

**GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**128 East Baltimore Street**  
**Greencastle, PA 17225**  
**(717) 597-2983**



Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka  
Choir Director: Patty Stepler  
Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson  
Ministers: All Those Present

**Seeing Jesus in our Neighbors**  
**Last Sunday after Pentecost: Reign of Christ Sunday**  
**November 22, 2020**

*Ezekiel 34:11-24   Psalm 100   Ephesians 1:11-23   Matt 25:31-46*

**WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE**

**WELCOME**

**VIDEO**

**Thank you, God**  
**By The Skit Guys**

Welcome to Grace Church where we are God's people.

**United through Jesus Christ on a journey to grow, to share our faith  
and serve others in the Greencastle area and the world.**

### **PRELUDE MUSIC**

**Ash Grove *with* Thanks Be to God  
-Welsh tune, Handel/Page**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Know that the Holy One is God.  
**We are God's people.**

Worship the Holy One with gladness;  
**Come into God's presence with singing.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.  
**Make a joyful noise!**

For God is good;  
God's steadfast love endures forever,  
and God's faithfulness to all generations.  
**Let us worship with thanks and joy!**  
**Let us praise God in song and word and prayer!**

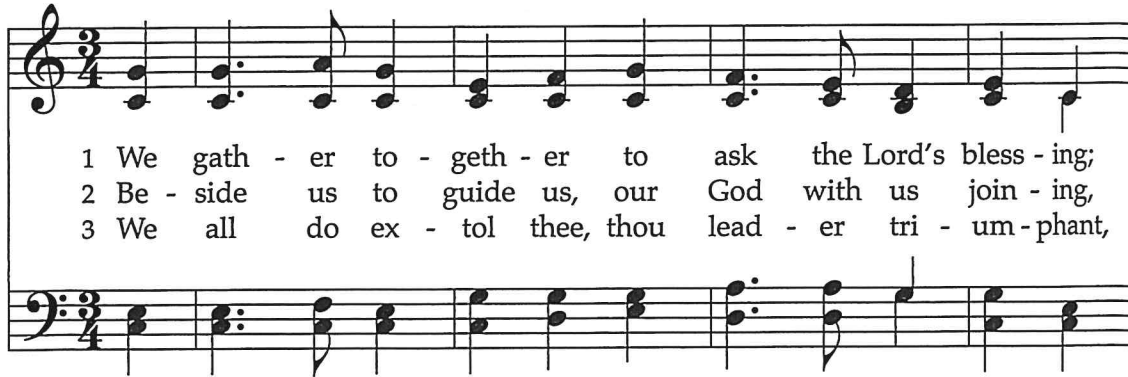
### **\*PRAISE SONG**

**We Gather Together  
# 336**



## We Gather Together

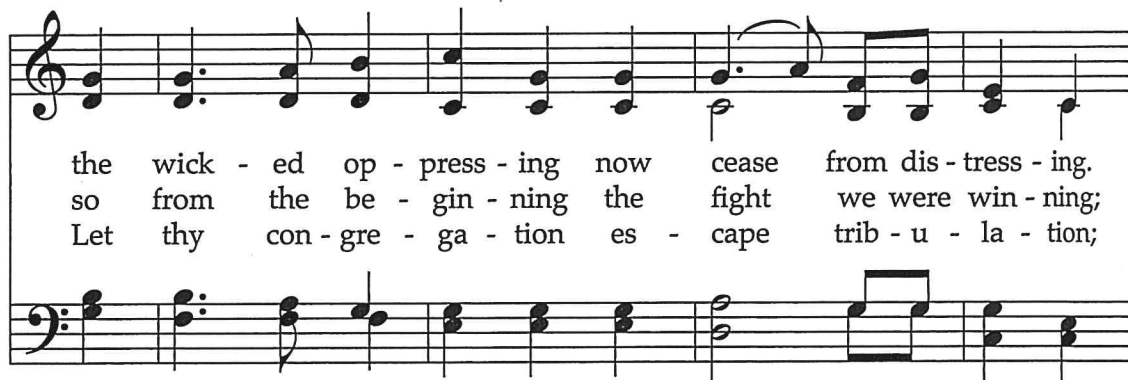
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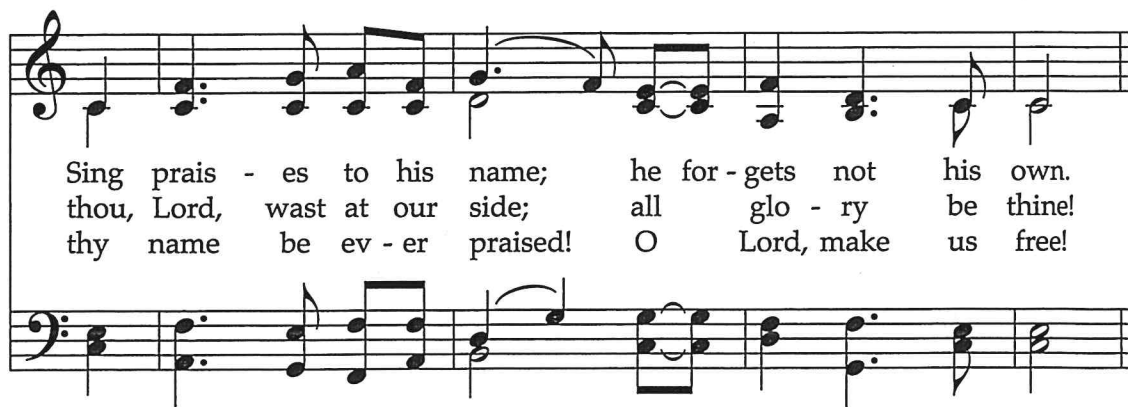
1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;  
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,  
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,



he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;  
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;  
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.



the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing.  
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;  
 Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;



Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.  
 thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glo - ry be thine!  
 thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

First published among songs celebrating the end of Spanish control of the Netherlands, this text's blend of patriotism and piety has made it popular at (often ecumenical) Thanksgiving Day services. The tune is named for the Viennese arranger whose male chorus popularized it.

## INVOCATION

Gracious God, we long to know You better.  
Help us to recognize Your presence,  
to receive You fully,  
and to be ready to follow Your leading. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, too often,  
we overlook the needs of people around us  
while we proclaim our devotion to You.

We could do more to feed the hungry,  
clothe the naked, to welcome the stranger, and heal the sick.

We fail to see how our prison system diminishes the humanity of all of us,  
how our medical system denies healing to the poor,  
how poverty leaves children without coats,  
how legal obstacles keep the strangers at a distance.

Open our eyes to see Your presence in every person,  
and to respond to their needs. We want to be rightly called by your name.  
**Amen.**

*SILENCE*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Though we wander, God searches us out.

Speaking through the prophet Ezekiel, God said,  
"As shepherds seek out their flocks  
when they are among their scattered sheep,  
so I will seek out my sheep.

I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered  
on a day of clouds and thick gloom."

God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer.  
Hear this good news: you are forgiven and free.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS**

### **SCRIPTURES**

#### **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep,  
and will seek them out.

As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered  
sheep, so I will seek out my sheep.

I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on  
a day of clouds and thick darkness.

I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries,  
and will bring them into their own land;

and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses,  
and in all the inhabited parts of the land.

I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,  
and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed,  
and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak,  
but the fat and the strong I will destroy.

I will feed them with justice...

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them:

I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide,

I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged;

and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd,  
my servant David, and he shall feed them:

he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

And I, the Lord, will be their God,  
and my servant David shall be prince among them;

I, the Lord, have spoken.



## **Ephesians 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**WE ASK GOD TO OPEN THE BIBLE TO US**

**WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER**



## **Matthew 25:31-46**

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him,  
then he will sit on the throne of his glory.

All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one  
from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,  
and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand,

‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for  
you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me  
food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger  
and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick  
and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you  
hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?  
And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked  
and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison  
and visited you?’

And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of  
the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart  
from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was  
hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to  
drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not  
give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry  
or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take  
care of you?’

Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one  
of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into  
eternal life.”



## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

This is the Word of God for the People of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **SERMON**

## **SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts  
As we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

**WE GIVE BACK TO GOD**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

Generosity may come as an impulse,  
but it is cultivated by the practice of regular giving.

Let us today move from beliefs to actions that make a difference  
in the world.

We give in gratitude for God's gifts to us,  
and we give because we need to live beyond ourselves.

**\*WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of abundance,  
we give these offerings of material goods  
as our commitment to give back to You  
and to care for Your people.**

**Let our giving remind us to see Jesus all around us.  
Use our offerings of money and of our lives  
to serve Your purposes. Amen.**

## **WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

May God give you wisdom and revelation.  
May the eyes of your heart be enlightened.  
May you know the hope to which God has called you,

And may the blessings  
of the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer  
go with you this day and always. **Amen.**

### **\*PRAISE SONG**

**Give Thanks**  
**# 647**



647

## Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

Drawing on language from 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 as well as Psalm 126:3, this short and repetitive song can be easily memorized. The simple vocabulary makes it suitable for multigenerational use, reminding all ages how gratitude for God's goodness changes our perspective.

## POSTLUDE MUSIC

### Now Thank We All Our God -Cruger/Ashdown



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Written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood, a certified leader of InterPlay, a system of forms in movement, story-telling and vocalizing that brings body and soul together, and brings communities together. She teaches suicide first aid via Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Adapted by Mark Ruzicka.



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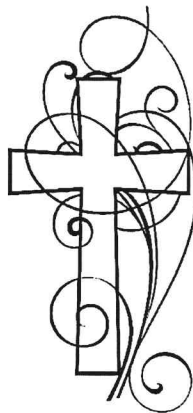


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**Contributions received week of 11/15/2020**

Regular Offering: \$895  
Loose Change Offering: \$35  
Building Fund: \$5



*Pastor Emeritus*  
*The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, 1967-1995*



**Last Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 22, 2020**

***Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka      Cell Phone: 717-504-2923***  
***GUCC Office Phone: 717-597-2983***

***Greeters/Ushers:*** Tammy Hockenberry & Mildred Minnich  
***Reader:*** Patty Stepler

**Welcome to Sunday Worship!** We are continuing with in-house worship services. Everyone is asked to wear masks while present during service, use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving church and please social distance with one another by sitting at pews marked with a blue ribbon. Chancel choir will not be singing weekly anthems at this time, but they will continue to practice the Cantata. Offerings and poinsettia orders can be placed in the collection plates which are located at the back doors of the sanctuary and by the side doors leading to the elevator area. Our greeters & ushers are keeping track of attendance. Thermometers will be used to check temperatures entering and exiting the building. If you have any questions, please see anyone on the consistory board or ask our greeters and ushers for guidance.

**Christmas Decorating** – We will be decorating our church following today's worship. Everyone is welcome to stay after service if you are able to help us decorate. We will be wearing masks and we will keep social distancing in place. It was decided instead of gathering together for a meal, a Grab and Go meal will be offered to the congregation, regardless if you are staying to help decorate or not.

**Congregational Group Email** – Don't miss any church updates! Contact church office if you are not currently on our email list so we can add you today!





**Christmas Poinsettias** – We are accepting orders during today's service if you wish to place a Christmas Poinsettia in dedication or honor of a loved one. The cost is \$9.50 for a 6 ½" potted red poinsettia. Order forms and envelopes are available on the front table and elevator area. Please place your order form, along with payment, in the collection plate during today's worship or drop off at church office by Tuesday morning. **Deadline to order is November 24, by 12 noon.** Checks can be made payable to GUCC. The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for dedication during worship service on December 20 and will be kept in place for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service on December 24. You will be able to pick-up your poinsettias after our Christmas Eve service. Please contact church office at (717) 597-2983 with any further questions.

**Church Meetings/Events/Fundraisers:** We ask all our members and volunteers to kindly wear your masks during any and all church events, activities, fundraisers and meetings. We are following guidelines from our conference center to help keep everyone safe and healthy.

**Facebook:** The live streaming of our worship service can be viewed on our Facebook page, Grace United Church of Christ. Please join our Facebook page to keep updated on activities and connect with others in the community. Our weekly worship program with announcements can be downloaded from our website if you are viewing from home.

**We Welcome your Offerings** - They can be placed in the collection plates at the door to the sanctuary or elevator area, mailed to GUCC, PO Box 448, Greencastle, PA 17225, dropped off at the church office, or you can donate online through our website: [www.graceuccgreencastle.com](http://www.graceuccgreencastle.com)

**Grace's Free Closet** is open Monday & Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. The Closet is full of nice seasonal clothes to keep everyone in the family warm during the upcoming months. There are a few new rules in place for everyone's safety till the virus is gone. Masks are required, we are checking temperatures as you enter, and we are limiting the number of shoppers in each room. We appreciate your donations, but currently we are not accepting items as our rooms are full! Please 'like' our Facebook page 'Grace's Closet Greencastle' or contact Nancy Myers to keep updated on any changes.

**GUCC Website:** Please look us up on the web! History of our M.P. Moller Pipe Organ can be found on our website, under the tab for Our Rich History! You can also download our weekly service program and announcements from our website at: <https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com>

**Heirloom Mirrors** – Long-time member, Jeff Stouffer, has been making high quality custom hardwood mirrors for over 35 years. Jeff has a long background creating custom wood projects. Jeff is donating his talent, time and materials by selling his custom heirloom mirrors to benefit GUCC. Please visit our website for more details about Jeff's talents and ordering information about these beautiful custom mirrors. You will find this information on the Groups & Activities page, under Jeff Stouffer Heirloom Mirrors. Feel free to call Jeff or the church office with any further questions, or to place your order. We thank everyone who has ordered mirrors and plaques to help support GUCC!

**Online Donations:** You can make donations anytime through our website. Go to our website and click on any DONATE button. Once you click on a donate button you will come to a page where you can enter your donation amount, then use the drop down box to choose where you would like your donation to be used. You can choose to select GUCC Offering, Building Fund, Moller Organ Fund, German Reformed Cemetery or the outreach program of your choice. You will need your credit card. Once you submit any contribution, you will receive an email receipt. Please keep this receipt for your tax purposes. Any questions, please contact Kate Kennedy or the church office for assistance.

**Communion Servers:** We need one more volunteer for our Christmas Eve candlelight service on December 24. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the vestibule.

**Greeter/Ushers** are needed for December 27. Please see the sign-up sheet located on the table in the vestibule or call the church office on Monday.

**Chancel Choir** – The choir will not be singing the weekly anthems, but they will continue to hold rehearsals to practice the Cantata. The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:15pm in the sanctuary. They will be keeping social distancing while they practice. Any questions, please contact Patty Stepler.

**Grace Notes** (our newsletter) can be downloaded from our website. There are still a few copies available on the tables in the vestibule and by the elevator area.

**Church Office** will be closing at 12 noon on Wednesday, November 25, and will reopen on Monday, November 30, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

**Reverse Advent Calendar:** Grace Snyder Circle invites you to take part in a Reverse Advent event. It is suggested that you bring one or more items each week to donate. Please see your newsletter for list of suggested donations or see the flyer on the church bulletin board. We will be collecting donations during the Advent Season beginning on November 29 through December 20. Starting next week you will find a collection basket in the front vestibule and near the elevator area to place your items.

**First Saturday Christmas Meal** – Unfortunately, there will be no meal the first Saturday of December. We will announce if we are holding one in January.

Our **Angel Tree** is now displayed in the middle hallway (around the corner from the elevator area). Please help a child in our Greencastle community by taking an angel off the tree and purchasing gifts from the suggestions listed on the back of the angel. When you remove an angel, please write your name next to the number on the list provided, as this helps us keep track of who has the angels. The angel gifts are due back to the church by December 13. You can place the gifts under the tree before service, or drop them off at the church office during the week. Please be sure you attach your angel to the wrapped gifts when you drop them off. The families will be picking up their gifts on Saturday, December 19, in the social hall. Please see Nancy Myers or call the church office if you have any further questions.

*Happy Thanksgiving Day!*

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**Next Worship Service, November 29, 10am**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Tony & Deb Homer

**Scripture Reader:** Nancy Myers

**Advent Candle Lighter:** Deb Homer

**Advent Reader:** Tony Homer

