

Grace United Methodist Church



August 27, 2023 - 10:00AM

Order of Worship/Thirteenth 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 – “Total Praise” by R. Smallwood

Choral Introit

Welcome/Greetings

*** Call to Worship**

L: Life can sometimes be very difficult.

P: We look around and wonder where God is.

L: In the midst of our trials and tribulations, God is with us.

P: God surrounds us with love and courage.

L: Come, let us praise God for God's abiding presence.

P: Lord, thank you for always being with us, even when we don't recognize your loving presence. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn #555 – “Forward Through the Ages”**

ST. GERTRUDE

*** Opening Prayer**

We thank you, O Lord, that we are not alone. You watch over us, guide us, and lead us in your righteous pathways. When we stumble and fall, you lift us up and gently place us on that pathway again. When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace, reassuring us of your presence through the love of others and of our savior Jesus Christ. Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Children's Sermon – "Peter Knows Jesus Is The Messiah"

Scriptures

Exodus 1:8-2:10

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. 13 The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, 14 and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. 15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." 17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. 18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." 20 So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live." 1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. 5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" 8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. 10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

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

***Gospel – Matthew 16:13-20 (*Please stand if you are able*)**

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

***Hymn before Message #175 – “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”**

ST. AGNES

Message – “Act”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer and Choral Response

Prayer of Confession

There are far too many times, O Lord, when we have neglected or ignored the needs of others because it just wasn’t convenient for us to help. We backed away with excuses on our lips and indifference in our hearts. Forgive us and set us on the right path of service and compassion in the name of Jesus who modeled faithful living for us. Remind us that we are residents of a global community. Help us to hear the plight of those who have been voiceless. With the gifts that we have and the love of Christ, direct our lives in compassionate service to others. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Through the abundance of God’s mercy and forgiving love, you are empowered to be disciples, to reach out to others, to offer the words and deeds of hope in a struggling world. God’s blessings are poured over you for this service.

Passing of the Peace of Christ

We are one body in Christ, and we belong to one another in this family, the Church. Let us welcome one another to our mutual home as we share the peace of Christ.

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

Sometimes it is hard to believe that our small actions can make a difference in the world. Sometimes we feel like an insignificant ripple in a vast ocean. Sometimes we feel this way, even though we know how small actions have greatly affected our lives: the unsuspected kind word; the simplest touch of love. Although our offering may sometimes feel small, know that, by the grace of God, it will have a huge impact on this world; for every action aligned with God's will is perfectly grand.

Chancel Choir Selection – “There is a Savior,” by G. Nelson, B. Farrell, and S. Patti; arr. M. McDonald

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

*** Prayer of Dedication**

We offer these gifts in our desire to live by your story rather than someone else's story. Help us to use them, dear God, to bring hope in despair and compassion where there is distress. Bless these gifts and every gift we offer with your love. Amen.

Closing Hymn #438 – “Forth in Thy Name, O Lord”

DUKE STREET

*** Dismissal with Blessing**

Closing Voluntary – “Triumphal March” by J. Denton

(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker	Counting Team: Marisa Pershad (Team 1)
Liturgist/Reader: Dr. Tonia Ukanwoke	Ushers: Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano
Director of Music: Kenneth Richardson	Audio-Tech: Brandon Gauntlett



♥Peggy Robinson, ♥Michael Kurz, ♥Walter McKnight, ♥Vin Dowling, ♥♦Carolyn O'Loughlin, ♥♦Debbielee Thomsen, ♥Peter Dudney, ♥Suella Fredrick (friend of Lorna McKenzie), ♥Patrick Curley (son of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Betty Mayorga (sister of Rosario Hooker), ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Garvin Phillip (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Wilmary Robles, ♥Jacquelin Lopez, ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Marilyn Eller (sister of Elaine Treske), ♥Randolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison), ♥Loretta Lewis Zimmer and Bob Zimmer, ♥Irene Misiti (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Juzer Kasubhai, ♥Kevin Brown (father of Naomi Brown), ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Jim Poch, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥People of Ukraine, ♥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

REMINDER

Every Wednesday – Bible Study 7:30PM/Zoom
Every Saturday – Prayer Meeting 8AM/Zoom

The Zoom info is the same every week. A reminder is emailed with the Zoom info.

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