

Grace United Methodist Church



November 19, 2023 - 10:00AM
Order of Worship/25th 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 – “Fairest Lord Jesus” by S. Volkslieder; arr. C. Rice

Choral Introit

Welcome/Greetings

***Call to Worship**

L: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

P: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.

L: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

P: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.

L: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

P: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #79** – “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” *GROSSER GOTT*

***Opening Prayer**

Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have

blessed us in your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Sermon – "Parable of the Talents"

Scriptures

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7 for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

***Gospel – Matthew 25:14-30** *(Please stand if you are able)*

14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." 21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." 22 And the one with the two talents also came

forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

***Hymn before Message #650** – “Give Me the Faith Which Can Remove”
CAREY'S (SURREY)

Sermon – “Trust, Don't Fear”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer and Choral Response

Prayer of Confession

We are "pack rats", O Lord. You continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives and we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be worthy of acclaim. We squander them wastefully on things that are not healthy or helpful to others. We confess that we have not always recognized the talents we have been given. We find it easier to belittle the gifts than to honor the giver. As Jesus reminded his listeners to honor the giver of the gifts by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world; remind us that the message of Jesus is truly pertinent to us today. Forgive us when we have treated it as a nice story. Help us to take the gifts you have given us, to develop them, and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope. In Jesus' blessed Name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

You are loved by God and given so many gifts to be used to help others. Do not fear to use these gifts, for God is with you, continually blessing you and the gifts in your service. Amen.

Passing of the Peace of Christ

The spirit of peace and love abides in each of us. Let us share this spirit of peace and love with one another.

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

As God has gathered us together, let us join together to share our gifts with God's people, that all may know they are all beloved children of God.

Chancel Choir Selection – “In All Things, Give Thanks” by V. C. Johnson

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

There are no limits to the gifts you have given us, gracious Lord. Now we return thanks to you for these gifts and we bring these tokens to you, asking for your blessing on givers and gifts. Help these gifts and givers to be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen.

Closing Hymn #413 – “A Charge to Keep I Have”

BOYLSTON

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Closing Voluntary – “Allegro Con Spirito” by A. Rawlings

(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)

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

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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