

Grace United Methodist Church



September 1, 2024 - 10:00AM

Order of Worship for 15th Sunday After Pentecost/Communion

**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

Welcome/Greetings

***Call to Worship**

L: Creator, you bless us with the heavenly lights—

P: the moon that waxes and wanes,

L: the planets that whirl around the sun,

P: the galaxies that wink from afar.

L: In the darkness you call out, "Let there be light,"

P: and the universe is filled with heavenly light.

L: You are our creator, too,

P: the One who formed us and who forms us still.

L: May your word of truth ring out today with your call to new life! Amen.

***Opening Hymn #400** – "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" *NETTLETON*

***Opening Prayer**

Creator of the heavenly lights, there is no shadow in your divine light. It remains unchanging across the eons, even as the stars come and go. You are our faithful creator, the Gardener of our lives. You plant your truth within us and inspire lives of caring and love. We honor and worship you. Amen.

Scriptures

Epistle – James 1:17-27

¹⁷ Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth by his true word, and here is the result: we are like the first crop from the harvest of everything he created. ¹⁹ Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. ²⁰ This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you. ²² You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. ²³ Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. ²⁴ They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do. ²⁶ If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. ²⁷ True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.

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

Gospel - Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

¹ The Pharisees and some legal experts from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. ² They saw some of his disciples eating food with unclean hands. (They were eating without first ritually purifying their hands through washing. ³ The Pharisees and all the Jews don't eat without first washing their hands carefully. This is a way of observing the rules handed down by the elders. ⁴ Upon returning from the marketplace, they don't eat without first immersing themselves. They observe many other rules that have been handed down, such as the washing of cups, jugs, pans, and sleeping mats.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and legal experts asked Jesus, "Why are your disciples not living according to the rules handed down by the elders but instead eat food with ritually unclean hands?" ⁶ He replied, "Isaiah really knew what he was talking about when he prophesied about you hypocrites. He wrote, *This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me.* ⁷ *Their worship of me is empty since they teach instructions that are human words.* ⁸ You ignore God's commandment while holding on to rules created by humans and handed down to you." ¹⁴ Then Jesus called the crowd again and said, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵ Nothing outside of a person can enter and contaminate a person in God's sight; rather, the things that come out of a person contaminate the person." ²¹ "It's from the inside, from the human heart,

that evil thoughts come: sexual sins, thefts, murders, ²²adultery, greed, evil actions, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, insults, arrogance, and foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from the inside and contaminate a person in God's sight."

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

*** Hymn before Sermon #2152** – "Change My Heart, O God" /Sung 2x's/
(*The Faith We Sing Hymnal*) *CHANGE MY HEART*

Sermon – "Honoring God With Our Hearts"

Pastor Kim

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

In stories and in stores, in sandy deserts and on rocky roads, at school events and Sunday worship, we encounter God. We meet the One who fills every moment with the sacred. We confess our sins, in trust that we can turn aside and notice God welcoming us with forgiveness and hope.

Prayer of Confession

Ever-faithful God, you create each of us to be a presence of healing and love in our world. You equip us to resist intentions and actions that hurt ourselves and others. Forgive us when we forget your desire for us. Forgive us when we put aside your vision. Remind us of the love and goodness that you have planted within us. Draw our hearts close to you and bless us as we live in your ways. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God has chosen to give us new life. This is God's choice, given freely to us, as is every other good gift God has given. Rejoice in this good news!

Passing of the Peace of Christ

The peace that Christ brings comes through the fire of the Holy Spirit. Let us share the peace that sets our souls on fire as we pass the peace of Christ.

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

God calls us to a devotion that is pure and faultless. What does such devotion look like? Caring for those in a world with big needs and little hope. Let us give as generously as God has given to us.

Music Selection – Performed by Esther Richardson and Danny Neri

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

*** Prayer of Dedication**

God of every good gift, bless the gifts of our resources, our prayers, and our lives. Bless these gifts for the good of others and to the honor of your name. 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, Almighty God, creator of heaven and 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, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

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. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. 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. At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

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

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 #402 – "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"**

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

*** Dismissal with Blessing**

Closing Voluntary

Pastor: Pastor Kim	Counting Team: Marisa Pershad
Liturgist/Reader: Bob DiSalvo	Ushers: Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano
Guest Musician: Jane Leslie	Audio-Tech: Brandon Gauntlett

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
21 South Franklin Avenue, Valley Stream, NY 11580
Church Phone Number: 516/825-1182; Church E-mail: GraceVSNY@aol.com