

Grace United Church of Christ

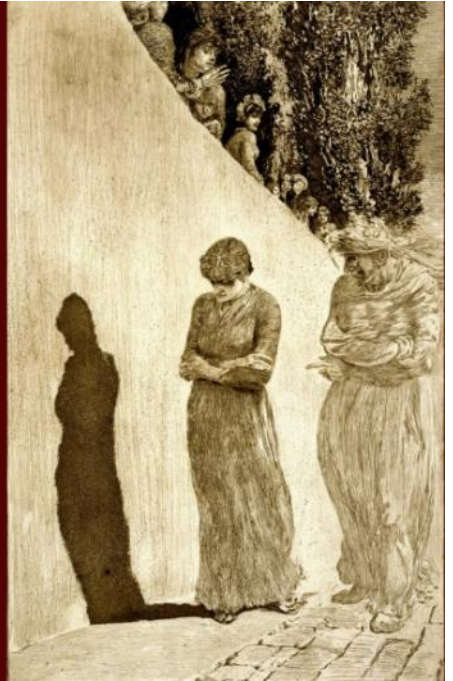
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Worship

Lord,
how often will
my brother
sin against me, and
I forgive him?

Matthew 18:21



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
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We Gather

Prelude "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy", Jonas Dawson
Lizzie S. Tourjee, arr. Ovid Young (2014)

Greeting

Opening Video "What if?"

Call to Worship (based on Mt. 18:21-35)

L: Our Lord God invites into the Kingdom all who seek God's Grace

P: Let us draw near to the One who has redeemed us

L: May God's presence transform us into people of grace and forgiveness.

P: For the Lord has forgiven the multitude of our debts

L: Let us worship our ever-gracious Lord and exalt Christ forever.

Opening Hymn "Praise to the Living God" NCH # 8 (insert)

Opening Prayer

We Listen

First Reading Romans 14:1-12

Special Music "Benediction", Fenton Groden (b. 1982) Jonas Dawson

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35 Rev. Rob Apgar-Taylor

Children's Message

Sermon "Some Restrictions May Apply" Pastor Rob

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Praise to the Living God

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1. Praise to the liv-ing God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myr-iad suns and set the worlds in
flight;
Whose in-fi-nite de-sign, which we but dim-ly see,
Per-vades all na-ture, mak-ing all a cos-mic u-ni-ty.

2. Praise to the liv-ing God, from whom all things de-rive,
Whose Spir-it formed up-on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to e-volve, un-wit-ting, toward God's goal,
Till hu-man-kind stood on the earth, as liv-ing, think-ing souls.

3. Praise to the liv-ing God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our com-mon life, the sa-cred and pro-fane.
God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep with-in the hu-man heart God leads us for-ward still.

4. Praise to the liv-ing God, a-round, with-in, a-bove,
Be-yond the grasp of hu-man mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tu-mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear wit-ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

We Respond

Pastoral Prayers

L: Lord, in your mercy

P: Hear our prayer

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.

We are Sent

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

NCH # 388

1 Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us,
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.

Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance,
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness
and laughter's healing art.

4 God, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
God! Free us, make us one!

Dismissal

Postlude

"Chant Héroïque", George Blake (1986)

Jonas Dawson

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# Daily Bible Readings September 2020

**Tuesday, September 1, 2020:** Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 5:1-6:13; Revelation 3:7-13OR Psalm 17; 2 Samuel 11:27b-12:15; Revelation 3:7-13

**Wednesday, September 2, 2020:** Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 7:14-25; Matthew 12:22-32OR Psalm 17; Jeremiah 17:5-18; Matthew 12:22-32

**Thursday, September 3, 2020:** Psalm 149; Exodus 9:1-7; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21OR Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 24:1-14; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

**Friday, September 4, 2020:** Psalm 149; Exodus 10:21-29; Romans 10:15b-21OR Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 24:15-27; Romans 10:15b-21

**Saturday, September 5, 2020:** Psalm 149; Exodus 11:1-10; Matthew 23:29-36OR Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 33:1-6; Matthew 23:29-36

**Sunday, September 6, 2020: Proper 18 (23)**  
Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149 •  
Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40 •  
Romans 13:8-14 • Matthew 18:15-20

**Monday, September 7, 2020:** Psalm 121; Exodus 12:14-28; 1 Peter 2:11-17OR Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 4:27-31; 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:11-17

**Tuesday, September 8, 2020:** Psalm 121; Exodus 12:29-42; Romans 13:1-7OR Psalm 119:65-72; Deuteronomy 17:2-13; Romans 13:1-7

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020:** Psalm 121; Exodus 13:1-10; Matthew 21:18-22OR Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28; Matthew 21:18-22

**Thursday, September 10, 2020:** Psalm 114; Exodus 13:17-22; 1 John 3:11-16OR Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 37:12-36; 1 John 3:11-16

**Friday, September 11, 2020:** Psalm 114; Exodus 14:1-18; Acts 7:9-16OR Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 41:53-42:17; Acts 7:9-16

**Saturday, September 12, 2020:** Psalm 114; Exodus 15:19-21; Matthew 6:7-15OR Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 45:1-20; Matthew 6:7-15

**Sunday, September 13, 2020: Proper 19 (24)**  
Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 • Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13 • Romans 14:1-12 • Matthew 18:21-35

**Monday, September 14, 2020:** Psalm 77; Joshua 3:1-17; Hebrews 11:23-29OR Psalm 133; Genesis 48:8-22; Hebrews 11:23-29

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020:** Psalm 77; Nehemiah 9:9-15; Romans 14:13-15:2 OR Psalm 133; Genesis 49:29-50:14; Romans 14:13-15:2

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020:** Psalm 77; 2 Kings 2:1-18; Mark 11:20-25 OR Psalm 133; Genesis 50:22-26; Mark 11:20-25

**Thursday, September 17, 2020:** Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 15:22-27; 2 Corinthians 13:1-4 OR Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 1:1, 14-2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:1-4

**Friday, September 18, 2020:** Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:1-21; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10 OR Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 2:3-13; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

**Saturday, September 19, 2020:** Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:22-30; Matthew 19:23-30 OR Psalm 145:1-8; Zephaniah 2:13-15; Matthew 19:23-30

**Sunday, September 20, 2020: Proper 20 (25)**  
Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 •  
Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8 •  
Philippians 1:21-30 • Matthew 20:1-16

**Monday, September 21, 2020:** Psalm 119:97-104; Exodus 16:31-35; Romans 16:1-16 OR Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 27:1-29; Romans 16:1-16

**Tuesday, September 22, 2020:** Psalm 119:97-104; Numbers 11:1-9; Romans 16:17-20 OR Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 28:10-17; Romans 16:17-20

**Wednesday, September 23, 2020:** Psalm 119:97-104; Numbers 11:18-23, 31-32; Matthew 18:1-5 OR Psalm 106:1-12; Isaiah 41:1-13; Matthew 18:1-5

**Thursday, September 24, 2020:** Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Isaiah 48:17-21; James 4:11-16 OR Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 12:17-28; James 4:11-16

**Friday, September 25, 2020:** Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Numbers 20:1-13; Acts 13:32-41 OR Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:5-18; Acts 13:32-41

**Saturday, September 26, 2020:** Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Numbers 27:12-14; Mark 11:27-33 OR Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:19-24; Mark 11:27-33

**Sunday, September 27, 2020: Proper 21 (26)**  
Exodus 17:1-7 and Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 •  
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 and Psalm 25:1-9 •  
Philippians 2:1-13 • Matthew 21:23-32

**Monday, September 28, 2020:** Psalm 42; Exodus 18:1-12; Philippians 1:3-14 OR Psalm 28; Judges 14:1-20; Philippians 1:3-14

**Tuesday, September 29, 2020:** Psalm 42; Exodus 18:13-27; Philippians 1:15-21 OR Psalm 28; Judges 16:1-22; Philippians 1:15-21

**Wednesday, September 30, 2020:** Psalm 42; Exodus 19:9b-25; Matthew 9:2-8 OR Psalm 28; Judges 16:23-31; Matthew 9:2-8



## *Grace United Church of Christ*

July 30, 2020

Dear friends,

Gov. Larry Hogan made an announcement yesterday that Maryland is starting to reverse the progress we made in the fight against Covid-19. Hospitals are seeing a 30% rise in infections. Former GOP presidential candidate Herman Cain just died this morning after attending a public event. Maryland is now mandating masks indoors and outdoors when in crowds.

And so I am writing to let you know that Church Council has voted unanimously NOT to reopen this Sunday as planned. We will continue to stream online as we have been.

We will reevaluate this decision in the near future. As much as we'd all like to be together, it's just not worth risking people's health.

Sorry, everyone! But we have to make the hard decisions so that everyone is safe. We've already lost one church member to Covid. That was one too many.

Be well and stay safe!

Pastor Rob





## *Grace United Church of Christ*

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
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### SUNDAY WORSHIP – 11:00 AM — Virtual

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

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Scripture Reader: ONLINE

Children's Message: N/A

Children's Church: N/A

Altar Guild: N/A

*If you would like to serve as a greeter, or host fellowship time after worship, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Good Shepherd Room.*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

