

Grace United Methodist Church



October 29, 2023 - 10:00AM
Order of Worship/22nd Sunday after Pentecost/Reformation 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 – “Melody” by Julius André

Choral Introit

Welcome/Greetings

*** Call to Worship**

L: Our hearts are lifted up toward God.

P: God created all that is!

L: We celebrate that great love of God.

P: God gifted us with God's only son, Jesus the Christ.

L: Rejoice and be glad today!

P: Our hearts and spirits praise God for all God's blessings. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn #590 – “Christ Loves the Church”**

HIGH STREET

*** Opening Prayer**

Lord of light and hope, be with us this day as we have gathered to hear your word. Help us open our hearts to the commandments to love, even when loving is difficult. Give us the courage to be people who will commit their whole lives in your service. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Children's Sermon – “Practicing The Greatest Commandment”

Scriptures

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

1 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, 2 but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. 3 For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. 5 As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; 6 nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, 7 though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. 8 So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

* **Gospel – Matthew 22:34-46** (Please stand if you are able)

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35 and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." 41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 42 "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." 43 He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 44 "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" ' 45 If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" 46 No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

* **Hymn before Message #500** – “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

MORECAMBE

Sermon – “Defined by Generosity”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer and Choral Response

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors. But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning them away from those who need our love. We place a test before you, asking that you prove your love to us, or we threaten not to believe in you. Please forgive us for this foolishness and stubbornness. Give us the courage to be people who will care for others. Let us dedicate our lives in your service, always aware of your awesome love for us. This we ask in Jesus' Name. men.

Words of Assurance

Though our hearts were hardened to the needs of others, God has touched them with God's compassionate care, healing our wounds and giving courage and strength to our souls. Be assured that God's love is poured out for you and rejoice! Amen.

Passing of the Peace of Christ

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be your dwelling place, now and forevermore. Amen.

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

Come with thanksgiving, to offer your gifts and honor to God.

Chancel Choir Selection – "Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You" by Jay Althouse

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

*** Prayer of Dedication**

God of unimaginable love, you have given us so much and asked so little. In the words of Jesus, we have been commanded to love you with our whole being, love our neighbors, and love ourselves. For that simple price, you have given us everything and promised to love us and not desert us. It is a covenant more generous than anyone could imagine, and yet how often we fail to keep the bargain. We love you when it is convenient and will not embarrass us before others. We pick and choose which neighbors we love as we pick and choose when we will love

ourselves. As we dedicate our gifts this morning to bringing acts of love, may we also resolve to better keep our side of your covenant of love. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn #453 – “More Love to Thee, O Christ” *MORE LOVE TO THEE*

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Closing Voluntary – “Voluntary” on the hymn “Abide With Me” by E. L. Ashford

(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker	Counting Team: Ken Pearce
Liturgist/Reader: Brian Stone	Ushers: Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano
Director of Music: Kenneth Richardson	Audio-Tech: Brandon Gauntlett



♥♦Jennifer LaRochelle, ♥Family of Michael Estivo (friend of Debbielee Thompson), ♥Michael Ciampi (friend of Kim Neri), ♥Peggy Robinson, ♥Michael Kurz, ♥Walter McKnight, ♥Vin Dowling, ♥Carolyn O’Loughlin, ♥Suella Fredrick (friend of Lorna McKenzie), ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Garvin Phillip (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Marilyn Eller (sister of Elaine Treske), ♥Irene Misiti (friend of Rosario Hooker), ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Jim Poch, ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥♦Milly 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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