

Grace United Methodist Church



February 26, 2023 - 10:00AM

**Order of Worship
First Sunday in Lent/Scout Sunday**

**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 – “Not A Sparrow Falleth” by F. Abt; arr. G. Peterson

Greeting

Black History Moment

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

*** Opening Hymn #269** – “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

LAND OF REST

*** Call to Worship**

L: Come into the wilderness. Come away from the world and all that is so familiar, and begin wandering through all that lives here.

P: **We see there is life here. It is not as barren as we had thought.**

L: Come into the wilderness and discover that you are not alone. We are together in this sacred place.

P: **We come to find ourselves changed and restored in this wilderness together.**

*** Opening Prayer**

God of love and mercy, we come together from different places. Some of us arrive content, others muddled and fractured, and others somewhere between. We aren't sure what we will find wandering through this wilderness. We pray you will guide us, making room for all we are, and inviting us to be renewed. Help us to embrace your joy and find hope arising anew. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

O God, this isn't a place we want to be. It is not a place we would choose because the wilderness is so unpredictable and unknown. The uncertainty challenges us, and brings us closer to doubt. We confess that this isn't a place that we expect to find you, but we are looking for companions and possibilities in this wilderness place. We pray you will hold us in your grace, O God.

Words of Assurance

Beloved, we are held here with all we are and all we are feeling. God will instruct us and teach us the way to go. Steadfast love surrounds us, now and always.

Scouting Moment

Children's Sermon – "A Day in the Wilderness"

Scriptures

Old Testament – Psalm 32

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. **2** Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. **3** While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. (Selah) **5** Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Selah) **6** Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. **7** You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. (Selah) **8** I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. **9** Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. **10** Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. **11** Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

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

* **Gospel – Matthew 4:1-11 (Please stand if you are able)**

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." **4** But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" **5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the

temple, **6** saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you,' and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' " **7** Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " **8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; **9** and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." **10** Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' " **11** Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

*** Hymn before Message #534 – “Be Still, My Soul”**

FINLANDIA

Message – “Into the Wilderness”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer and Choral Response

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Even Christ was tempted in the wilderness. Turn to your neighbor, who suffers as you do from daily temptation, and offer signs of Christ’s peace.

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

Generous God, your faithful love is a constant blessing. As we have been blessed, so may we now be a blessing to others.

Choral Selection – “Poor Wayfaring Stranger” by Victor C. Johnson

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

*** Offering Prayer**

Take these gifts we offer, loving God, and use them for your work. Take our very selves – our hopes, our dreams, our plans, our wonderings – and use them, too, to make your world a better place. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

Closing Hymn #365 – “Grace Greater than Our Sin”

MOODY

*** Dismissal with Blessing**

Closing Voluntary – “Morning Star” - tune by J. P. Harding; arr. T. Chesterton
(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker Liturgist and Reader: Katherine Perkins	Counting Team: Everett Fitch Ushers: Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano
Director of Music: Kenneth Richardson	Audio-Tech: Brandon Gauntlett



♥Victims of the Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, ♥♦Coleen Murray, ♥Ron Albretchsen (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Irene Misiti (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Rosa Maria de la Cruz (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Leonides Hernandez (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Ekow Eshun and mom, Pat Eshun, ♥†Family of Carol McKeithan (daughter, Pastor Debra Gallimore; son's Detrimius and Robert; granddaughter Nyla Gallimore; and Elmont congregation), - friends of Debbielee Thomsen, ♥Juzer Kasubhai, ♥NYPD, ♥NJPD, ♥Kevin Brown (father of Naomi Brown), ♥†Family of Robin Geffken, ♥†Family of Sylvia Obeng (cousin of Pat Eshun), ♥†Family of Cosmo Whittaker (Excelencia Price's son), ♥Karen and Peter Kiernan, ♥Meagan Kiernan (daughter of Karen and Peter Kiernan), ♥Jennifer Morton, ♥Honey Knice, ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Audrey Weaver and Family, ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Patricia Sullivan (friend of Jenifer Hartig), ♥Jim Poch, ♥Christine Doeringer, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥People of Ukraine, 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