

Grace United Methodist Church



January 28, 2024 - 10:00AM

**Order of Worship
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**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 – “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” by E. Broughton

Choral Introit

Welcome/Greetings

***Call to Worship**

L: Come, let us praise the Lord!

P: We praise God with our whole heart!

L: God's works are great!

P: Open our hearts and spirits to see your works, O Lord!

L: Come, let us worship the Lord who has saved us!

P: May our lives reflect the wondrous love of God that all may see and know of God's greatness. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #108** – “God Hath Spoken by the Prophets”

EBENEZER

* Opening Prayer

Open our hearts and spirits this day to hear the great good news of your power and presence with all your people. Fill our hearts with rejoicing as the words are proclaimed in song and story. Enliven us and remind us that you are with us, through the pillar of fire, through the magnificent words of the prophets, through the ministry and love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Sermon – “Jesus Isn't Afraid of Our Messes”

Scriptures

Epistle – 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are on the road to destruction. ⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of those who don't have faith so they couldn't see the light of the gospel that reveals Christ's glory. Christ is the image of God. ⁵We don't preach about ourselves. Instead, we preach about Jesus Christ as Lord, and we describe ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶God said that light should shine out of the darkness. He is the same one who shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

* Gospel – Mark 1:21-28 (*Please stand if you are able*)

²¹Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. ²²The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. ²³Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God.” ²⁵“Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” ²⁶The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out. ²⁷Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, “What's this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!” ²⁸Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

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

***Hymn before Message #2040** – “Awesome God” (Faith We Sing Hymnal)
AWESOME GOD

Sermon – “The Jesus Factor”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer and Choral Response

Prayer of Confession

We think we know so much, O God, and with our meager knowledge we presume to judge others. We arrogantly announce our own righteousness without a compassionate thought. We proclaim your word when it suits us and often only to those with whom we want to associate. We shut others out because of our faulty judgment and our blindness. There have been so many times in which our humble help would have been a blessing to someone, but we have placed our comforts before serving others. In the competing voices of today’s world, we have turned around and around, trying to find the way to live. Help us, merciful God, to again listen to you. Help us to truly open our hearts to you. Remind us again of your great love and presence in our lives. Forgive us our foolishness and our stubbornness. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to all. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Quiet your hearts, beloved of God, for God is speaking to you with love. Rest your spirits, struggling ones, for God will surround you with peace. Open your lives to God’s power and presence and do not be afraid. God is with us, now and for all time. Amen.

Passing of the Peace of Christ

We stand in good company, the congregation of our God of righteousness and mercy. Let us greet our siblings in the name of our good God.

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

Let us give thanks for the wonderful deeds of God, through our own generosity and faithfulness to others.

Choral Selection – “Seek The Lord” by J. Carter

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

* **Prayer of Dedication**

God of justice, mercy, and compassion; we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar and pray they will be used to make your amazing love known to all. Then, most often we leave and return to our weekday lives, expecting someone else to make that happen. Remind us that your prophets, your leaders, your missionaries, were called and raised up from “among the people.” Help us open our lives and our minds to the possibility that we might be the ones you would call and send. We pray this in the name of Christ, our teacher and our redeemer. Amen.

* **Closing Hymn #127** – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” *CWM RHONDDA*

* **Dismissal with Blessing**

Closing Voluntary – “Forward In Faith” by D. Paxton

(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)

<p>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker</p> <p>Liturgist/Reader: JoAnne Hazell</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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♥♦Karen Kiernan, ♥Carol Whyte, ♥Winston Scarlett (brother-in-law of Maudlyn Scarlett), ♥Patrick Curley (son of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥David Biegler, ♥Vivian (4 months old) Peeples and sister Emilia (4 years old) Peeples, ♥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), ♥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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