

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

March 19, 2023 Order of Worship:
Lord's Day 12 of the Heidelberg Catechism: Q&A 31, 32
Scriptures: I Corinthians 12:1-13, Mark 1:1-13

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

VIDEO

The Wonder of Christ -by The Skit Guys

MISSION STATEMENT

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

**All: 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

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life -Praetorius/Page

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The earth is the Lord's, for He made it:

All: Come, let us adore him.

Leader: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

All: Come, let us adore him.

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

All: Come, let us adore him.

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

All: And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

***PRAISE SONG**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory #213



***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Leader: O God, who created us in love, create us anew in love.

O Jesus Christ, who redeemed this world in love, reclaim our hearts.

O Holy Spirit, who moves this world toward its God-appointed end, move within us.

All: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION (based on Q&A 37)

Leader: During his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained (in his body and soul)
the anguish of God towards the sin of the whole human race.

In response to Jesus' loving sacrifice, let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Most Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved You with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your
will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name.**

(silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on Q&A 21)

Leader: The righteousness of God comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

By faith, I have a deep-rooted assurance...that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,

I have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation.

This promise is to me...and to all who believe.

All: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES

I Corinthians 12:1-13 Please open to New Testament, pages 211-212

Mark 1:1-13 Please open to New Testament, page 42

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

All: Thanks be to God!

CHOIR ANTHEM

Were You There In Gethsemane? -Leibergen



Lord's Day 12 of the Heidelberg Catechism: Q&A 31 and 32

(Leader will read questions, **ALL** will read answers)

Question 31: Why is he called Christ, that is, the Anointed?

**Answer 31: Because he has been ordained by God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption;
and also our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of his body has redeemed us, and who continually intercedes for us before the Father;
and also our eternal King, who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the redemption gained for us.**

Question 32: Why are you called a Christian?

**Answer 32: Because I am a member of Christ by faith and thus share in his anointing, so that I may as prophet...confess his name,
as priest...present myself as a living sacrifice of thankfulness to him,
and as king...fight with a free and good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and hereafter reign with him eternally over all creatures.**

SERMON

SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS & CELEBRATIONS

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (Please Pray Together)

**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 OFFERING (based on Q&A 86)

Leader: We do good because Christ by his Spirit is renewing us to be like himself,
so that in all our living,
we may show that we are thankful to God for all God has done for us,
and so that God may be praised through us.
Let us receive this morning's offering.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

I Am a Poor, Wayfaring Stranger -African American spiritual/Page

***WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD** (Please Sing Together)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING**

**All: O Mighty One, You have done great things for us, and holy is Your name.
Bless all we offer You—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—that through us
Your grace and love may be made known to this world,
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

***BENEDICTION**

Leader:
Go forth into the world in peace.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast that which is good.
Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.
Help the afflicted.

Show love to everyone.
Love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

#223



***POSTLUDE MUSIC**

Festival for Organ -Mansfield



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Contributions Received Week of 3/12:

Regular Offering: \$817 / Loose Change Offering: \$30

Worship Attendance on 3/12:

In-House: 36 / Online Viewers: 4



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



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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: gucc128@outlook.com Website: www.graceuccgreencastle.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Church Announcements for Week of March 19, 2023

Greeters/Ushers: Lorna Thomas & Carolyn Shoemaker

Reader: Tim Bryan

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be accepted during today's worship service. Extra envelopes and fliers are located on the tables in the vestibule and elevator area.

Greeters & Ushers are still needed for April. Please see the sign-up sheets on the front table in the vestibule. We also need one more **Communion Server** for Sunday, April 2. Thank you.

Refreshment & Fellowship Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the refreshments on the second Sunday each month. Please see the sign-up sheet on the front table in the vestibule or contact Carolyn Shoemaker for further details.

Chancel Choir – Rehearsals are held weekly on Wednesday evenings, at 7:15pm, in the Sanctuary. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please contact Patty Stepler for further information.

Upper Room daily devotional guides for March/April are available on the tables in the vestibule and elevator area. Pick up your free copy after worship service.

Attendance Pads are located at the end of each pew. We ask everyone who attends worship to please sign and pass the top sheet to be collected during offering. If it's found that your booklet is out of sheets, our greeters/ushers can refill your booklet, as extra pads are located on the back ledge in the vestibule.

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.

Grace Church Website: Please look us up on the web to see the history of our church, Moller organ and German Reformed Cemetery! You can download our weekly worship programs, bi-monthly newsletters, or donate from our website.

Live Streaming of our services are available to watch from our Facebook page. If you can't make it to worship or you're out of town, please try to join us on Facebook. Comment 'hello' so we know you are watching with us! 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.

GUCC Scholarship Applications are available. We offer the following three scholarships: 1) **Kathryn Didier Scholarship** which is available to members of GUCC who are pursuing a higher education, 2) **Julie M. Bodes Scholarship** which is available to Greencastle-Antrim High School seniors or high school seniors who belong to GUCC whom are planning on majoring in either the business education or computer science fields, and 3) **Ralph S. Geiman Scholarship** which is available for anyone in the Christian Faith who will be enrolling full time in the Master of Divinity program at the Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster. Applications can be found in the folder placed on the front table in the vestibule. Please take an application for yourself or if you know of somebody who may qualify. All applications are due back to the office by Monday, April 3. Contact Lorna Thomas if you have any further questions.

Lenten Bible Study is being led by Pastor Mark on the Gospel of Matthew. The sessions began on February 22 and will continue till April 5th. They are held on Wednesday evenings with a light meal served at 5:30pm, followed by the bible study from 6-7pm. We are using the N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guide called *Matthew: 25 Studies for Individuals and Groups*. If you missed the first few sessions, you are still welcomed to join us! Contact Marg for any further questions.

We are celebrating 275 years at Grace – Our 275th Anniversary Planning Committee has been working hard on planning events throughout 2023 to celebrate 275 years of serving the Greencastle community. A copy of the recent article printed in the Echo Pilot from February 14th, is located on the table across from the church office for anyone who would like to read it. Pastor Mark is preaching on the Heidelberg Catechism throughout the year.

275th Anniversary Throw – We are selling a commemorative throw to help with the costs of our anniversary events. It has a picture of our church, 275th Anniversary, church name, and dates 1748-2023. It is 48" by 68", red brick and cream in color, and 2 ½ ply. It is on display in the hallway of the church. Order forms are available on the table in the vestibule, by the elevator area, and near the display. Please see Jan Shafer before or after service to purchase a throw, or you can drop off orders at the church office during the week.

Grace's Free Closet is opened this week on Monday and Wednesday, from 9:30am till 12:30pm. Next week, March 27 and 29, they will be closed, as they we will be changing clothing over from winter to spring. We accept clean, gently used clothing and other household donations anytime during our open hours. We could use Easter and spring donations for our seasonal room. Contact Nancy Myers if you have any further questions or if you can volunteer your time to help us sort, clean, tag and greet visitors.

First Saturday Free Meal will be held on April 1, between 11am & 1pm, in the social hall. We will be serving breakfast sandwiches with choice of sunny delight or apple juice and bottled water. Join us for brunch and fellowship or request a take-out container. Contact Lorna or Chet if you would like more information.

Palm Sunday Service with communion will be held on April 2. Chancel Choir is preparing a special Cantata on this day. Loose change offering on Palm Sunday will be donated to the choir.

Day of Prayer will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 6, from 9am to 7pm, followed by Maundy Thursday Service. We need pray vigil volunteers to help keep prayers and meditation going throughout this day, as we try to have continuous prayer time. We encourage everyone to sign-up on the sheets located on the table in the front vestibule and by the elevator area. We ask everyone to enter and exit the church through the side doors by the office during this day of prayer.

Maundy Thursday Worship with communion will begin at 7pm, on Thursday, April 6.

Sunrise Service will be held on **April 9**, at 6am at the German Reformed Cemetery on S. Carlisle Street. This will be followed by a breakfast in the social hall. You can park along the street or the alley toward the back and left side of the cemetery. Please bring a camp chair to sit.

Easter Sunday Service will be held on **April 9**, at 10am, in our sanctuary. Easter flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary in dedication to our loved ones. Those who ordered flowers can pick them up following Easter worship. Contact church office if you have any questions.

Envelope Fundraiser will begin in April. Coming soon, in the main hallway, you will find a red display board with envelopes numbered from 1 to 100. You choose and remove as many envelopes as you wish. Put a check or cash in the envelope to match the number on the outside of the envelope. Return envelopes to the church office or place them in the offering plate on Sundays. Be sure to include your name and offering envelope number on the backside of your envelopes so your donation can be credited. Let's have a little fun with this to benefit our church.

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, March 26, 10am service:

Greeters/Ushers: Tony & Deb Homer

Reader: Tony Homer