

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

Church, New Each Moment
October 24, 2021
The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Lessons:
Jeremiah 31:7-9 and Psalm 126 • Hebrews 7:23-28 • Mark 10:46-52

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video
More Than Enough For Tomorrow
-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

**Allegro from Organ Concerto No. 15
-Walther/Norris**

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Jeremiah 31:7-9*)

Sing aloud with gladness:
God is gathering God's people in!

From the farthest parts of the earth, God calls his people home.
Those who are weeping, God will console;

Those who get lost...can find a clear path home.
Let us worship the God who gathers us in!

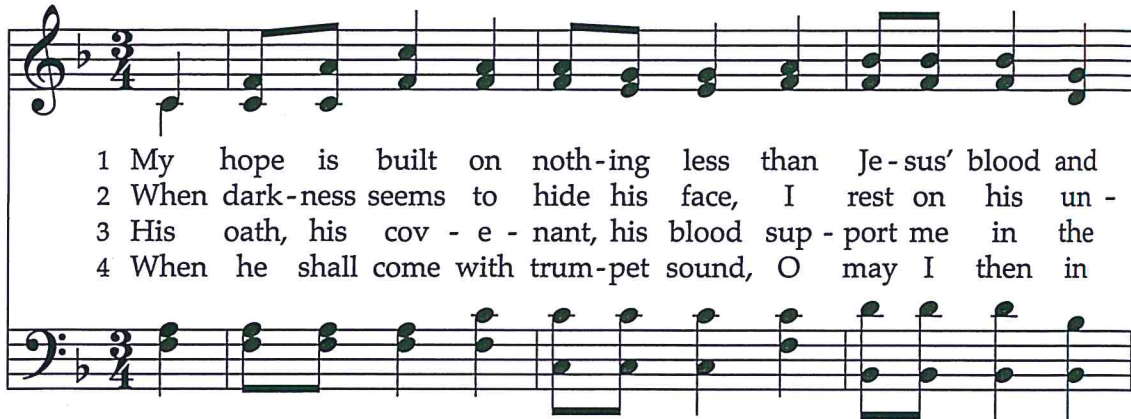
***PRAISE SONG**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

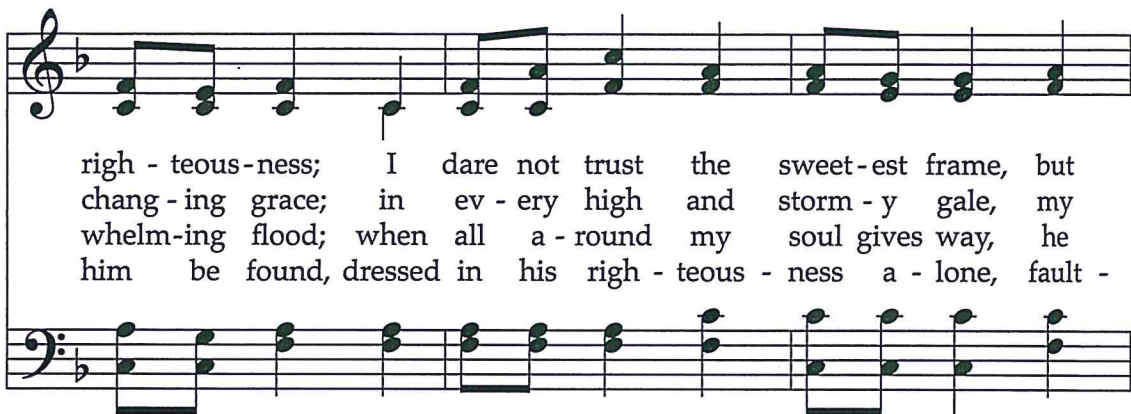
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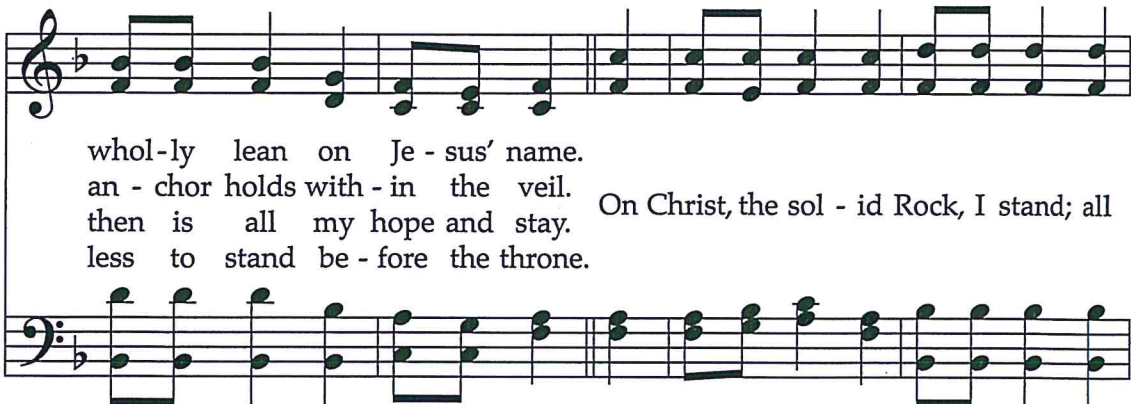
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 353



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un-
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in



righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain


whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24-27/Luke 6:47-49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.

INVOCATION

**Ever-calling God,
We give thanks that You have gathered us into Your church today
and grace us with Your faithful presence.**

**We ponder our history, ancient and still developing,
and marvel at the many expressions of Your church.**

**Grant us the vision to be a part of this new moment in Your Church
that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world.**

**Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us,
into Jesus' vision and dream
that Your faithful people may be one in You.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we want to be a church open to Your transforming love,
yet cling to comfortable ways:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!

When we want to honor Your "still speaking voice," but are fearful of
insights which challenge us and our assumptions:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!

When we want to live into Jesus' dream of oneness,
but fail to listen to voices of difference:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!

O Lord, help our unbelief!

(Moment of Silence and Reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Take heart, get up; Jesus is calling to us!
We trust in the One who has guided the church for two millennia.

Through Christ, God forgives us our failings,
and continues to call us into a community of love and forgiveness.

Thanks be to God!

WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS

SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 31:7-9

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hebrews 7:23-28

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number,
because they were prevented by death from continuing in office;
but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself.

For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Old Time Religion Medley -Hayes



WE ASK GOD TO OPEN THE BIBLE TO US

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth,
he began to shout out and say,
"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly,
"Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here."

And they called the blind man, saying to him,
"Take heart; get up, he is calling you."
So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?"
The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."

Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well."
Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

Our ancestors in faith and church-building
show us the way to share the gifts God has given us
with the whole community.
Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God
with heartfelt gratitude, commitment and praise.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

**Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen
-Traditional spiritual/Kim**

***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**

**Transform our lives, O God,
and let these gifts change the world into which we send them.
Take them and multiply them...
to be a blessing of justice and peace
in the world You love!
Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

***BENEDICTION**

(Based on Philippians 4:7)

May the peace of God which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
May God be with you till we meet again.
Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

418



418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for
 you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!
 You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,
 Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Festive Proclamation -Krug



A New Reformation: Service Prayers for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost, was written by the Rev. Bonnie Tarwater of San Diego, CA. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.



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Contributions received week of 10/17:

Regular Offering: \$506 Loose Change Offering: \$80
Organ Fund: \$40 Roof Fund: \$100

Sunday Worship Attendance for 10/17: In-House 25 Facebook Viewers: 1



Pastor Emeritus

The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, 1967-1995



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Church Announcements for Week of October 24, 2021

Greeters/Ushers: Sydnae Vanner & Jim Thomas

Reader: Nancy Myers

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. 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.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with our spaghetti dinner fundraiser and thank you to everyone who purchased a meal to help support our church programs!

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!

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.

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'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. Grace's Closet thanks everyone for their generous donations. We not accepting donations at this time as we are fully stocked. We have been working on cleaning out the downstairs room as it is being converted to a seasonal room for holiday items. Please stop by and shop with us! Contact Nancy Myers if you have further questions.

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.

Chancel Choir – Please join us for choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, at 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 final training session will be held this Wednesday, October 27, from 6-6:30pm, in the social hall. We thank everyone who attended to help us be *better trained* in care giving and visitations. We hope everyone learned from these meetings to be *better organized* to help meet the needs of our congregation as they arise.

Autumn Bible Study – Our final bible study is being held this coming Wednesday, October 27, in the Chapel, from 6:30-7:10pm. We thank everyone who joined us.

First Saturday Free Thanksgiving Community Meal – GUCC will be hosting a free holiday community meal on Saturday, November 6, from 11-1pm. Menu includes turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, yams, corn, dessert choices of various pies and cakes, and a bottle of water. This meal will be take-out only. Volunteers are needed to help bake the desserts, and post flyers around town. If any members need a meal delivered, or you can help volunteer, please contact Chet Nye or call the church office to make arrangements.

Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 4.

Annual Apple Dumpling Fundraiser – We are now taking pre-orders for our apple dumplings. Cost is \$4 each. Order forms and boxes to accept orders can be found on the table in the front vestibule and by the elevator area. You can also drop off orders during the week at the church office. Deadline for pre-orders is November 15, at 12 noon. Pre-orders will be available for pick-up on November 19, between 3-6pm, in the social hall. Extras will be placed on sale on November 20 in the front of the church starting at 8:30am until they are sold out. Cash or checks (with photo ID) are due at time of pick-up. You can make checks payable to GUCC. Any questions, contact church office at (717) 597-2983 or Marg Stouffer at (717) 860-7935.

Volunteers are Needed for November & December to Greet/Usher, Read scriptures and prepare and serve the elements for Communion. Please see the sign-up sheets on the table in the front vestibule.

Municipal Elections are being held in our social hall on November 2, from 7am to 8pm. The commissioners' office will be supplying the poll workers with masks and disinfectant supplies to be used on Election Day for everyone's safety.

The Upper Room daily devotional guides for Nov-Dec are now available. Pick up your free copy after service today. Pocket and large print sizes are both available on the front table in the vestibule and by the elevator area.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, October 31, 10am:

Greeters/Ushers: Lorna Thomas & Jean Rice

Reader: Patty Stepler

