

# Grace United Methodist Church



**March 12, 2023 - 10:00AM**

**Order of Worship  
Third Sunday in Lent**

**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 – “Chanson” by S. Scott**

**Choral Introit**

**Welcome/Greetings**

**\* Call to Worship**

**L:** Come into the wildness of possibility where strangers meet, and everything changes in one conversation. Come away from all that you thought you knew and find your voice.

**P:** **We have so much to say, so much has gone unsaid.**

**L:** Come into the wildness and find others that are eager and ready to speak with you and hear your truth.

**P:** **We come to tell the truth.**

**\* Opening Hymn #127 – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”** *CWM RHONDDA*

**\* Opening Prayer**

**In the driest desert, O God, you provided a rock that held a fountain for those who thirst. Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. In a place of quarrelling, you provide an answer that holds life for those who hope. Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. In a place of wonder, you provided living water, for those who met there. Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. Amen.**

**Westminster Ringers** – “For the Beauty of the Earth” by C. Kocher; arr. by B. Ingram

**Children’s Sermon** – “The Visitor at the Well”

## Scriptures

### **New Testament – Romans 5:1-11**

**1** Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. **3** And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. **6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. **8** But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. **9** Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. **11** But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

### \* **Gospel – John 4:5-42** (*Please stand if you are able*)

**5** So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. **7** A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." **8** (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) **9** The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) **10** Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." **11** The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? **12** Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" **13** Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14** but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." **15** The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." **16** Jesus said

to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." **17** The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; **18** for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" **19** The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. **20** Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." **21** Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. **22** You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. **24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." **25** The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." **26** Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." **27** Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" **28** Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, **29** "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" **30** They left the city and were on their way to him. **31** Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." **32** But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." **33** So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" **34** Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. **35** Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. **36** The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. **37** For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' **38** I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." **39** Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." **40** So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. **41** And many more believed because of his word. **42** They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

**\*Hymn before Message #361** – "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

*TOPLADY*

**Message** – "With Thirst for New Life"

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer and Choral Response**

## **Prayer of Confession**

**O God, our prayers often falter when we think we need to get it all right with every word in its proper place, every sentiment correctly stated. Yet we know life is not like that. Our feelings wander, our thoughts scatter, our motivations are mixed. Save us from a politeness of faith that often shrinks back from the messy soul of what it means to be human. From these messy places, we find life-giving desires longing to be felt and given voice. Save us, too, from a sterility of faith that, for the sake of precision, remains closed to wonderment, the facing of hard questions, and possibilities of new adventures. In the deep and hospitable silence, enlarge our trust and free our hearts to live the generous ways of your love.**

## **Words of Assurance**

**L: God's voice carries over the waters of creation, reaching out to you and assuring you that you are loved into life's fullness over and over again. You will drink of the living waters and never be thirsty again.**

**P: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **Passing of the Peace of Christ**

**May the peace of Christ surround you with living water in the wilderness of our lives.**

## **Invitation to Tithes and Offering**

**We are called to live in hope and to share this hope with the world. Let us offer thanks to God for all God has given us by sharing generously of ourselves and of our resources. Through our gifts, may all experience the hope to be found in our life-giving God.**

**Choral Selection – “God Has Work for Us to Do” by Mark A. Miller**

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

## **\* Prayer of Dedication**

**As One closer than our breathing, and as One knowing of our needs before we ask, bless the gifts we bring today, O God. Through us, use them in the love and service of others. God knows your story and is listening for your voice. Go out into the world in peace, to share the living water that God gives to us so freely, and in so doing, to restore others to hope and life. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn #298 – “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

**ROCKINGHAM**

**\* Dismissal with Blessing**

**Closing Voluntary – “All Glory, Laud, And Honor” by R. G. Wilson**  
*(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)*

<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker	<b>Liturgist/Reader:</b> Michelle Lewis
<b>Director of Music:</b> Kenneth Richardson	<b>Director of Westminster Ringers:</b> Kimberly Neri
	<b>Counting Team:</b> Marisa Pershad
<b>Ushers:</b> Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano	<b>Audio-Tech:</b> Brandon Gauntlett



♥Victims of the Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, ♥♦Randolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison), ♥†♦Mayorga Family, ♥Coleen Murray, ♥Loretta Lewis Zimmer and Bob Zimmer, ♥Ron Albretchen (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Irene Misiti (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥†Family of Carol McKeithan (daughter, Pastor Debra Gallimore; son's Detrimius and Roberto; granddaughter Nyla Gallimore, Max; and Elmont congregation), - friends of Debbielee Thomsen, ♥Jesse Smith, ♥Juzer Kasubhai, ♥Kevin Brown (father of Naomi Brown), ♥†Family of Sylvia Obeng (cousin of Pat Eshun), ♥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, ♥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