

Grace United Church of Christ



The Third Sunday of Lent

March 3, 2024

11:00am

THE THEME:

“Lenten Journey: Living In God’s Promises”

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me.
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance
streaming
adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and
pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no meas-
ure,
joys that through all time abide.

5 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

Our Prayer of Renewal

Pastor: Let us open the deepest parts of our souls to the loving forgiveness of God:

ALL: Creator God, you have outlined ten ways the world could flourish, ten ways to have full and abundant lives, ten ways to respect and honor the earth, each other and you. But they have become: Ten ways we've failed to dream, ten ways we've cheapened life, ten ways we've abused you, the earth and others. We admit to the failure, but we still hold to the dream, to the promise. Enable us to recognize them as ten ways to love each other, ten ways to change the world, ten ways to open up your realm, ten ways to keep promises to you, ten ways to find and give hope to a broken world. Amen.

Pastor: "Trust, together with forgiveness, is the way we human beings can live in the Spirit of Love." It is derived from grace. Thus, Jesus came with "a love song with two refrains: love God and neighbor, do not do to another that which you not want done to you."

ALL: When we leave this place we will go to make this life, this church, this community of love and healing, this world: a place where we love God and our neighbor. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

Scripture Lessons: Exodus 20:1-17 and John 2:13-22

Hebrew Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17 – Introduction: For our Hebrew scripture lesson today, we read the classic rendition of the “Ten Commandments”

Gospel Lesson: John 2:13-22 – Introduction: In the first two chapters of the gospel of John, Jesus calls some of his new disciples and presents himself to a wedding ceremony in Cana of Galilee where he turns water into wine. This amazes all who were there. Then he goes to the temple and finds money changers selling their goods. Jesus is angry and with a whip cleans out the temple. Listen to a reading from John:

Continuing Testament: *“During a particularly stressful period, a friend’s mother said to me, ‘hang on to Jesus, Diedra, hang on to Jesus.’” -- Diedra Kriewald, former professor, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC., from her book, Hallelujah Anyway!*

Children’s Moment

Anthem - Where Charity and Love Prevail - arr. Kenneth Kosche

Sermon: “Moses’ Trip to the Mountain -

Our Journey in the Valley” & “Tablets of Stone and a Whip”

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 Meditation on “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” arr. Grimoaldo Macchia

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: May these gifts, these many and varied gifts of our lives, be light to the world: to ourselves, to each other, to our church, community and to the world. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

As Communion is served please before worship gather pieces of bread and something to drink (whatever you have, juice, lemonade, etc.) and place it near you before our service begins.

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Blessing the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Music during Communion

Choral Dorian

Jehan Alain

We Are Sent

Announcements

*Closing Hymn

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

#76

1. Sent forth by God’s blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling
take leave. The service is ended,
Oh, now be extended the fruits of our
worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive
hearts reaching, shall blossom in action
for God and for all. God’s grace did
invite us, And love shall unite us
to work for God’s realm and to answer
your call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living, the tasks of our
ev’ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children, of each tribe
and race.
With your grace you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name
which we bear.

Pastoral Blessing for the Time Ahead

Choral Benediction How Firm a Foundation Early American tune

Postlude - Prelude in E Minor - J. S. Bach

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 at Grace UCC for the Month of March:

March 10 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Theme: “God’s Promise of Wilderness”

Num 21:4-9; Ps 107:1-3, 17-22; Eph 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Sermon: “Moses’ Dilemma in the Wilderness—Our Wilderness Decisions”

March 17 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Theme: “God’s Promise of Hope – A New Covenant”

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:1-12; Heb 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Sermon: “Jeremiah’s Hope—Our Hope”

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

THIS WEEK AT GRACE UCC:

- Sunday 3/3:** 11:00 AM - Worship Service -Second Sunday after Epiphany
- 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 3/6:** 7:00 PM - Book Club (zoom)
- Sunday 3/10:** 11:00 AM - Worship Service –Third Sunday after Epiphany

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.

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 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>.



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:

Amy Duray

Children's Message:

Missy Moxley

Children's Church

Trish Abell

Altar Guild:

Karen Kehoe

Greeter:

Amy Duray

Follow us!



[Gracelivefrederick](https://www.youtube.com/Gracelivefrederick)



[GraceUCCFrederick](https://www.facebook.com/GraceUCCFrederick)



www.grucc.com

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

