



Grace United Church of Christ



**Southern
Asia Initiative**
Together in Hope

The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, July 25th , 2021

Worship Service



We Gather

10:45am Pre Live Stream Video Loop

Prelude Song of Hope by Iouri Grichetchkine

(During our prelude, please take your seat and enjoy the music as we center ourselves for worship and invite God's presence into our hearts.)

Welcome

Ringling of the Bell

Preparing our Hearts

*Call to Worship

L: Blessed be God the Creator of Heaven and earth.

P: And blessed be Christ the Sovereign of the world.

L: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.

P: The world and those who live in it.

Opening Hymn

Morning Has Broken
(See Next Page For Lyrics)

Opening Hymn

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
Fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall
Sunlit from Heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play.
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day!

*Passing the Peace

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

Litany of Environmental Confession

Reader 1: God you created our planet, the birds, fish and other animals and you saw that all created and declared that things were good.

Reader 2: God of life, You also created us, the human family to be your vice-roys and to act compassionately and gently towards all forms of life.

People: Remind us, O God, and help us to change.

Reader 1: We confess that we often forget that we are utterly dependent upon you and interdependent with the rest of your creation.

Reader 2: God of creation, we confess that instead of acting compassionately and gently toward all forms of life, humanity had behaved wantonly and recklessly.

People: Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

Reader 1: God of compassion, our land lies polluted under our feet, and we see members of the animal kingdom, on land and in sea, dying as a result of the contamination that we have created.

Reader 2: God of grace, we confess that we are damaging the earth, the home that you have given us through our consumerism and the use of products that are constantly polluting our air, land, and water, harming wildlife and endangering human health.

People: Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

Reader 1: God of wisdom, help us understand that whatever we do to the web of life we do to ourselves.

Reader 2: God of power, help us acknowledge that we must act now and wake up to our moral obligations and that the future of our beautiful planet is in our hands.”

People: Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

All: Today we confess that we have not done enough to protect our planet. We confess that we have failed to insist that our government set standards based on precaution. We confess that we, as consumers, have allowed companies to release dangerous toxins that destroy fragile ecosystems and harm human beings, especially those among us who are most vulnerable.

Reader 1: God of justice, help us understand the need and to send a clear signal to our political leaders about making the crucial choice between the present path of “destructiveness” - or the morally responsible path of compassion and respect for life, acknowledging our dependence upon you and our interconnectedness with all creation.

Reader 2: God of grace and salvation, today we open our eyes, ears, and hearts to the pain of our planet. We open our hearts to your truth, to see in you the way of healing and hope for our planet. We are beloved children of God, forgiven, renewed, and sent out into the world to work for the healing of our planet and for justice, in faithfulness to God.

We Listen

Special Music Morning Has Broken arranged by Jan Sanborn

First Reading Romans 8: 20-23

Sequence Hymn Lead Us From Death to Life (chorus)

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;

Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

Gospel Matthew 25: 14-30

Children's Message

Video Reflection Climate Change

Sermon Vandana's story

We Respond

Pastoral 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

Blessing

Closing Hymn Pray for the Wilderness # 557

(See Next Page for Lyrics)

Closing Hymn

Pray for the Wilderness # 557

1 Pray for the wilderness, vanishing fast,
pray for the rain forest, open and vast;
Pray for the waterfalls, pray for the trees,
pray for the planet brought down by degrees.

2 Learn from the elephant, eagle, and whale,
learn from the dragonfly, spider, and snail;
Learn from the people in neighboring lands,
learn from the children who play in their sands.

3 Work for the justice created things need,
work for the health of each plant and its seed;
Work for the creatures abuse has betrayed,
work for the garden God's wisdom once made.

4 Trust that God's Christ overcame nails and wood,
trust that earth's people will turn to the good;
Trust that creation forever will grow,
trust that God's goodness to us overflows.

5 Pray for the atmosphere, pray for the sea,
learn from the river, the rock, and the tree;
Work till shalom in full harmony rings.
Trust the connection of all living things.

Dismissal

Postlude

Triptych: I - Processional by John G. Barry

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*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.***

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*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.*

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

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Today's Music was brought to you by our substitute Musical Director:

James Taylor

Thank you and we appreciate you!



Grace UCC (Virtual) Book Club

Every Wednesday at 7:00pm

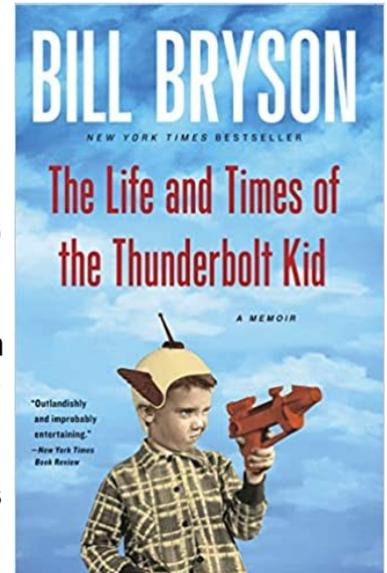
Join us if you'd like to socialize, stretch your mind, or just leave the daily grind of life behind for a bit!

Message from Missy Moxley:

The Grace Book Club has decided on the next novel! We have decided to read, *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by [Bill Bryson](#). We will read the first 70 pages or so and discuss next Wednesday.

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid (288 pages, 2006) by [Bill Bryson](#).

Bill Bryson was born in the middle of the American century—1951—in the middle of the United States—Des Moines, Iowa—in the middle of the largest generation in American history—the baby boomers. As one of the best and funniest writers alive, he is perfectly positioned to mine his memories of a totally all-American childhood for 24-carat memoir gold. Like millions of his generational peers, Bill Bryson grew up with a rich fantasy life as a superhero. In his case, he ran around his house and neighborhood with an old football jersey with a thunderbolt on it and a towel about his neck that served as his cape, leaping tall buildings in a single bound and vanquishing awful evildoers (and morons)—in his head—as "The Thunderbolt Kid."



Using this persona as a springboard, Bill Bryson re-creates the life of his family and his native city in the 1950s in all its transcendent normality—a life at once completely familiar to us all and as far away and unreachable as another galaxy. It was, he reminds us, a happy time, when automobiles and televisions and appliances (not to mention nuclear weapons). He brings us into the life of his loving but eccentric family, including affectionate portraits of his father, a gifted sportswriter and of his mother, whose job as the home furnishing editor.

Below is the recurring Zoom link which is also on our church website, grucc.com, and Facebook page.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89654486377?pwd=T1VGSWh2NFVkrRHhVVFk1cm1BUUppZz09>

Questions? Contact Missy Moxley at: nehoneybee@gmail.com or Doris Moxley at:

Dorismoxley@gmail.com. Please Email the church office at admin@grucc.com to be added to the list for email notices.

Grace UCC Updates



THIS WEEK AT GRACE:

Sunday 7/25: 11:00 AM - Worship Service

Tuesday 7/27: 7:00 PM - Church Council Meeting

Wednesday 7/28: 7:00 PM - Grace Book Club (zoom)

Thursday 7/29: 7:00 PM - Mankind Project

Sunday 8/1: 11:00 AM - Worship Service
Holy Communion Service
12:00 PM - Napoli Meal During
Fellowship Hour
(Free-will Offering)



FREDERICK CITY SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM

Frederick City's School Supply Distribution is back! Help children and families in the Frederick area get ready to go back to school with all their classroom needs. Below is the list of school supplies that are needed By August 1st, so we can drop them off by the 4th!



Check out the Sign-up Genius Link below for the days to help! PLEASE NOTE: The Tuesday hours will involve lifting and sorting.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0e4ca9ab2da46-frederick>

If you have any questions or would like more information on community missions opportunities email Admin@grucc.com.

(Click the link for the [Supply List](#) or copies are available in the sanctuary.)



GRACE UCC SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE!!!

As per our constitution, we are announcing a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, August 8th** to be held directly after worship for the purposes of discussing the following items:

- 1) Property and Finance has recommended to Council that we replace the air conditioning units in the sanctuary. (The present units are about 30 years old and beginning to fail) the total cost for this would be about \$26,000. there is a fund with monies for this project, but we need congregational approval to move forward.
- 2) have a brief discussion about a capital campaign to put air conditioning in other areas of the church as well, mainly the office and the Good Shepherd Room. Would the congregation want us to consider this in the future? Come give us your opinion.

This congregational meeting will be available in person and on zoom. a zoom link will be made available closer to the meeting date.

Congregational Meeting



Grace United Church of Christ



An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701

301-662-3312 ~ Office Hours: 9AM-3PM/M-F

Admin@grucc.com ~ www.grucc.com

Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor, Pastor

Pastorrob@grucc.com

Jonas Dawson, Director of Music

Music@grucc.com

James Taylor, Bell Choir Director

Bells@grucc.com

Choir Section Leaders: James Taylor, Taylor Whidden,

Jennie Huntoon, & Donald Toms

Joan Princler, Nursery Attendant

Joan.dancer@comcast.net

Mat Lutman, Caretaker

Trainhouse13@gmail.com

Careen Walker, Church Admin

Admin@grucc.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 11:00 AM — Virtual

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgist: Lloyd Taylor

Children's Message: Pastor Rob

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**

