

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
Guest Soloist: David Reeder
Ministers: All Those Present

Order of Worship for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 14
August 7, 2022

Scripture Lessons
Genesis 15:1-6 | Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 | Luke 12:32-40

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.**

PRELUDE MUSIC

Prelude in C from "Well-Tempered Clavichord"
-J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

God our Creator resides in the midst of creation...calling us to worship.

Our world waits for the Holy One, our help and shield.

God our Righteousness gazes upon the beloved creation with delight and concern.

Our bodies wait for the Holy One, our help and shield.

The Spirit of the Living God greets us daily with fresh winds and new mercies.

Our souls wait for the Holy One, our help and shield. Let us worship God!

*PRAISE SONG

God of Grace and God of Glory #307



PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Abundant God, we wait for You with longing, hope, and anticipation.

May your kingdom be realized in this community.

May we (your people) be Your ambassadors in this world.

May Your love be our propeller in the world.

May Your Light guide us and all others home.

Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND TRANSFORMATION

Gracious God, You have created a world of abundance and flourishing.

Every resource, every gift, every product originates from the generosity of Your creation and the creativity You have bestowed upon us.

Forgive us for misuse and overuse of Your gifts.

We confess our attitudes of scarcity and fear...even in a world of such abundance.

Have mercy on our short-sightedness and lack of trust in You.

(silence it kept)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND GRACE

Every good and perfect gift comes from above.
Grace is such a gift; mercy is another.
Transformation and new life descend freely from the Most High
to all who would receive it.
Receive the assurance of God's grace as a precious treasure made available
to all who seek it.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Soloist – David Reeder

"The Holy City" – Weatherly and Adams

"To Where You Are" – Marx and Thompson

WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 15:1-6 Please open to Old Testament, page 14

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Please open to New Testament, pages 273-274

WE ASK GOD TO OPEN THE BIBLE TO US

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

Luke 12:32-40 Please open to New Testament, page 91

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

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

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Luke 12:34 informs us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
May our hearts direct the use of our resources, our time, and our talents.
May our generosity meet God's abundance in attending to the needs and hopes
of our community.

(Please sign the attendance pads found in the pews,
and pass the top sheet to be collected during offering.)

OFFERTORY MUSIC

**Blessed Assurance
-Knapp/Hayes and Wagner**

***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 AND THANKSGIVING

**Generous God, receive the gifts we bring as we return a portion of your
treasure to the use of Your kingdom.
May Your will be manifested through the sharing of these offerings.
Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION LITURGY

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God be with you.
And also with you.

Open your hearts to God, followers of Jesus.
We open them, so the Light of Love can shine through us.

People of God, give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is our greatest joy and honor to praise God.

You called the heavens and the earth out of the deep emptiness of chaos:
soft breezes caressing our cheeks,
songbirds caroling Your glory,
children stomping through mud puddles -
all that we see, hear, and feel
have sprung from Your imagination, Creating God.

All that You thought, dreamed, and wondered...was made for us
that we might live with You in peace and joy.

But we didn't receive Your love well.
Instead, we reached out for wealth and power,
those false idols who enticed us
even as they ensnared us with their lies.

So, You sent the prophets
to remind us of Your vision for us, and to assure us of Your hope for us.
But we took no delight in their words.

Then, your Word took on flesh and came to us as Jesus the Christ,
to summon us out of the empty lives we had created for ourselves. Glory be to You.

Therefore, we gather with Your faithful ones,
in this time and in this place,
joining our voices with the heavenly choirs
who sing of Your love and grace:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God the Creator!
The mountains sing your praises,
the valleys echo your glory.**

**We welcome the One who comes in Your name,
who comes to call us to life.**

Holy are You, God of infinite imagination,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son,
our Hope, our Lord and Savior.
He should have been clothed
in royal robes of purple and gold,
but put on the uniform of a condemned prisoner,
so we could be clothed in Your grace.

He should have been given every honor the world has,
but was cursed
so we might receive Your blessings.

He should have had a long and healthy life,
but was put to death at an early age,
so we might live forever with You.

Remembering that is not our words which save us,
but Your Word of beauty and love;
remembering that it is not our achievements that matter,
but our hope in Jesus Christ which assures us of Your love,
we celebrate that mystery we call faith:

**Lord Jesus, You call us to:
open our eyes...that we may see You,
open our souls...that we may seek You,
open our hearts...so we may want to follow You.**

God of Gentleness:
pour out Your Holy Spirit upon these, Your simple gifts,
which become the Bread of Heaven
and the Cup of Salvation for us.

As we taste the goodness of Christ,
and let his brokenness heal us,
may our eyes be opened
to the oppression and injustices in the world.

As the rich wine of hope and joy refreshes our hearts and souls,
may we be ready
to share all we have been given,
to speak up for the voiceless,
to gather the lost into our family.

And when all time has stopped moving
and all the faithful have been gathered,
when we sit down at the feast prepared for all,
we will join hands to sing
the eternal anthem of Your vision
of hope and peace for all creation,
proclaiming forever and ever Your glory:
God in Community, Holy in One.
Amen.

Distribution of the Elements

(All will partake together at the cue of the pastor.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR COMMUNION

Let us pray

**We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table
where we have known the presence of Christ
and have received all Christ's gifts.**

**Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and let us show forth Your praise in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

***BENEDICTION**

May we live in the abundance of God's treasure,
spreading the love and peace of Christ wherever you go...all to the glory of God.
Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee #738



POSTLUDE MUSIC

Trumpet Tune -Fischer/Wolff



Treasures in Heaven: Service Prayers for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost were written
by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.
Communion liturgy written by Thom M Shuman, taken from
www.lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com
Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.



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Contributions Received on 7/31:

Regular Offering: 843 / Loose Change: \$10

Communion Offering: \$1

Sunday Worship Attendance 7/31:

In-House: 41 / Facebook Viewers: 3



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 August 7, 2022

Communion Servers: Cathy Keefer & Jean Rice

Greeters/Ushers: Chet Nye & Mildred Minnich

Reader: Lorna Thomas

We welcome David Reeder, our guest soloist for this special Old Home Week worship service. Welcome David!

Refreshments & Fellowship will be held following today's service in our fellowship hall. Everyone welcomed to join us.

Our Condolences to Marley Walck and the family, as her beloved husband, Bud, passed away. Funeral services will be held on Monday, August 8, at 11am, at the Harold Zimmerman & Son Funeral Home, in Greencastle, where Pastor Mark will officiate. The family will receive friends on Sunday, August 7, from 2-4pm and one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Attendance Pads are located in each pew. We ask everyone who attends worship to please sign and pass the top sheet to be collected during offering.

Chancel Choir – There are no more choir anthems or rehearsals until September. Please contact Patty Stepler for further information.

New Church Email – We are transitioning over to a new email address. Please add our new email address to your contacts and send all correspondences to our new address of: gucc128@outlook.com

Sept/Oct issues of the **Upper Room** daily devotional brochures are now available. They are located on the table in the vestibule & elevator area.

275th Anniversary Planning Committee will be meeting on August 14, at 9am, in the social hall.

Live Streaming of our services will continue to be available on our Facebook page. If you can't make it to worship or you're on vacation, please try to join us on Facebook. If you are unable to view our live streaming, please contact Elaine at the office and we will provide you with a copy of the bulletin.

Grace United Church of Christ Facebook: Please like our Facebook page to keep updated on our church activities and connect with others in the community. You can join us weekly, at 10am on Sundays 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.

Volunteers are needed to help run the camera during service for live streaming our worship on Facebook. It's easy to learn! Please contact Steve Miller or church office 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, bi-monthly newsletters, or make a donation from our website.

Grace's Free Closet is opened Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. We are accepting gently used clothing and summer decor items for our seasonal room located downstairs. They have a current need for men's short sleeve button down shirts. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions or if you can volunteer your time to help sort, clean and greet visitors.

Consistory and Committee Reports for June & July are due to the church office by Monday, August 8th. Please note, the agenda packets will be sent out by this Friday, August 11, a week earlier, due to church office being closed the week of August 14.

Consistory Board Meeting is scheduled for August 21st, at 8:30am, in the social hall.

Church Office will be closed the week of August 14th.

Newsletter Deadline this Week – All members, committee leaders and chairpersons are welcomed to submit any information to share with the congregation in our upcoming Sept/Oct issue of Grace Notes. Please submit your articles to the church office by **August 11**.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, August 14, 10am:

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Myers & Mildred Minnich

Reader: Nancy Myers