

Grace United Methodist Church – Valley Stream

Order of Worship

Wednesday Evening Lenten Service

April 6, 2022, at 8:00 P.M.

Greeting

L: Sing praises to God, O you saints, and give thanks to God's holy name!

P: We exalt you, O God, for you have restored us to life!

L: We may cry through the night, but your joy comes with the morning.

P: You hear us, O God, and you are gracious in our distress.

L: You turn our mourning into dancing!

P: Our souls cannot be silent! O God, our Savior, we give thanks to you forever!

(BOW 453)

Opening Voluntary – “I Need Thee Every Hour” by R. Lowry, arr. M Hayes

Opening Prayer

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen. (BOW 464)

Hymn #397 – “I Need Thee Every Hour”

Prayer of Confession

We confess to you, all-knowing God, what we are. We are not the people we like others to think we are. We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves, what lies in the depths of our souls. But we cannot hide our true selves from you. You know us as we are, and yet you love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge. Teach us to respect ourselves for your sake. Give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept, we ask you to break their bondage and set them free; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen. (BOW 480)

Words of Assurance

The Lord God is merciful and gracious, endlessly patient, loving, and true, showing mercy to thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and granting pardon. Amen. (BOW 479)

Scriptures

Old Testament – Exodus 3:18-23

18 Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." **19** And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. **20** But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." **21** And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; **22** and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; **23** then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

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

New Testament – Matthew 5

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: **3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **4** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. **5** "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. **6** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. **7** "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. **8** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. **9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. **10** "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **13** "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. **14** "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. **15** No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

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

Hymn before Message #400 – “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Message

Brian Stone

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Let us share Christ's peace with one another. For we are called to feed one another as God has fed us. So shall our lives bear fruit for all to share. (AWA, 2022)

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

The Spirit of Christ visits us in this place. Let us respond by giving the best of our treasures and talents for the work of God's church in the world. (AWA, 2022)

Offering Selection – "Chaconne in G minor" by L. Couperin

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn #402 – "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

Dismissal with Blessing

Pastor Nation

Closing Voluntary – "Les Cloches" by N. Lebégue

Gloria Godinho is our **Liturgist** and **Reader**.

Prayer List. †♥Family of Adam Doeringer, ♦♥Michael Provenzano, ♥Mason Baker (cousin of Debbie Nicosia), ♥Christine Doeringer, ♥Sherry Schutt (niece of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Thornton Stone (father of Brian Stone), ♥People of Ukraine, ♥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 Peebles (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, ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥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

The new Grace UMC Website is now live! Please check it out at <https://www.gracevsny.org> (same website name as before). One good thing about the new website is that it should display well on a phone, tablet, or computer screen. You will find the weekly order of worship and church newsletter posted there, as well as a link to Facebook for viewing worship services. There is also an enhanced calendar feature that allows you to display it by month, week, as a list, or by category. Be sure also to check out the dropdown menus at the top of the home page for more content. We welcome feedback and suggestions. You may contact Katherine Perkins at katherine.lowe.perkins@gmail.com. Thanks!

HOLD THE DATE!! We are having a Retirement Dinner for Pastor Nation on Thursday, May 19th. It is being held at the Coral House located at 70 Milburn Avenue in Baldwin (516/223-6500). The cost per person is \$80 and the event will last from 6PM-10PM. We are looking forward to celebrating with Pastor and Desmond as they begin their new journey. Invitations have been sent out. RSVP is requested.

Save The Date for United Women in Faith (UWF) *formerly known as UMW*. We shall be having the UWF Day/Fundraiser Event on 5/8/22 during church service.