

Grace United Methodist Church



November 20, 2022 - 10:00AM

Order of Worship for the 24th 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 – “Larghetto Con Moro” by J. Barney

Choral Introit

Greeting

***Opening Hymn #694 – “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”**

***Call to Worship**

L: Good morning! May God's blessings be with you this day!

P: Thank you, and may God's blessings be with you also!

L: May the light of Christ's love shine on you today.

P: May the peace of Christ be in your heart.

L: Open your hearts to celebrate the reign of our Savior Jesus Christ.

P: With joy we open our hearts and spirits to the Lord. AMEN.

***Opening Prayer**

O God, we pray that reconciling love may be evident among us. May we play our part in restoring all creation to the fullness of balance and beauty as we live in the example of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Imagining your reign can be difficult, eternal God. It is difficult to picture a world governed by your justice and righteousness alone. Our minds are held captive by the worst images of human kings, rulers, and powers. When nobler visions fail and we settle for kingdoms of our own making, correct and forgive us. Free the borders of our imaginations, that we may envision your greater good and celebrate the coming of your reign on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the prophecy of Zechariah: Tender mercy and forgiveness are the ways of God. We are forgiven. Let the church say **Amen**.

Westminster Ringers – “How Great Thou Art” O Store Gud

arr. by Kevin McChesney

Children’s Sermon – “A Letter Teaches”

Scriptures

Colossians 1:11-20

11 May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully
12 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

***Gospel - Luke 23:33-43 (Please stand if you are able)**

33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” 36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” 38 There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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

***Hymn before Message #526** – “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Message – “Reign of Christ”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer and Choral Response

Passing of the Peace of Christ

As a deer longs for flowing streams, our souls long for the love of God. May we express this longing and the love we find in God as we share the peace of the Lord with one our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

We have been called to be witnesses to our faith. We have been called to do so with joy and praise. With hearts full of thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us commit ourselves and our resources to enable the church to be that fearless witness.

Choral Selection – “Name of All Majesty” by T. D. Smith and J. Rainey

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

***Offering Prayer**

Your days are surely coming, Holy One, just as surely as the needs of this world are real. We offer these gifts in awe of your victory over the cross and in celebration of your present and coming reign, that life—even life abundant—might multiply for all people. Bless these gifts, that they may be used according to your will. Amen.

Closing Hymn #577 – “God of Grace and God of Glory”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Closing Voluntary – “Allegro Con Spirito” by A. Rawlings

(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker	Sunday School Teachers: Andrea Owen-Boyd and David Boyd
Director of Music: Kenneth Richardson Director of Westminster Ringers: Kim Neri Liturgist and Reader: Debbielee Thomsen	Counting Team: Debbie Nicosia Ushers: Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano Audio-Tech: Brandon Gauntlett



♥Family of Thornton (Thornie) Stone, ♥Family of Ella Fort, ♥Juzer Kasubhai, ♥Jennifer Morton, ♥Honey Knice, ♥Bob LoBello, ♥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). **Note.** Prayer List names will continue to be listed for two weeks. After that period of time, the names will be removed unless you call us with current information. † - Death in family, ♦ - New entry

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
21 South Franklin Avenue, Valley Stream, NY 11580
Church Phone Number: 516/825-1182; Church E-mail: GraceVSNY@aol.com