

**Grace United Methodist Church – Valley Stream
Order of Worship**

**4th Sunday in Lent/ UMCOR SUNDAY
March 27, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

In-person in the sanctuary and also via Zoom and Facebook

Zoom Meeting ID: 883 84930735 Passcode: 086482

Phone # 1 929 205 6099

Greeting

Call to Worship

L: Like a loving Father, God offers us freedom to choose our own path.

P: In God's freedom, we are a new creation.

L: Like a merciful Mother, God offers us compassion when we lose our way.

P: In God's mercy, we are a new creation.

L: Like a forgiving Parent, God welcomes us home with open arms.

P In God's embrace, we are a new creation.

L: Come! Let us worship the one who makes all things new. (AWA, 2022)

Opening Voluntary – “Largo” by G. F. Händel

Choral Introit

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, you seek the lost sheep of your pasture; you call out to all who have strayed. As the father welcomed the prodigal son home, receive us back into your loving arms. Your steadfast love, O God, knows no bounds. Your loving embrace is always there for us. Be with us in our time of worship, that we may feel your presence and know that you are our true home. Amen.
(AWA, 2022)

Women's History Month Moment

Opening Hymn #383 - “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

BEGINNINGS

Prayer of Yearning

In your love, O God, we are never lost. In your care, O Christ, we are ever found. Help us feel this truth in our very bones, for we are often far from home, unsure of how to return. Teach our shut-up hearts to embrace your hope. Teach our shriveled souls to cry out to you. For we long to taste the glory of your heavenly banquet, and we yearn to be held in your arms as beloved children. Amen. (AWA, 2022)

Words of Assurance

Hold fast to these words of assurance: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away!" In Christ, we are reconciled indeed, for we have found our true home. (AWA, 2022)

Scriptures

New Testament - Epistle - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

(The Ministry of Reconciliation)

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. **17** So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. **20** So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

New Testament – Gospel – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

(The Parable of The Prodigal and His Brother)

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. **2** And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." **3** So he told them this parable: **11** Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. **13** A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. **14** When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. **16** He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. **17** But when he came

to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! **18** I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." **20** So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. **21** Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' **22** But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; **24** for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. **25** "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. **27** He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' **28** Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. **29** But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might **celebrate with my friends.** **30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!** **31** Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn before Message #348 - "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"
THOMPSON

Message

Pastor Nation

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer and Choral Response

Passing of the Peace of Christ

In Christ, the lost are found and the dead return to life. In Christ, we are a new creation. Let us celebrate our inheritance and the joy of our homecoming, as we pass the peace of Christ this day. (AWA, 2022)

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

Knowing how much God has given us, let us come with grateful hearts to offer our tithes and our gifts. (AWA, 2022)

Choral Selection – “Gather the People” by L. & S. Dengler

Doxology - Hymn #95 - Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow *OLD 100th*

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn #384 - “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” *BEECHER*

Dismissal with Blessing

Closing Voluntary – “Postlude” by A. W. Marchant

Our **Liturgist** is Rebecca Heyward and our **Reader** is Amaya Heyward.



Prayer List. ♥Mason Baker (cousin of Debbie Nicosia), ♥Sherry Schutt (niece of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Thornton Stone (father of Brian Stone), ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥People of Ukraine, ♥Christine and Adam Doeringer, ♥Roael Cooke (brother-in-law of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Ramona Morrison (daughter of Margo and Vincent Morrison), ♥Averil Wallace (relative of Earl Boyd), ♥Neil Allen (son-in-law of Margo and Vincent Morrison), ♥Pastor Nation, ♥Walter McKnight, ♥Coleen Murray, ♥Velda Mathis (sister-in-law of Marianne Pike), ♥Maria Smith (mother of Rebecca Heyward), ♥Kenneth Richardson, ♥Kris Thomsen (cousin of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Nancy Roman (friend of Sing Larson), Emilia Peeples (granddaughter of Debbie and Joe Nicosia), ♥Alice Shubrick (friend of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Susan Short and her daughter ♥Sarah Short (friends of Nancy Wasek), ♥Faith Pollack (friend of Sing Larson), ♥Pearl Hamilton, ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Douglas Hayes, ♥Ulysses Ceazer (friend of Svetlana Hamlet), ♥Hensbert Neville Brooks (husband of Mahalia Brooks), ♥Kay Hartmann, ♥All United Methodist Women in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi, ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Maudlyn and Keible Scarlett, ♥Amy Cooke (sister of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Bob von Schmid (son-in-law of Adam and Christine Doeringer), ♥Kenneth Kurz (grandson of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Michael Kurz (son of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Airman Jayvee Kurz (grandson of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥Margo and Vincent Morrison, ♥Cyril (friend of Pat Eshun), ♥Samuel A. Dorsey (father of David A. Dorsey), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Everol Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske), ♥Bill Hammen (brother of Edie Zipperlen), ♥Rondolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison), ♥Health care workers fighting the Viruses, those who are suffering, and grieving families. **Note.** Prayer List names

will continue to be listed for three weeks. After that period of time, the names will be removed unless you call us with current information. † - Death in family, ♦ - New entry

TODAY IS UMCOR SUNDAY

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering understates UMCOR's "cost of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project and not administrative cost.

UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. Also, UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR builds relationships and helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster.

UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and works to reduce hunger. UMCOR would be unable to do this work without your support. From training Conference Disaster Coordinators and Early Response Teams to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly to disasters.

Your sustaining gifts on UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God's love with communities everywhere.