

Grace United Church of Christ



May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Celebrant: Rev. Guy Johnson

WE GATHER

*During this Easter worship, we encourage you to know and to remember that this is a **Quiet Meditative Space**, that this is a **Safe and Loving Place, a Sanctuary**, for worship, praise and reflection; and to remember that **'No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You are Welcome Here!***

Prelude - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing - arr. Gilbert Martin

Welcome

Preparing Our Hearts

Ringing of the Bell

Choral Introit - O God, We Do Exalt Your Name - Lloyd Larson

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord, for God has done marvelous things! With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, Divine love has won the victory!

People: The Lord has made salvation known and revealed justice in the sight of the nations.

Leader: Remember God's mercy and faithfulness to all generations. Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.

People: Let the rivers clap their hands, let the hills sing together for joy before the Lord!

Leader: For the Lord is coming to judge the earth with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

People: We gather in joy and thanksgiving, singing praises to our Creator. Let our worship echo the glad songs of creation. Alleluia!

***Opening Hymn** "Blessed Assurance" NCH #473

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. [Refrain]

Our Prayer of Renewal

All: Eternal and Gracious God, who makes the morning rise and the seasons turn, we come before You with hearts open to the renewal of Your Spirit. As we reflect on Your marvelous deeds and the wonders You have revealed, we are moved to sing a new song to You, our Creator and Redeemer. Renew our spirits, O God, that we may embrace the joy of Your salvation. In our worship and our work, let us reflect the justice and peace of Your kingdom. We ask this in the name of all that is holy and life-giving, celebrating the ongoing work of renewal in our lives and in the world. Amen.

Words of Assurance

In the boundless grace of God, know that our failings are forgiven and our shortcomings are swept away, as surely as the dawn dispels the night. Let us embrace this forgiveness with grateful hearts, renewed in spirit and committed to living out God's love and justice in the world.

* Passing of the Peace

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17

Introduction: In today's passage from the Gospel of John, we find Jesus deep in heartfelt conversation with His disciples during the Last Supper. He imparts to them the essential teaching of abiding in His love, just as He abides in the Father's love and sets the stage for how they are to live after He is gone.

We Listen

Children's Moment

Scripture Readings Acts 10:44-48

Introduction: Today's reading from Acts presents a transformative moment in the early church. As Peter speaks to the gathered Gentiles, the Holy Spirit descends upon all who hear the word, demonstrating that God's gift of salvation is available to all, transcending traditional boundaries. This passage invites us to embrace the inclusivity of God's love and the universality of the Spirit's power.

Anthem - If Ye Love Me - Philip Wilby

Sermon: Pastor Guy

We Respond

Pastoral Prayer

Offering - Communion - Juliette Folville

*Doxology (music #780, text #778)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor: Let us hold these offerings of commitment and support for the work of Grace Church;

ALL: Let us bless the offerings on this altar for the good they will do in the world. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Brief Order of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Music during communion - "Prière à Notre-Dame" from *Suite Gothique*- Léon Boëllmann

We Are Sent

Announcements

Closing Prayer (In Unison) May we love God so much that we love nothing else too much; May we fear God enough that we need fear nothing else at all. Let these prayers carry us from here to all the other places we travel in the days to come. Amen.

*Closing Hymn "In Christ There is No East Or West NCH #314

1 In Christ there is no East or West,
in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

3 In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,
and neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God,
and all are kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both East and West,
in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community
throughout the whole wide earth.

Pastoral Blessing for the Journey

Choral Benediction - Jude Benediction - Lloyd Larson

Postlude - In Christ There Is No East or West - arr. Dale Wood

~ The Postlude is still part of our worship; we invite you to sit and quietly reflect as we prepare to depart. ~

THIS WEEK AT GRACE UCC:

Sunday 5/5:	11:00 AM - Worship Service –Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mondays:	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Nar-Anon Meeting
Monday - Saturday:	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA Meeting
Mondays + Wednesdays:	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM AA Meeting
Wednesday 5/8:	7:00 PM - Book Club (zoom)
Thursday 5/9:	7:00 PM—NA (Woman and Children Meeting)
Sunday 5/12:	11:00 AM– Worship Service– Sixth Sunday of Easter

REFUGEE WELCOMING COMMITTEE

In 2024 Grace Church is starting a team to help a refugee family, under the guidance of the Refugee Welcoming Coalition of Frederick (<https://www.rwcfrederick.org/>). The RWC is an alliance of faith communities, civic organizations, and individual volunteers founded in 2021 in recognition of the influx of refugee families who need help establishing themselves in our area. Assistance indeed includes transportation, furnishing household items, and assistance with bureaucracies like school enrollment and health services.

Interested in making a difference? Contact Michael Davies (fluidmosaic@gmail.com) and Missy Moxley.

Until we form our team, you can make donations!

- Certain items are on their Amazon wishlist, for shipping directly to the RWC:
<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/8F1P1KKUOUZH>

- If you wish to donate furniture, or supplies that are in urgent need (shower curtains and bathmats; pillows, sheets and blankets; and almost any type of kitchen supply): please email us at info@rwcfrederick.org to arrange pickup

- To donate cash, you may send a check to **AACF: 45 E. All Saints St., Frederick, MD 21701**, with a note on the memo line that the funds are for RWC.

- Alternatively, you can donate through PayPal on their website,
- <https://rwc.frederick.org>.

Important Announcement !

May 12th– Join us for Mother’s Day with Hot dogs & Ice Cream. We want to Welcome Rev Chance. Sign up sheet for Deserts!

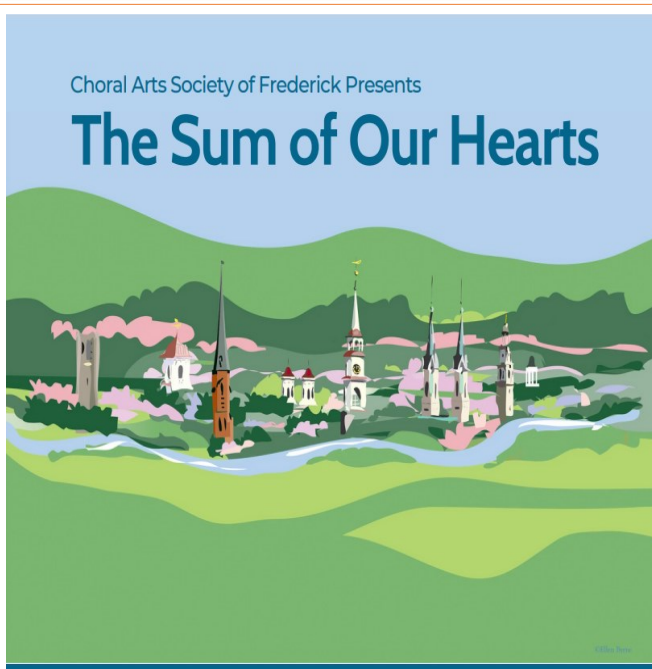
May 19th– Pentecost & Congregation Photo- Wear Red

May 19th– Strengthen the Church Offering

June 16th- Join us for Father’s Day with Hot Dogs & Ice Cream

July 14th– Church Picnic at Mt Tabor in Rocky Ridge, MD. Service at 11am, Lunch will follow.

Save the date for NYC Day Trip on December 11th. Leave Frederick at 6am & return at Midnight. Price: \$80 per person. Seating Limited. Contact: Tonyhemler0@gmail.com or Tricia at admin@grucc.com



May 10 | 7:30 p.m.

May 11 | 3 p.m.

Jack B Kussmaul Theater at FCC
casof.org/tickets



Across 80 seasons, the hearts of many have been touched. Join us for a concert that we hope will truly represent something greater than the sum of our individual parts: the sum of our hearts, conveyed to yours through the power of song as only music can do.

Wesleyan Hymn Festival

Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing!
Sunday, May 19, 2024
5:00 p.m.

Calvary United Methodist Church
131 West 2nd Street
Downtown Frederick
Free and Open to the Public

This collaborative hymn festival will feature Massed Choir and Massed Bell Choir with singers and ringers from numerous Frederick Downtown Churches. All hymns will be accompanied by the newly installed Calvary UMC Pipe Organ

A Free Will Offering will be collected for Literacy Council of Frederick County



Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701

301-662-3312 ~ Office Hours: 9AM-2PM/M-F

Admin@grucc.com ~ www.grucc.com

Celebrant: Rev. Guy Johnson

Director of Music: Nathan Strite

Music@grucc.com

Bell Choir Director: James Taylor

Bells@grucc.com

Children & Youth Ministry: Amy Duray

worshipgraceucc@gmail.com

Nursery Attendant: Joan Princler

Joan.dancer@comcast.net

Custodian: Hunt Hughes

Admin@grucc.com

Church Admin: Patricia Baptiste

Admin@grucc.com

Choir Section Leaders: Anna Kovacsics, James Taylor, & Donald Toms

SUNDAY WORSHIP — 11:00 AM — Virtual and in person

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgist:

Carol Garrison

Children's Message:

Joan Princeler

Children's Church

Liz Tinker

Altar Guild:

Joan Princeler

Greeter:

Carol Garrison

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**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

