans continue to evolve, it is important that you check the Foundry website www.foundryumc.org frequently for the most up-to-date information.

* You can participate in most – and perhaps all – of the worship services listed below using the following links:
  ● Facebook Live (https://www.facebook.com/FoundryUnitedMethodistChurch)
  ● Foundry website (https://www.foundryumc.org)
  ● Foundry Vimeo Channel (https://vimeo.com/user85227976)

** As noted below, you can take part in some of the other events using Zoom, the link to which you will see when you register.

Wednesdays, April 1, 8

**Lenten Evensong**
Join us online* from 6:15 - 7 pm for a time of song, silence and reflection – a welcome holy interval of comfort and inspiration.

Palm Sunday, April 5

**Entering Jerusalem**
Begin Holy Week with by joining us for our livestream* service at 11:15 am. The title of Pastor Ginger’s sermon is the question – “Who Is This?”

Maundy Thursday, April 9

**The Last Supper**
Remember the Last Supper in the Upper Room as we gather at 7 pm. Check the Foundry website for options allowing you to participate virtually.

To register or find more information on these events, go to https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations.

Share your thoughts about the Foundry Forge with ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org.
Good Friday, April 10

**Crucifixion**

Join us at noon or 2 pm as we share the pain and humiliation of Christ’s crucifixion. Check the Foundry website to learn how you can join us virtually.

Easter Sunday, April 12

**He Lives!**

On the happiest holy day of our year, come to Foundry via livestream* at 11:15 am to celebrate the Risen Christ, the “death of death and hell’s destruction.” Pastor Ginger’s Easter sermon is titled “Raising Expectations.”

Sunday, April 19

**Support Foundry ASP Trip**

Today Foundry youth begin their “Path to West Virginia” fund-raiser, a chance for us all to support their summer week of work with the Appalachian Service Project. Check the Foundry website to learn how you can make your contribution to their work.

**Pastor’s Coffee**

Register now on the Foundry website to join this discussion** of today’s sermon. When you register (no charge) you will receive a link enabling you to participate via Zoom.

Sunday, April 26

**A Disciple’s Path**

Today from 10:10 to 11:15 am we begin this six-week class which is required for membership at Foundry. During each class meeting, we will discuss and reflect on the vows of membership and how we live them out as United Methodists and members of the Foundry community. Be sure to register on the Foundry website, which will automatically provide you the link enabling you to attend** this class using Zoom.

Tuesday, April 28

**Management Board Meeting**

Foundry’s Management Board will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 101. Check the Foundry website to learn how you can attend this meeting virtually.

To register or find more information on these events, go to https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations.

**Share your thoughts about the Foundry Forge with ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org.**