

# Grace United Church of Christ



April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Today's Theme:

Chariots and Drive-Thrus

Celebrant: Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice

## **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** - Intermezzo - Amy Summers

**Welcome**

**Preparing Our Hearts**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Choral Introit** - Creator God We Sing - Carlos Rosas

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: From the ends of the earth, we gather to praise our Creator, for promises kept and the faithful love that endures forever.

**ALL: We proclaim Your divinity and your Love. You seek mercy and justice for the afflicted. You do not hide your face from us.**

Leader: To You alone, all who sleep in the earth bow down; before You, all who go down to the dust kneel in reverence.

**ALL: For You, O Lord, are great. You sustain and deliver us. Your justice endures from generation to generation.**

Leader: Together, let us worship and stand in awe of the Eternal One, whose righteousness is proclaimed to a people yet unborn.

**ALL: Let our worship rise like a joyful offering, as we honor the glory of the Divine presence among us. Alleluia!**

## Gathering Prayer

Leader: Loving God, we welcome your living presence in our midst. We welcome your powerful witness in which we participate this morning. We welcome your invitation to share that witness with the world. We seek to share our joy and our thanks for the life you give us. In this worship, point us to the places you would want us to be – with you!

**ALL: And we all say, “Amen”!**

**\* Opening Hymn** “God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale” #32

1. God of the sparrow  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise

2. God of the earthquake  
God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save

3. God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks

4. God of the hungry  
God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life

5. God of the neighbor  
God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace

6. God of the ages  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home

\* **Passing of the Peace** (Let us pass the peace with a Covid-Friendly smile, wave or some other sign of Christ's love)

## We Listen

### **Children's Moment**

**Epistle Lesson:** Acts 8:26-40

**Introduction:** In Acts, we find Philip, guided by an angel of the Lord, embarking on a divine encounter on a desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza. Here, Philip meets an Ethiopian eunuch, a high official under the queen of Ethiopia, who is struggling to understand the scriptures. This passage highlights the Spirit's role in breaking cultural and ethnic barriers, showing God's message of salvation reaching beyond Jewish boundaries to touch all nations.

**Gospel Lesson:** John 15:1-8

### **Introduction:**

In this passage from the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks to His disciples in the intimate setting of the Last Supper. Jesus prepares the disciples for the challenges ahead and lays the foundation for understanding the life-giving and sustaining relationship they must maintain with Him.

**Anthem** - Write Your Blessed Name - Words: Thomas à Kempis; tr. S. Kettlewell, alt;  
Music: K. Lee Scott

**Sermon:** *Chariots and Drive-Thru*      *Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice*

### We Respond

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Offering** - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - arr. Dale Wood

\***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 present with joy our 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 this church and the world around us. 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.

**We Are Sent**

**Announcements**

**\*Closing Hymn** "Lord, I Want to be a Christian" #454

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2 Lord, I want to be more loving  
in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

3 Lord, I want to be more holy  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

**Pastoral Blessing for the Journey**

**Choral Benediction** - Go Out In Song - Lloyd Larson

**Postlude** - Postlude on "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" - arr. Brenda Portman

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE UCC:

<b>Sunday 4/28:</b>	11:00 AM - Worship Service –Fifth Sunday of Easter
<b>Mondays:</b>	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Nar-Anon Meeting
<b>Monday - Saturday:</b>	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA Meeting
<b>Mondays + Wednesdays:</b>	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM AA Meeting
<b>Wednesday 5/1:</b>	7:00 PM - Book Club (zoom)
<b>Thursday 5/2:</b>	7:00 PM—NA (Woman and Children Meeting)
<b>Sunday 5/5:</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto: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>.

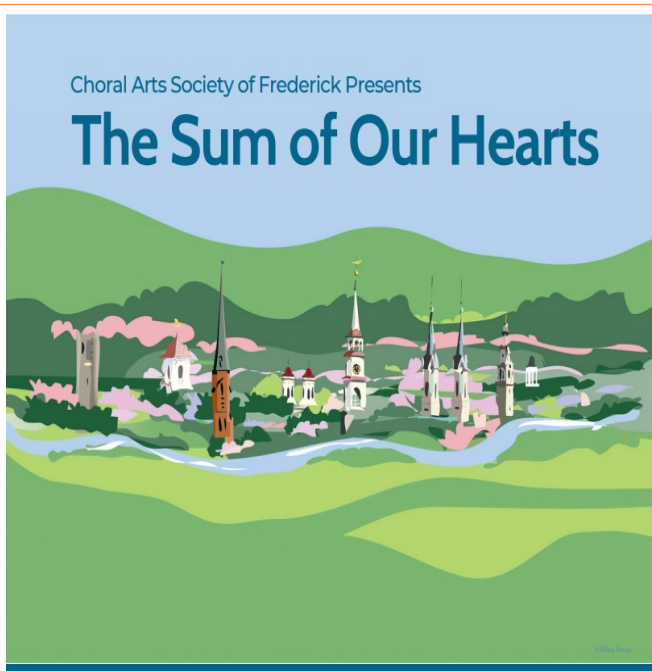
# Important Announcement !

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

**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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701

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

[Admin@grucc.com](mailto:Admin@grucc.com) ~ [www.grucc.com](http://www.grucc.com)

Celebrant: Rev. Sheresa Simpson- Rice

Director of Music: Nathan Strite

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

Bell Choir Director: James Taylor

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

Children & Youth Ministry: Amy Duray

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

Nursery Attendant: Joan Princler

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

Custodian: Hunt Hughes

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

Church Admin: Patricia Baptiste

[Admin@grucc.com](mailto: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:

Rachel Fisher

Children's Message:

Trish Abell

Children's Church

Amy Duray

Altar Guild:

N/A

Greeter:

Rachel Fisher

### Follow us!



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OF CHRIST**

