

Grace United Church of Christ

Be Ready...



Matthew 25:1-13

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 8, 2020
Worship

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We Gather

Prelude "Rejoice in the Lord", Joseph Prentiss Jonas Dawson

Intro Video

Welcome

Ringling of the Bell

Preparing of our Hearts

Call to Worship (based on Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16)

L: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

P: She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.

L: One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.

P: To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,

L: Because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

Opening Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" NCH # 25 (insert)

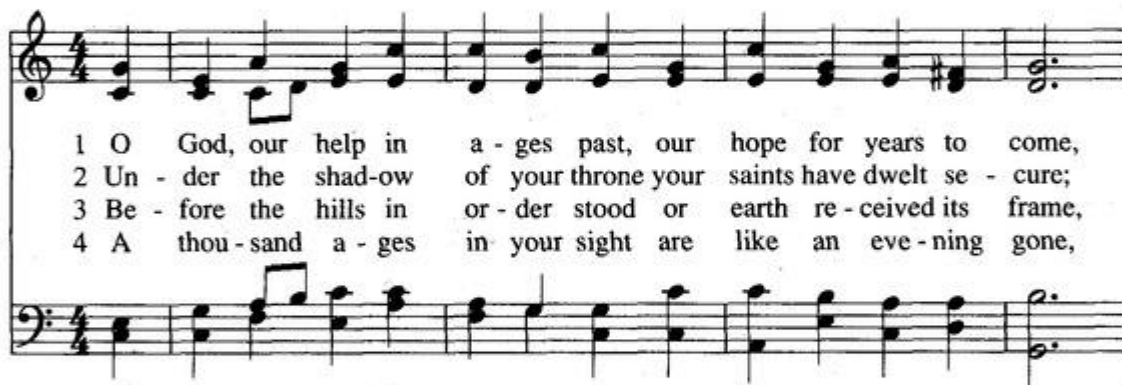
Opening Prayer

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

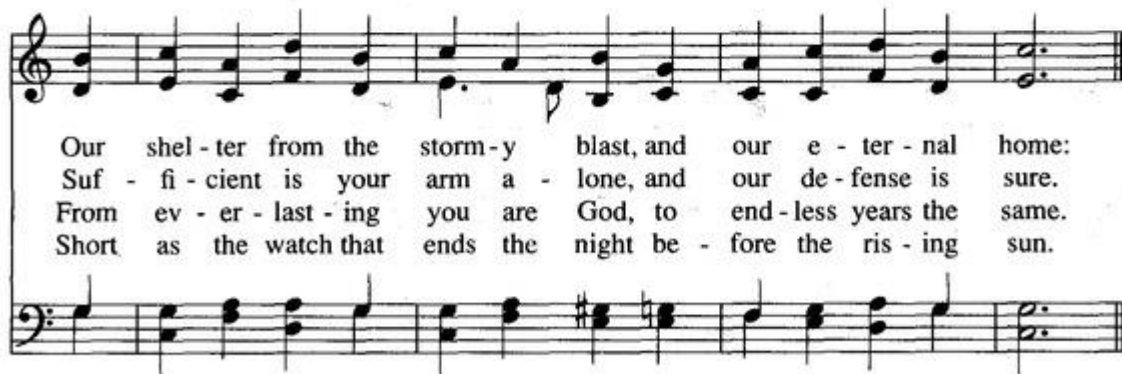
25

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for - got - ten, as a dream
fades at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in a - ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou - bles last,
and our e - ter - nal home!

Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

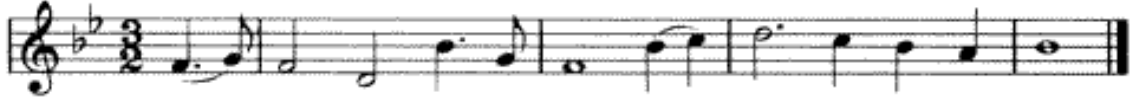
We Listen

First Reading

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Canticle of Covenant Faithfulness (Quarite Dominium)

RESPONSE (General)



Your face, Lord, do I seek. Hide not your face from me.

(Response)

Seek the Lord who now is present, call upon the Lord, who is near,
let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

**let them return that the Lord may have mercy on them;
that our God may abundantly pardon.**

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

**so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

(Response)

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and return not but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

**so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,**

but it shall accomplish that which I intend,
and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

(Response)

Special Music

"Autumn Pastorale", Donald Lee Moore

Jonas Dawson

Gospel

Matthew 25: 1-13

Children's Message

Sermon

"What are your intentions with my Child?" Rev. Rob Apgar-Taylor

We Respond

Pastoral Prayers

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

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

NCH # 122

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Dismissal

Ringing of the bell

Postlude

"Blessing and Honor", Carl Simone

Jonas Dawson

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*Cantor - Taylor Whidden and James Taylor*

### *Singing in Church*

*Please Note: CDC guidelines state that congregational singing is NOT recommended at this time. We are still including hymns (2 verses) as reflection music. You may read the words, enjoy the tune, be in reflective prayer or even lip sync or hum the tune!*

## **Grace goes LIVE!**

Please know that today's service is being live-streamed for those who can not worship with us in person. If you prefer NOT to be in the live stream video, please sit in pews behind the center pillars.

The children's moment will be on camera as well.

If you would like your child NOT to be on camera, please speak to our AV team or an usher.

***(Note: Communion and the offering will NOT be live-streamed for privacy reasons.)***



**The Church Council of Grace United Church of Christ has called the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 15, 2020**, following worship (in-person and virtually).

The Treasurer and Finance and Property Commission will present the **2021 Proposed Budget** for congregational review. The **2019-2020 Annual Report** will be presented along with proposal to make **“Frederick Gives Back”** an independent 501c(3) *outreach of GRUCC* with a separate board of directors.

According to church by-laws; the Annual Report is available two weeks in advance of Annual Meeting as an electronic document via all church email. There are 25 copies in the narthex for those who are attending in-person service.

**Congregational Meeting will be on November 15th after worship as a in-person and virtual meeting. Zoom instructions will be sent out in advance. Boxed lunches will be served. (Please RSVP for lunch.) Donation will be gladly accepted.**

Join us as we approve the Budget and officers for 2021!

Your participation is important! Join us!

**The Nomination of officers for 2021 is as follows:**

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| President:            | Missy Moxley          |
| Vice President:       | Jerry Princler        |
| Secretary:            | Elizabeth Damazo      |
| Treasurer:            | Lloyd Taylor          |
| Administrative:       | Sam Swann (2021)      |
| Congregational Life:  | Tony Hemler (2022)    |
| Property and Finance: | Doris Moxley (2021)   |
| Mission and Outreach: | Mike Davies (2022)    |
| Worship & Education:  | John Brehmer (2022)   |
| At Large:             | Carrie Minnick (2022) |
| At Large:             | Karen Kehoe (2021)    |





**Beloved,**

**LOVE**

Beloved,  
let us love one another,  
because love is from God;  
everyone who loves  
is born of God  
and knows God. 1 John 4:7

**L**ove is a verb. Not simply a feeling or thought. Grounded in God's love for us, we are called to act, to love. 1 John 4:11 puts it this way, "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." We take seemingly small actions to live out God's love. Here's the beautiful thing: together in community, we can change the world.

In 2019, Magnolia United Church of Christ in Seattle, WA, held its inaugural Community in Action Sunday. Determining that 'church in action' was a key to their vitality, instead of holding church worship as on a typical Sunday, they were love in action. Participating in five diverse service projects, the congregants restored habitat at a local park, made blankets for children, helped at their local animal shelter, tended an elder garden at the Native American cultural center, and cleaned up and cleared brush at a homeless encampment.

While average worship attendance runs about 50, that Sunday, over 150 people took part.

## **Beloved, Love your Neighbor.**

*"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world.  
For, indeed, that's all who ever have." - Margaret Mead*



After participating in their service projects, the congregants gathered. The Reverend Marci Scott-Weis, Magnolia UCC minister, commented on her service: “It was messy, chaotic, oozing in vitality and a whole lot of fun to be the church that morning.” She continued, “one girl said to me, ‘That was so much fun, can we do church every week like this?’”

With such positive responses, Magnolia UCC held its second annual Community in 2020. “It was such an amazing morning seeing folks from our congregation and from our community join together to help our neighbors,” Scott-Weis said. “It was fun, crazy busy, church at its best.”

How can you put your love into action? Who would want to join you in that work? How can you have fun doing it? Love is a verb indeed. Our church can be God’s love through our serving and giving. Can you pledge to take part and live God’s love?

## WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

| Annual Income | Monthly Income | Weekly Income | 2%    | 4%    | 6%    | 8%    | 10%   | 15%   |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 16,000        | 1,333          | 308           | 6.00  | 12.00 | 18.00 | 25.00 | 31.00 | 46.00 |
| 20,000        | 1,667          | 385           | 8.00  | 15.00 | 23.00 | 31.00 | 39.00 | 58.00 |
| 25,000        | 2,083          | 481           | 10.00 | 19.00 | 29.00 | 38.00 | 48.00 | 72.00 |
| 30,000        | 2,500          | 577           | 12.00 | 23.00 | 35.00 | 46.00 | 58.00 | 87.00 |
| 35,000        | 2,917          | 673           | 13.00 | 27.00 | 40.00 | 54.00 | 67.00 | 101   |
| 40,000        | 3,333          | 769           | 15.00 | 31.00 | 46.00 | 62.00 | 77.00 | 115   |
| 45,000        | 3,750          | 865           | 17.00 | 35.00 | 52.00 | 69.00 | 87.00 | 130   |
| 50,000        | 4,167          | 962           | 19.00 | 38.00 | 58.00 | 77.00 | 96.00 | 144   |
| 60,000        | 5,000          | 1,154         | 23.00 | 46.00 | 69.00 | 92.00 | 115   | 173   |
| 75,000        | 6,250          | 1,442         | 29.00 | 58.00 | 87.00 | 115   | 144   | 216   |
| 100,000       | 8,333          | 1,923         | 38.00 | 77.00 | 115   | 154   | 192   | 288   |
| 125,000       | 10,417         | 2,404         | 48.00 | 96.00 | 144   | 192   | 240   | 361   |



## *Grace United Church of Christ*

*Good News!!! At the beginning of the month, Gov Larry Hogan announced that Maryland was moving into Phase 3 of the pandemic response. Grace Council decided to wait a few weeks and see if there was a rise in numbers after Labor Day. Well, it seems stable at the moment, so beginning September 27th, we opened for in-person worship. Covid precautions are still in place, but please do join us as you feel comfortable. Live Streaming is NOT going away. You will be able to worship via our youtube channel from now on. (But we still want to see your pretty little face - as grandma used to say!)*

*What to expect when you return to worship in person?*

*CDC guidelines will be followed:*

- 1. There will be a welcome table in the narthex. Your temperature will be taken, there will be hand sanitizer and masks available as well. Masks are required. If you don't have one, we will happily give you one!*
- 2. Prayers will NOT be spoken aloud during worship. We cant use a common mic and passing prayer cards is not advised. There will be a prayer list in the narthex. If you have a prayer need either text it to the prayer number on the screen or add it to the comments on YouTube. You may also write your prayers on the prayer sheet in the narthex before worship each week. There are 2 baskets of pens: please take a fresh pen from the basket and put it in the USED PENS basket when you are finished. Pens are sanitized after worship.*
- 3. Seats will be socially distanced. Families may of course sit together. )Just don't sit in the pews that are taped off and you'll be fine. It'll be obvious.)*
- 4. Passing of the peace will not be physical; Instead, give a smile, a nod, a respectful bow of the head or an exuberant wave.*
- 5. Hymns will NOT be sung by the congregation. A cantor will sing the hymns so we can enjoy the words. If you'd like to participate, please mouth the words or hum along!*
- 6. Ushers will be releasing people row by row as worship ends. Please just leave the building without congregating together. We need to minimize in person contact. Pastor Rob will NOT be at the door greeting people.*
- 7. The bathrooms and building are sanitized prior to each service. There are hand sanitizer stations outside the bathrooms. Rubber gloves are there as well if anyone prefers to use those to touch the faucets, etc...
  - a. Trashcans are outside the bathroom so people can use a paper towel to flush or close the door and then dispose of the towel in the trash can.**

*I know it sounds like a lot, but it's really fine and we will navigate these new waters with ease!  
We are Grace Church! We can do it with ease!*

*~ Pastor Rob +*



## *Grace United Church of Christ*

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
25 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701  
301-662-3312 ~ Office Hours: 9AM-3PM/M-F  
[admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com) ~ [www.grucc.com](http://www.grucc.com)

Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor, Pastor

[pastorrob@grucc.com](mailto:pastorrob@grucc.com)

Jessica Townsley, Youth Minister

Jonas Dawson, Director of Music

[music@grucc.com](mailto:music@grucc.com)

James Taylor, Bell Choir Director

[bells@grucc.com](mailto:bells@grucc.com)

Taylor Whidden, Jennie Huntoon, Donald Toms, James Taylor

Choir Section Leaders

Joan Princler, Nursery Attendant

[joan.dancer@comcast.net](mailto:joan.dancer@comcast.net)

Mat Lutman, Caretaker

[trainhouse13@gmail.com](mailto:trainhouse13@gmail.com)

Sarah Petermann, Church Admin

[admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com)

### 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**

