

Grace United Church of Christ



The Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024

11:00am

THEME: "God's Promise of Hope – A New Covenant"

We Gather

*During this morning 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 More than that, we invite you to be engaged in the Spiritual Ministries of Grace Church!***

Prelude - Beneath the Cross of Jesus - arr. Dale Wood

Welcome

Preparing Our Hearts

Ringling of the Bell

Introit - I Sing as I Arise Today - text originally attributed to St. Patrick; music, David Hurd

***Call to Worship**

Pastor: Let us declare from the beginning this morning:

ALL: God's love for our world is strong and true and whole.

Pastor: Given the strength and the truth of God's love for us, even this very moment,

ALL: By our gathering here we seek to live into and share this love.

Pastor: As we come near the end of our Lenten journey,

ALL: May we live ever more fully into God's love, even in times of heart-break and hardship in our lives.

Pastor: Let us sing of God's love for the world –

SING: *And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And Through eternity, I'll sing on.* **ALL:** **May our Lenten Spiritual Journey lead us to the hope of God's forgiving love.**

***Opening Hymn - "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" # 190**

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I gladly take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty Rock
within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burden of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus
With-in my mind I see
the very dying form of One,
who suffered there for me:
and from my grieving heart with tears two wonders I confess,
the wonders of Christ's glorious love
and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of Christ's face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss;
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Lessons: Jeremiah 31:31-34 and John 12:20-33

Hebrew Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34 – Introduction

Leading up to our text for this morning, Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 31-34: We have the return and restoration of the exiles from Israel and Judah. Jeremiah promises the joyful return to their homeland. In our text today, the prophet presents a “new covenant.” Listen to Jeremiah's promise:

Gospel Lesson: John 12:20-33 – Introduction: John tells the story of “some Greek's” who come to speak with Jesus. In fact, this is part of John’s version of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This is a very different telling of the story from the story in the other three gospels. Listen to a reading from John:

Children’s Moment

Anthem - Kyrie Eleison - Dana Mengel

Sermon: “Jeremiah’s Hope – Our Hope”

We Respond

Pastoral Prayer

ALL: 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.

Offering - Largo - Jean-Marie Leclair, ed. and arr. by S. Drummond Wolff

***Doxology** (Music #780 & Lyrics #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 Dedicate our gifts to God.

ALL: O God, we have received so much from you and we ask that you accept the gifts offered today and help us use them for Your holy work of peace, justice, and service in the world. Amen!

We Are Sent

***Closing Hymn - "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" # 224**

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Christ of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, then, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

3 From sacred head, from hands, and feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Pastoral Blessing for the Days Ahead

Choral Benediction - Amen - Lloyd Larson

Postlude - Toccata in G Minor - Johan Pachelbel

Note: The Postlude is still part of our worship; thus, we invite you to sit and let Nathan's beautiful music touch us as each one of us listens in silence.

Ringling of the Bell

WORSHIP FOR PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY

March 24 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Theme: “Palms and Passion: The Promise in Jesus”

**Is 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47; Mark 11:1-11 or
John 12:12-16**

Sermon: “The Promise of a Donkey Ride”

March 28 – Maundy Thursday

Theme: “A Supper of Promise”

**Ex 12:1-4, 11-14; Ps 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Cor 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-25
Sacrament of Holy Communion**

March 31 – Easter Celebration

Theme: “The Promise Completed – Christ is Risen”

Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: “That You May Have Life”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE UCC:

Sunday 3/17	11:00 AM - Worship Service –Fifth Sunday of Lent
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 3/20	7:00 PM - Book Club (zoom)
Sunday 3/24	11:00 AM - Worship Service –Palm Sunday



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

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry Pastorgerrygrace@gmail.com 301-788-6546

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:	John Brehmer
Children's Message:	Trish Abell
Children's Church	Liz Tinker
Altar Guild:	Karen Kehoe
Greeter:	John Brehmer

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