

## Grace United Methodist Church



**November 12, 2023 - 10:00AM**  
**Order of Worship/24th 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 – “The Song Eternal” by J. Southbridge**

**Choral Introit**

**Welcome/Greetings**

### **\*Call to Worship**

L: We are pulled in many directions.

**P: Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.**

L: This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.

**P: This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.**

L: Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.

**P: Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. Amen.**

### **\*Opening Hymn #369 – “Blessed Assurance”**

*ASSURANCE*

### **\*Opening Prayer**

**Through the week of stress and demands, we come to you this day, O Lord. Awaken us again to your comforting and loving presence in our lives. Help us to be open to the many ways in which you have called to us and sustained us. Make us ready to be of service to you. Amen.**

## **Westminster Ringers – “How Majestic Is Your Name “**

by Michael W. Smith; arr. by Susan E. Geschke

### **Children’s Sermon – “Parable of the Bridesmaids”**

#### **Scriptures**

##### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 a**

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

##### **\*Gospel – Matthew 25:1-13 (Please stand if you are able)**

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." 9 But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." 12 But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

**\*Hymn before Message #2147 – “There Are Some Things I May Not Know”**  
 (“Yes God Is Real”) ~Faith We Sing Hymnal~

**Sermon** – “Have you checked your oil?”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker

## **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Lord’s Prayer and Choral Response**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

O Lord, there never seems to be enough time to do all the things that are demanded of us. Schedules become crowded. We live by the clock. We think we are ready for all events that will come our way. But we are rarely ready for you. We would like you to come to us at a planned time so that we can fit you into our busy lives. Forgive us, Lord, for trying to make you a scheduled event. We have moved you to a time on our weekly calendars. Yet you are the eternal God who has always loved us and been ready to receive us. Help us to learn that, with you as our foundation, we can handle anything that comes our way. With you as our focus, all things pale in comparison. Let us look at the priorities in our lives and see where we have placed service to you. Amen.

#### **Words of Assurance**

In the deepest darkness, in the times when all seems lost, we are not lost to God. God calls us to be ready for God’s new kingdom. In all this God is with us. Amen.

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

Called to live as children of light, let us build one another up as we share signs of peace, and words of love.

#### **Invitation to Tithes and Offering**

We need oil for our lamps, food for our tables, and love for our lives. Let us share the bounty we have received, that no one may be left out alone in the dark.

#### **Chancel Choir Selection** – “Keep Your Lamps” by V. C. Johnson

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

#### \* **Prayer of Dedication**

Blessing upon blessing has been given to us, O Lord, from your great bounty. Now we return these gifts to you. Bless these gifts and the lives that they represent and cause them to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

**Closing Hymn #540** – “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

**ST. THOMAS**

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**Closing Voluntary** – “Sing Praise” by L. Smith

*(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> Katherine Perkins	<b>Ushers:</b> Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano
<b>Director of Music:</b> Kenneth Richardson	<b>Audio-Tech:</b> Brandon Gauntlett



♥Mary Turbeville (cousin of Lenore Kurz), ♥Jennifer LaRochelle, ♥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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