

**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

**Wisdom Calls**  
**Service Prayers for the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 12, 2021**

**Scripture Lessons**  
*Mark 8:27-30; James 3:1-12*

**WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE**

**WELCOME**

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.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Mark 8:27-30)

Jesus asks the disciples:  
**"Who do people say I am?"**

They answer,  
"Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah;  
and others say one of the prophets."  
But Jesus presses them:  
**"Who do *you* say I am?"**

Peter answers,  
"You are Christ—God's anointed one, God-with-us!"  
Now Jesus pushes *us*:  
**"What about you?"**  
**Here, in this moment, in this community,**  
**Who do you say I am?"**

Where do we find the wisdom to answer?

**\*PRAISE SONG**

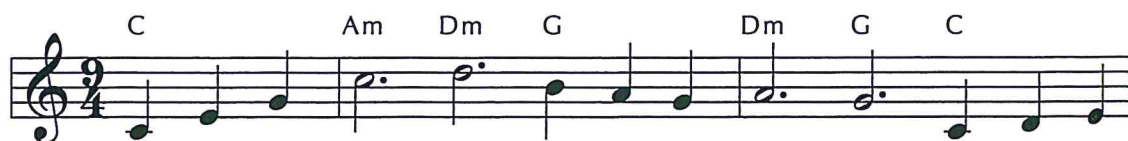
**Morning Has Broken**

**# 664**

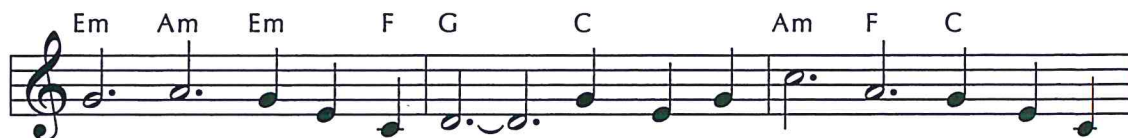


## Morning Has Broken

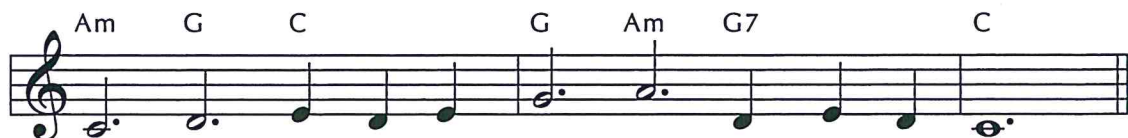
664



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Holy Wisdom of God, You call to us from the depths of our hearts,  
where we long for connection with You and with one another.**

**You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods,  
where human pain and possibility are most urgent.**

**You call to us from our sacred stories,  
where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, and comfort.**

**Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope,  
and help us see with Your eyes.**

**Lead us to create a beloved community  
where Christ Jesus is at the center.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Christ calls on us to "lose our life in order to save it";  
to "take up our cross and follow" in Christ's ways of justice,  
healing, and peace.**

**Like the disciples before us, we are often amazed and  
overwhelmed by this command.**

**Forgive us when we close our ears and hearts to such a  
challenge and such risk.**

*(SILENCE)*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**God's words and actions are never careless;**

**In sending Jesus Christ to the world,**

**God offers a model and a companion.**

**Jesus is a source of ever-flowing love, acceptance, and wisdom.**

**In Christ we are forgiven all our failings, and given strength to start again.**

**Thanks be to God!**

**WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS**



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

### **WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER**

#### **James 3:1-12**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we  
who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect,  
able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.

If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies.

Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are  
guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!

And the tongue is a fire.

The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body,  
sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell.

For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been  
tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil,  
full of deadly poison.

With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the  
likeness of God.

From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.

My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water?

Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs?

No more can salt water yield fresh.

### **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 TO OFFERING**

The psalmist declares,  
"The heavens are telling the glory of God.  
Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge."  
Let us share our gifts  
so that we can also declare God's glory too!

**\*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**

**All-knowing God, teach us to use these gifts (and all the gifts  
we have been given) to create greater access, insights, and  
wisdom for Your people.**

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

Let us ponder the challenge of Jesus this week:  
--Who do we say Christ is in our lives, our community, our world?  
Let Holy Wisdom shine through all our pondering and living.  
**May God help us to serve our Risen Savior by serving others.  
Amen.**

**\*PRAISE SONG**

**O Jesus, I Have Promised**

**# 724**





## 724 O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;  
 2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near:  
 3 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,  
 4 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;  
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;  
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,  
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.  
 but, Je - sus, draw thou near - er and shield my soul from sin.  
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.  
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Written to highlight the promises made by the author's daughter and two sons at their confirmation, this text equally well recalls the promises of discipleship made in Baptism and in the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. The tune was written for a text now unused.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Wisdom Calls: Service Prayers for the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** was written by the Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.



Copyright 2021, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.



Copyright 2021 CCLI #2992794, 17205 SE Mill Plain Blvd., Suite 150, Vancouver, WA 98683. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Contributions received week 9/5:**

Regular Offering: \$1625    Communion Offering: \$68  
Loose Change Offering: \$7  
Building Fund: \$70    Roof Repair Fund: \$10

**Sunday Worship Attendance for 9/5:** In-House: 42    Facebook Viewers: 2



*Pastor Emeritus*

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



## **GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

128 E. Baltimore Street - PO Box 448 - Greencastle, PA 17225

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka      Cell Phone: (717) 504-2923

Church Office: (717) 597-2983

Email: [officegucc@gmail.com](mailto:officegucc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.graceuccgreencastle.com](http://www.graceuccgreencastle.com)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/](http://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/)

### **Church Announcements for Week of September 12, 2021**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Ed & Gladys Doyle

We welcome everyone to our outdoor worship and church picnic! We will not have live streaming of our services today, as the worship is being held at Jerome King Playground under the Nelson pavilion by the band shell.

We continue to keep some safety measures in place for your health. Wearing a face mask will be at your own discretion. We encourage those not vaccinated to wear a mask and distance appropriately. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available at church entrances. We are passing the offering trays, and on communion Sunday's we are passing the element trays.

Live streaming of the services will continue to be available on our Facebook page for those who would prefer to watch from the comfort of your home, with the exception of our outdoor service held on Sept 12, it will not be live streamed. 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.



**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!

**Grace's Free Closet** needs volunteers! Help is needed to sort, tag, greet and help monitor and clean the downstairs room. The Closet is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am till 12:30pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the front vestibule if you can offer any free time. Please see Nancy Myers if you have further questions.

**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 bi-monthly newsletters from our website.

**Grace United Church of Christ Facebook:** Please like our Facebook page to keep updated on church activities and connect with others in the community. You can join us at 10am to watch the live streaming of our worship service. Please comment or say hello on our live stream so we know you are watching with us. No live streaming during our outside worship on Sept 12.

**Church Weeding** – We need your continued help weeding our front flower beds through the end of the fall season. Please see the sign-up sheets on the table in the front vestibule to lend a hand! We know it's not easy, especially on a hot day, but your help is greatly appreciated!

**Thank you** to Steven Miller for helping with the church weeding last week!

**Weeding Schedule:** Week of Sept 19 – Jim Thomas  
Week of Sept 26 – open

**Communion Servers** are needed for October 3. Please call the church office if you are available to help serve the elements or see the sign-up sheet on the table in the front vestibule.

**Greeters/Ushers** are needed for October 10 and October 31. Please see sign-up sheet on the table in the vestibule or call the church office if you can volunteer.

**Reader** is needed for worship on October 10. Please call the church office if you can volunteer or see the sign-up sheet on the table in the vestibule.

There are just a few large print copies of **The Upper Room** brochures still available. Members or guests are welcome to take home a copy. They are located on the table in the vestibule or by the elevator area.

**Chancel Choir** – Please join us for choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, 7:15pm, in the Sanctuary. We welcome new members and would love to hear you sing! Contact Patty Stepler with any further questions.

**Called to Care Committee** – Our next training meeting will be held on September 15, from 6-6:30pm, in the social hall, and will continue each Wednesday evening through the end of October. *Called to Care* is a program designed by the UCC to help us be *better trained* in care giving and visitations. It is also a way for the church to be *better organized* to meet the needs of the congregation as they arise. If you missed the first class last week, you are still welcome to join us!

**Autumn Bible Study** – The next bible study is being held on September 15, and will continue on Wednesday evenings, in the Chapel, from 6:30-7:10pm, through the end of October. The resource we are using is called *Mark: 20 Studies for Individuals or Groups* and is written by N.T. Wright and it is part of the “N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides.” The book can be purchased new on Amazon for about \$10. The first session was last week, but you can still join us!

**Grace Snyder Circle** will be meeting on Monday, September 13, at 1pm, in the social hall.

**Consistory & Committee Reports** - Please submit all reports for August to the church office by Monday, September 13, to allow us time to put the agenda packet together for the board meeting.

**Consistory Board Meeting** is scheduled for September 19, at 8:30am, in the social hall. The agenda packets will be sent out via Email once all reports are received.

Our Sept/Oct issue of **Grace Notes** can be downloaded from our website. A few extra copies are available in the vestibule and elevator area for guests and others to pick-up after worship service.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Worship Volunteers for Sunday, September 19, 10am:**

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

**Reader:** Tony Homer

