

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

"Honoring Women's Spirituality, Struggle and Survival"



SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

Hillside Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

11:00 a.m.

1879 Columbia Drive, Suite A

Decatur, Georgia, 30002

Phone 404-289-3092

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-MODERATORS

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace,
- and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Greetings and welcome to our Annual Women's Day Program in which we celebrate the gifts of women. This year, our theme is **“Honoring Women's Spirituality, Struggle and Survival.”**

The purpose stated above describes the work of Presbyterians here at Hillside and worldwide. Because we all have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ enhanced by our Bible Study and prayer, we always seek to find ways to help others.

We work in the food pantry, the Breakthrough House, Hagar's House, the Mountain View Personal Care Home, Childspring International, and wherever we are needed. Thanks for all the support that you give.

All women of Hillside are Presbyterian Women and we invite you to join us each fourth Saturday for our monthly meeting and Bible study led by Elder Alice Moore.

On behalf of the Hillside Presbyterian Women, enjoy the service and we wish you continued peace and God's blessings.

Mrs. Tonya Groomes and Elder Dorothy L. Hill
Co-Moderators

OUR GUEST PREACHER
REV. AISHA BROOKS- LYTLE
Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta



The Reverend Aisha Brooks-Lytle is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Central High School (Class of 251) and holds a Bachelor of Science in Music from Temple University. ('99). After spending a significant time as youth director at Wayne Presbyterian church, she obtained a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. ('05) She served various other churches in the Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York and surrounding area through her music ministry and in her ministry of preaching, teaching, and pastoral care before returning to Wayne Presbyterian Church in February 2013. Aisha served as the mission pastor for Wayne Presbyterian while she was also serving as the Organizing Pastor for The Common Place, a faith-based arts and education center in Southwest Philadelphia.
(thecommonplacephilly.org)

In 2018, Aisha began her role as the Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. She is honored and overjoyed to serve as an encourager to the congregations and leaders within a presbytery filled with a deep cultural diversity and a vast theological landscape. She believes that it is her part of her call to support healthy and vital congregations and to equip healthy and innovative leaders to live into their passion and purpose as the people of God. Aisha is blessed to have her mother, Deborah, and her son, Ellington, to join her in this adventure in the Greater Atlanta region. (atlpcusa.org)

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday
“Honoring Women’s Spirituality, Struggle and Survival”

March 8, 2020
ORDER OF SERVICE

Preacher: Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle

Pastor: Rev. Sylvia Wilson

Liturgist: Elder Janice Henry

Music Director: Ms. Bernice Hall

Handbell Choir Director: Ms. Althea Brown

Chime Choir Director: Ms. Allean Brown

Guest Musician: Dr. Carolyn King-Stephens

LET US APPROACH GOD

PRELUDE

Come All Ye Servants Of The Lord

Organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Chime Choir

LIGHTING THE CANDLES AND PROCESSIONAL

INTROIT

Lord, I Lift Your Name On High

Women’s Day Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Elder Janice Henry

L: O Lord, open my eyes,

P: So I might see the vision of your truth.

L: O Lord, open my ears,

P: And I will hear your word.

L: O Lord, open my lips,

P: And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*A LITANY OF CELEBRATION

L: Gracious God, you who created the breath in our bodies and the eternal Spirit that knows no end, we glorify you today and always, and we celebrate women who have used the gifts you have given to them to transform the church and the world. We call on these women of yesterday, today and tomorrow to help us discover within ourselves the strength and the ability to change the world.

P: We remember Sarah and Hagar, women whose lives were curiously intertwined and who, in their own ways, put their faith in a gracious God who would provide for them.

L: We are grateful for their faithfulness.

P: We remember Mary and Martha, sisters who served in very different ways.

L: We are grateful for their acts of service.

P: We remember Vashti and Esther, a queen who stood up for her dignity and a queen who stood up for her people.

L: We are grateful for their courage.

P: We remember Mary, the mother of Jesus, who, though young and frightened, answered God's call, saying, "Here I am, the servant of God."

L: We are grateful for her humility.

P: We remember Mary Magdalene, the first woman mentioned in every listing of the women who served with and followed Jesus, and the first one to proclaim the resurrection. Instructed by Jesus to "Go and tell," she announced, "I have seen the Lord!"

L: We are grateful for her bold proclamation.

P: We remember Lydia, Priscilla and all the women who were leaders in the early church.

L: We are grateful that they opened their homes and their hearts, that the gospel was spread, and that congregations were developed and transformed.

P: We are thankful for all women in the faith, those whom we read about in scripture and those who serve our church. We pray for those who will lead in the future, opening up new possibilities for all women.

L: As we look back, help us also to reach forward to new generations. We celebrate the leaders of tomorrow, just as we celebrate those here today, who inspire us all. Loving God, be present among us as we *celebrate* and *serve, remember* and *reflect, sing* and *lift up* your daughters, who with your help, build beloved communities that reflect your love and grace. Amen.

*MORNING HYMN

We Have Come Into This House

(No. 174, AAHH)

CALL TO CONFESSION (*Please be seated.*)

L: To you, O God we give up the burdens of this week,

P: Trusting in your love and mercy

L: To you, O God, we surrender ourselves,

P: Trusting our risen Lord to lead us always in the way of peace, today, tomorrow and forever.

L: Let us confess our sins by praying together the Prayer of Confession

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess that we often look back. We look back on mistakes we have made, work left undone, people we have hurt, and excuses we have made. We see these as things for which we feel guilty. We overwhelm ourselves with regret.

**Free us, O God, from self-condemnation that immobilizes us. Allow us to remember that you call us to look back,
to remember those times of joy,
to remember those people who were kind and compassionate,
to remember that we did the best we were able to do,
to remember that in Christ our past is transformed,
to remember that you journey with us each day of our life
May we continue to grow in grace and truth. AMEN**

(Time for quiet, personal confession)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: As far as the East is from the West, so far has God removed our sins from us. As near as hands, feet and breath, so near does God stand with us. As close as the spirit's tether can draw, so close does God bring us together. Friends, believe the Good News; in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE *Gloria Patri* (No. 579, PH)

*SONG OF TESTIMONY *Sisters In Christ (Glenn Burleigh)* Women's Day Choir

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Signing attendance register)*

PASSING THE PEACE Elder Janice Henry

SPECIAL MUSIC *Let My People Go (Arr. Patricia Hurbatt)* Handbell Choir

LET US LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Elder Janice Henry

In habit our hearts, God of history, as you once inhabited human flesh. Be here among us with all of your wisdom, all of your power, all of your mercy, all of your love, that we might learn to be like God from our God who came to be like us. Holy are you. Holy are we who are one with you forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 34:1–10 (pg. 480-481)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 5:1–12 (pg. 4)

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER Mrs. Tonya Groomes

SONG OF INSPIRATION

Fill My Cup

Women's Day Choir

Led by Faye Fikes and Dorothea Parker

MESSAGE

Blessed

Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle

LET US RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Sylvia Wilson

(Please come forward if you would like to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, become a member of Hillside, or rededicate your life to Christ. You can also speak to the pastor or an Elder after the service)

*INVITATIONAL HYMN

I Am Thine

(No. 387, AAHH)

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Elder Sonya McMullen

*UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Please stand)*

We believe in the goodness and value of women, in our strength and health, in our capacity to cry, in our capacity to sustain each other instead of being rivals, in our capacity to respond to the demands of children and carry the weight of daily life, in our openness and desire to continue working, in our spiritual and earthly being, full of life – birth, death and resurrection.

We expect a future of faith and hope, working for the day to come in which we and all our sisters will no longer have to adapt to a stereotype because we will be free to express ourselves as we are and we will be free to share in all the benefits of human life and work .

We hope for a time of peace, when violence will disappear and women and men can love and be loved, and the work and riches of our world can be justly shared.

(Adapted from an affirmation written by women of the Presbyterian Church in Columbia)

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Follow Jesus

Women's Day Choir

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

(No. 650, AAHH)

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

LET US RETURN TO GOD'S WORLD

