

## **Grace United Methodist Church**



**September 10, 2023 - 10:00AM**  
**Order of Worship/Fifteenth 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 – “Chanson Méodique” by F. Chopin**

**Choral Introit**

**Welcome/Greetings**

**\*Call to Worship**

**L:** Come out of the darkness of despair into the brightness of God's transforming love.

**P: We praise God for God's presence with us!**

**L:** Prepare your hearts and spirits to receive God's mercy and healing.

**P: We thank God for God's mercy toward us.**

**L:** Come, let us praise and worship God who is always with us.

**P: Thanks be to God at all times and in all places. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn #559 – “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”**

*WESTMINSTER ABBEY*

## **\*Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, we come this day seeking courage and hope for the future. Our world is in such peril. Heal these wounds and quiet the words of war. Help us to be those who bring peace in our families and communities. Banish the darkness of doubt and fear; anoint us with your light and love that we may spread the good news of your mercy to everyone. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **Westminster Ringers - Canon of Grace**

~Incorporating Canon in D by Johann Pachelbel and Amazing Grace,  
arr. Linda R. Lamb~

## **Children's Sermon – "Communication and Jesus"**

### **Scriptures**

#### **Romans 13:8-14**

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. 11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

## **\*Gospel – Matthew 18:15-20** (Please stand if you are able)

15 "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

**\*Hymn before Message #408** – “The Gift of Love”

*GIFT OF LOVE*

**Message** – “As We Forgive”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer and Choral Response**

**Prayer of Confession**

Forgiving and loving God, our hearts are filled today with pain and concern for the future of humankind. Words of anger assail our airways — we cannot escape from the threats being thrown about. In our fear, we cry “Where are you, O Lord?” We wander around in the darkness of the spirit, seeking light and hope. Forgive us when we forget that you are always with us, through times of peace and times of war. Heal our souls. Help us to reach out to others with the assurance of your love and presence, for we ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

God hears our prayers and our cries. God leads us out of the darkness of the past into the bright promise of today. We are called to stand strong and confident in God’s Love. Rejoice, dear friends, for that love which began before creation flows in and through you this day! Amen.

**Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Christ calls us into service with him, but warns us to count the cost before we put our shoulder to the plow. Though the cost may seem high, the cost of trying to go it alone is higher still. There is peace and ease in Christ’s yoke. Let us share this peace with one another.

**Invitation to Tithes and Offering**

Because God has so richly blessed us, let us receive our morning offering in gratitude for all God has done and continues to do in our lives.

**Chancel Choir Selection** – “Confession” (Forgive Us, Lord)

by W. Ferguson, S. C. Smith, and H. Sorensen; arr. H Sorenson

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

These offerings we present to you, O Lord. May they be used for ministries of love and reconciliation through this community of faith. Amen.

**Closing Hymn #557** – "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

*DENNIS*

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**Closing Voluntary** – "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" by T. Chesterton  
*based on tune "Ein' Feste Burg" by M. Luther*

*(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)*

<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker	<b>Counting Team:</b> Debbie Nicosia
<b>Liturgist/Reader:</b> Coleen Murray	<b>Ushers:</b> Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano
<b>Director of Music:</b> Kenneth Richardson	<b>Audio-Tech:</b> 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.**

## GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**21 South Franklin Avenue, Valley Stream, NY 11580**

**Church Phone Number: 516/825-1182; Church E-mail: [GraceVSNY@aol.com](mailto:GraceVSNY@aol.com)**