

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



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

The Whole World our Neighborhood:
Worship Liturgy for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 18, 2021

Scripture Lessons
2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Psalm 23, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEO
Psalm 23, The Lord is my Shepherd - YouTube

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video

Twenty-Third Psalm
by Freebridge Media

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

Sing to His Name! -Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Psalm 23, adapted)*

As God is our shepherd we need nothing else.
**We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters,
which renews and refreshes our spirits.**

God guides us along paths of righteousness
**And walks with us through shadowed valleys so we are not afraid.
The shepherd's staff comforts us.**

God sets the banquet table for us in the presence of our enemies.
There, we're anointed with oil and our cup overflows.
**Goodness and mercy shall never depart from us
as long as we dwell in the house of God. Let us worship God!**

***PRAISE SONG**

The God of Abraham Praise # 049



49 The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Caring and Gracious God, You are the shepherd who gathers us together today to celebrate with grateful thanksgiving the community in which we live. We are nourished by its diversity, brought about by the unique gifts each person contributes.

Be with us in this time of worship and encourage us to never cease welcoming the strangers we meet and accepting the gifts they bring. May this time of worship be a reminder of the joy that comes when all will be one in You.

Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you have made this world a diverse community.

There are people of different colors and abilities.

There are people on the left and the right, young and old, rich and poor.

We would love others as You do, but we confess that we don't or can't.

We tend to erect walls built upon our biases, fears,
and insecurities that keep us apart.

Forgive us that we cannot love as unconditionally as You.

Help us to take down those walls so we may welcome the stranger
and truly be one community together.

A time of silent confession.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We know we fall short in our discipleship.

We've confessed our sins before God.

We look to God and repent of our sins and transgressions.

By God's overflowing steadfast love and mercy, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS

SCRIPTURES

2 Samuel 7:1-14

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:
Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord:
Are you the one to build me a house to live in?
I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David:
Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.
When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors,
I will raise up your offspring after you,
who shall come forth from your body,
and I will establish his kingdom.

He shall build a house for my name,
and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

When he commits iniquity,
I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use,
with blows inflicted by human beings.

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Performed by Steve Miller

"If It's Magic"

by Stevie Wonder

WE ASK GOD TO OPEN THE BIBLE TO US

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things...

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

This is the Word of God for the People of God!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Timeless Psalm

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 TO OFFERING

Think of the beginning of the 23rd Psalm and the words we pray every week, "Give us this day our daily bread." Taken together, God promises to provide us with what we need to live today, so we may see tomorrow.

When we think of what we actually have, though, we have more than enough.

We give honor and thanks to God when we make our generous offering today.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Over the Sunset Mountains -Peterson/DeCou

***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 THANKSGIVING

**Thank you, God, for the bounty of Your blessings
You have poured out upon us.
We have taken a portion of our abundance and given
it to You in grateful thanksgiving.**

**Consecrate this offering.
May it help to support the ministries of this church that
will dismantle the walls that divide us, so all people will be
one in the new family gathered in Christ Jesus.
Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

***BENEDICTION**

Jesus taught us that when we welcome the stranger we create
a new community, where all are one in God.

Let us continue the work that Jesus started
by welcoming the strangers who cross our paths.

Know that God is with us and protects as we pursue our ministries
of healing and hope.

May we proclaim God's glory through our lives and work.
Go in peace and serve the Lord.

***PRAISE SONG**

**When Peace like a River
(It Is Well with My Soul)**

840



840

When Peace like a River

It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;
 It is well with my soul;
 It is well with my soul;

This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

it is well; it is well with my soul.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying -Nicolai and J.S. Bach/Price



The Whole World our Neighborhood: Service Prayers for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Quentin Chin, member of Church on the Hill in Lenox, MA. Adapted by Mark Ruzicka.



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Contributions received week of 7/11:

Regular Offering: \$606 Loose Change Offering: \$118

Communion Offering: \$5

Building Fund: \$5 Organ Fund: \$170

Sunday Worship Attendance for 7/11: In-House: 32 Facebook Viewers: 7



Pastor Emeritus

The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, 1967-1995



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Church Announcements for Week of July 18, 2021

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer

Reader: Nancy Myers

We welcome **Rev. Jan Custer** as our guest preacher for today's service.

We are updating our health and safety measures. Wearing a face mask will be at your discretion. Having said this, we encourage those not vaccinated to wear a mask and distance appropriately. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available. We are passing the trays during offering, and on communion Sunday's we are passing the trays for you to receive the elements.

Live streaming of the services will continue to be available on our Facebook page for those who would prefer to continue watching from the comfort of your home. If you are unable to view our live streaming and would like access to a recording of the service, please contact Elaine at the office and we will provide a copy of the bulletin, Pastor Mark's sermon, and a recording.

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

Grace's Free Closet is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Stop by to check out our clothing rooms! Please 'like' their Facebook page, Grace's Closet Greencastle or contact Nancy Myers to keep updated on any changes.

Greeters/Ushers are needed on August 15 & 29. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the vestibule.

Information & Directory Updates – Cathy Keefer is composing our new church directory. We are getting closer to having this project finished. Once completed you will receive a copy of the new directory to help each of us stay connected and support our church family. Contact Cathy Keefer or call the church office for further details.

Volunteers are needed to help run the camera during service for live streaming our worship on Facebook. It's easy to learn! Please see Steve Miller for further details!

GUCC Website: Please look us up on the web to see the history of our church! You can download our weekly worship programs and our newsletters, Grace Notes from the website at: <https://www.graceuccgreencastle.com>

Facebook: Please join our Facebook page to keep updated on activities and connect with others in the community. The live streaming of our worship services will continue to be available to view on our Facebook page, Grace United Church of Christ. Please comment or say hello on our live stream so we know you are watching with us! You can find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/>

We have a few **Upper Room** daily devotional brochures for July/August available. Please pick up a copy after today's worship. They are located on the table in the vestibule and by the elevator area.

Extra copies of our newsletter, **Grace Notes**, are available on the table in the vestibule and by the elevator area. Members and guests are welcome to take home a copy today

Church Weeding – We need your help to keep our flower beds at the front entrance of the church looking beautiful. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the front vestibule to lend a hand to help us weed and trim! We know it's not easy, especially on a hot day, but your help is greatly appreciated!

Weeding Schedule: Week of July 25 – Jim Thomas

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, July 25, 10am:

Greeters/Ushers: Sydnae Vanner & Jim Thomas **Reader:** Patty Stepler