

Grace United Methodist Church



November 13, 2022 - 10:00AM

Order of Worship for the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Grace United Methodist Church is a Family of Faith
striving to share God's love with all.

* Please Stand If You Are Able

Opening Voluntary – “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” by W. M. Runyan; arr. C. Rice

Choral Introit

Greeting

* **Opening Hymn #733** – “Marching to Zion” *MARCHING TO ZION*

* **Call to Worship**

L: Come people of God; come and celebrate God's gift of salvation.

P: We come without fear. We come trusting in God.

L: Come people of God; hear God's promises and witness God's mighty deeds.

P: In hearing the promises, in witnessing the mighty deeds of God, we are strengthened for all that lies ahead.

L: Come, let us worship and praise God

P: shouting aloud and singing for joy, for God truly is in our midst. Amen.

* **Opening Prayer**

Our loving and caring God, we need this time together to be united with our sisters and brothers in the faith; we need this time of worship to be comforted and strengthened in your presence. We hear of wars and rumors of wars. We read of persecution and oppression. Remind us again of your vision, that all might live in a world of peace and justice and love. May this time together imprint this vision and promise on our hearts, that we may live into this beloved community. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

O God, we are more like the vision in Luke than the vision of Isaiah. We see wars, hatred, and violence everywhere, yet despair of ever stopping them. We see oppression and injustice and persecution, but fail to raise our voices in prophetic protest. We have become a pessimistic people. Help us believe—really believe—in Isaiah’s vision of the peaceable kin-dom, in your promise of a new heaven and new earth. Let your cry be our cry: “They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain.” Amen.

Words of Assurance

God is our strength and our salvation. God’s anger is turned away, and in its place we find comfort, steadfast love, and forgiveness. With this hope, we can draw water from the wells of salvation with joy and thanksgiving. Amen.

Children’s Sermon – “A Dream for the Future”

Scriptures

Isaiah 65:17-25

17 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. 20 No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. 21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well. 24 Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. 25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

L: The Word of God, For the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

*** Gospel - Luke 21:5-19 (*Please stand if you are able*)**

5 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 6 "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." 7 They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" 8 And he said, "Beware that you are not led

astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them. 9 "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." 10 Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; 11 there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. 12 "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13 This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; 15 for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17 You will be hated by all because of my name. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your souls.

L: The Word of God, For the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

*** Hymn before Message #2142 –“ Blessed Quietness” (Faith We Sing Hymnal)**

Message – “Infinite Possibilities”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer and Choral Response

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Sisters and brothers, we are part of the new heaven and new earth. In God’s love we can reach across the differences that divide us. Greet one another in this spirit of reconciliation and peace.

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

The world is a mess. What can we do? We can offer our visions of hope, our words of comfort, our acts of love, our resources to help bring God’s new heaven and new earth.

Choral Selection – “Still Changing Me” by J. Metzger

*** Hymn No. 95 - Presentation of the Offering**

*** Offering Prayer**

O God, we long to make a difference in our world. We offer you what we have: our visions and dreams; our witness to your saving acts of love and justice; our resources to help bring the new heaven and new earth into our midst. We offer you our very lives, that we may be coworkers with you to bring about true change. Amen.

Closing Hymn #413 – “A Charge to Keep I Have”

BOYLSTON

*** Dismissal with Blessing**

Closing Voluntary – “Postlude” by J. E. Newell

(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker	Sunday School Teachers: Kim Neri
Director of Music: Kenneth Richardson Liturgist and Reader: Coleen Murray Audio Tech: Brandon Gauntlett	Counting Team: Ken Pearce Ushers: Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano



♥Family of Thornton (Thornie) Stone, ♥Family of Ella Fort, ♥Juzer Kasubhai, ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Family of Maria Calero, ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Tyrone Jenkins (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Patricia Sullivan (friend of Jenifer Hartig), ♥Jim Poch, ♥Christine Doeringer, ♥Rasheen Rutledge (cousin of Naomi Brown), ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥People of Ukraine, ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske)

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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