

Grace United Methodist Church



February 4, 2024 – 10 AM

Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany/Communion 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 – “Open Our Eyes” w/”Be Thou My Vision” by R. Cull;
arr. M. Hayes

CHORAL INTROIT

WELCOME / GREETINGS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Come, rejoice and sing! God's love is showered over you this day.

P: We gather to praise God and celebrate God's presence with us.

L: God shows compassion to all who are weak and downtrodden.

P: Jesus Christ offers healing mercies to our troubled souls.

L: Praise be to God who has called us here.

P: Thanks be to God for God's eternal love. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN #519** – “Life Every Voice and Sing” *LIFT EVERY VOICE*

*** OPENING PRAYER**

Powerful God, from the very beginning you blessed creation. You have loved and shielded your people through all joys and trials of life. We come to you this day, rejoicing in the many blessings you have given to us. We open our hearts again to hear your word for us and to gather strength and joy for service in your world. Be with us and bless us again, we pray. Amen.

Cherissae Anne Brown and Lionel Raheem Brown

SCRIPTURES

EPISTLE – 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶ If I preach the gospel, I have no reason to brag, since I'm obligated to do it. I'm in trouble if I don't preach the gospel. ¹⁷ If I do this voluntarily, I get rewarded for it. But if I'm forced to do it, then I've been charged with a responsibility. ¹⁸ What reward do I get? That when I preach, I offer the good news free of charge. That's why I don't use the rights to which I'm entitled through the gospel. ¹⁹ Although I'm free from all people, I make myself a slave to all people, to recruit more of them. ²⁰ I act like a Jew to the Jews, so I can recruit Jews. I act like I'm under the Law to those under the Law, so I can recruit those who are under the Law (though I myself am not under the Law). ²¹ I act like I'm outside the Law to those who are outside the Law, so I can recruit those outside the Law (though I'm not outside the law of God but rather under the law of Christ). ²² I act weak to the weak, so I can recruit the weak. I have become all things to all people, so I could save some by all possible means. ²³ All the things I do are for the sake of the gospel, so I can be a partner with it.

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

*** GOSPEL – Mark 1:29-39** (*Please stand if you are able*)

²⁹ After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. ³¹ He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them. ³² That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered near the door. ³⁴ He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn't let the demons speak, because they recognized him. ³⁵ Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. ³⁶ Simon and those with him tracked him down. ³⁷ When they found him, they told him, "Everyone's looking for you!" ³⁸ He replied, "Let's head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That's why I've come." ³⁹ He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

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

HYMN BEFORE MESSAGE #367 – “He Touched Me”

HE TOUCHED ME

MESSAGE – “Don’t forget to pray”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We walk through life, confident, strong, boasting of all our achievements. But God sees the hurts we have inflicted on others, the weariness in our bones from chasing after bad choices, and all the foolishness we trip over in the busyness of life. Let us come to God, for the One who listens to our faltering words is the One who gives us the Word filled with grace and mercy. Join me as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We cannot hide from you, Everlasting God, even if we were to go from one edge of creation to the next. you speak to us of compassion, but the ways in which we treat others show we have not been listening. You explain your hopes to us, and we act as if we don’t have a clue as to what is going on. We run as fast, and as far, from you as we can, and wonder why we have no energy to follow Jesus. Yet you search for us in all the deserted places we flee to, Never-wearied God, so you can take us by the hand to show us the way to life with you. You heal our broken hearts so we can offer them to others. You fill us with your strength so we can bind ourselves to Jesus, our Savior, following him to serve all of your children. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Have you not been listening. God never tires out, nor is there an expiration date on God's forgiveness. God is ever with us, healing us with mercy, and strengthening us for service.

P: **If God numbers the stars, surely our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace. This is indeed good news for all! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The one who lifts the lowly and brings down the mighty offers us a peace that passes all understanding. Claim the promise of this peace as you share greetings in Christ's name.

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERING

God provides abundantly for us and calls us to give generously to those in need. With gratitude for the blessings we have received, let us offer our gifts so that others may be blessed.

CHORAL SELECTION – “At The River” (Shall We Gather at the River)

~Incorporating Hanson Place by Robert Lowry; Music by Victor. C. Johnson~

***HYMN NO. 95** - Presentation of the Offering

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

You lift us to our feet so we can walk with you, Loving God, and you fill us with your gifts so we may pour them out for those around us. Take what we offer and use them in that kingdom work which strengthens the weary, feeds the hungry, and gives hope to the despairing. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*** PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN #569** – “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” *MESSAGE*

*** DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY – “Classical Postlude” by R. J. Hughes
(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker	Ushers: Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano
Director of Music: Kenneth Richardson	Audio-Tech: Brandon Gauntlett
Liturgist and Reader: Bob DiSalvo	Counting Team: Marisa Pershad

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