

**There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.**

**Ecclesiastes 1:1, 4**



**Grace Presbyterian Church**

**Fort Wayne, IN**

**September 15, 2024**

**The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook**

## Sunday Service – September 15, 2024

*How can we pray for you? Let us know in the Zoom/Facebook Chat!*

*We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in **\*BOLD\*** with us from your homes!*

*10:15 – Zoom Meeting Starts ~ ~ ~ 10:20 – Facebook Live Stream Starts*

**10:30 – Live Prelude Starts**      *Shall We Gather at the River* by Lowry

Welcome

Call to Worship –

Give thanks to God!

**We thank God for joy, for laughter, for abundant blessings of every kind.**

Give thanks to God at all times and for everything!

**We thank God, when we can and as we can, for struggles, for solitude, for fears.**

Give thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**We thank God that, in Christ, our joys as well as our pain are in God's heart and hands.**

With thanksgiving and praise we gather.

**With thanksgiving, we worship the living God. Amen.**

Opening Hymn #20 *“All Things Bright and Beautiful”*

Call to Confession –

O God, we joyously come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are here. We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you; our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be sensitive, that we may know you; our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you. Grant each one a blessing, O Lord, as each one has need, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Confession –

Holy One, we confess that we do not know how to look for you. We do not sense your nearness, and if there are angels among us, we are unaware. We do not show the hospitality to strangers that Sarah and Abraham showed to you. We do not trust that our hardships can be transformed by your Spirit. Forgive us. Let us laugh with joy because your grace has made peace among us. Send us out with this good news so that others will also receive your blessing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Time for silent confession*

### **Assurance of Pardon –**

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### **Song of Assurance #581 “Gloria Patri”**

### **Passing the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you!**

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

### **Children’s Message**

### **Time for Music & Meditation**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Let us Pray: Holy Spirit, bring your divine light into the readings this morning. Help us to see as you see – to hear as you hear – to act in the world as you would have us act. Breathe life into us as you breathe into your living Word, Jesus Christ. Amen.

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- <sup>2</sup> a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- <sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- <sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- <sup>5</sup> a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- <sup>6</sup> a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- <sup>7</sup> a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- <sup>8</sup> a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

Scripture Reading: Message Text – Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

p.24

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

<sup>3</sup> He said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.”

“Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.”

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs

of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”

7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

9 “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

“There, in the tent,” he said.

10 Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

13 Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.”

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

~

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. 2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac[a] to the son Sarah bore him. 4 When his son Isaac was eight days old,

Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

6 Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” 7 And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Sermon

*Laughter*

### **Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Hymn of Response #250 *“In the Bulb There is a Flower”***

#### **Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer**

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### **Call to Offering**

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of us must give as we have made up our mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide us with every blessing in abundance so we may share

abundantly in every good work. We will be enriched in every way for our great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.

**Offertory**                      *Children of the Heavenly Father* arr. by Broughton

**Doxology #606** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

**Prayer of Dedication –**

Let us pray. God, we live in grateful thanksgiving for all that you have given us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. May we be abundant and fruitful with our lives, offering up our gifts as if they were songs of joyful praise. Use us, and use our gifts, in and through the grace of Christ.

**Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Closing Hymn #410** *“God Is Calling through the Whisper”*

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* arr. by Boertje

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Grace Choir Practices Return:** Everyone is invited. Choir practice is every Thursday at 6:30 PM.

**Sunday School and Bible Studies Kick Off This Sunday:** To celebrate the return to our educational opportunities, we are throwing a pitch-in meal after the service this Sunday, September 15. Hotdogs will be provided. People are encouraged to bring a dessert or side to share. Sunday classes will begin on the following Sunday, September 22th.

**Save the Date - Grace Fall Rummage Sale - September 20-21st:** We've got a few things left to

sell. Set up will begin on Thursday, September 19 @ 9:00 AM. There is a signup in the church narthex for volunteers. The sale will be set up in the fellowship hall and will be using door #6. For more information, reach out to Tammy Menkes.

**Save the Date - Eric Black's Ordination:** Friend and a pulpit supply of Grace, Eric Black, is being ordained on October 26th, at Messiah Lutheran, at 2:00 PM. Everyone is invited.

**Halloween at Grace - Candy Donations:** We're collecting candy for our annual Halloween at Grace neighborhood event. There is an orange bin in the narthex. Thanks in advance. We'll have a sign up for volunteers as we get closer to the event.

**United Faith Food Bank Needs:** Our friends at the United Faith food bank know their customers and their needs. Right now they are incredibly low/out of canned vegetables (especially green beans and corn) and will not be getting any large donations of them for a while. If you'd like to help, bring a donation of food to our narthex and leave it in our shopping cart. They are also in need of plastic bags.

### Birthdays

Linda Haller - September 16

Audra Widmann - September 16

Laurie Howard - September 18

Kevin Mahoney - September 18

Landon Seitz - September 20

Mila Wolf - September 21

### Anniversaries

### ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

*To connect to our worship services on Zoom, follow these instructions to watch or listen. You can connect at 10:15 for fellowship; the service starts at 10:30.*

#### **Option 1: Automatically Join the Meeting**

Follow the link in the email sent every week. This is by far the easiest way to connect to the live video.

#### **Option 2: Manually Join the Meeting**

You can download Zoom from <https://www.zoom.us>.

After you have installed the program/app, click on "Join" and enter this information:



*Meeting ID: 9712063468*

*Password: 030414*

**Option 3: Call in to Listen (Audio Only)**

On Sunday Morning, you can call to listen to the service. After you call, it will ask you to enter the Meeting ID and Password Below:

*Phone Number: (301) 715-8592 Meeting ID: 9712063468*

*Password: 030414*

# 20 All Things Bright and Beautiful

*Refrain*

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all. *Fine*

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
 2 The pur - ple-head-ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,  
 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glow-ing col - ors; God made their ti - ny wings.  
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky:  
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.  
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well. *to Refrain*

One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.

MUSIC: English melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915; harm. *The Hymnbook*, 1955  
 Music Harm. © 1955, rev. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

ROYAL OAK  
 7.6.7.6 with refrain

## Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of musical notation for 'Glory Be to the Father'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and the key of B-flat major. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the'. The bass staff contains a piano accompaniment of chords.

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

The second system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal line with lyrics 'Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -'. The bass staff continues the piano accompaniment.

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal line with lyrics 'gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,'. The bass staff continues the piano accompaniment.

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The fourth system of musical notation. The treble staff concludes the vocal line with lyrics 'world with - out end. A - men, a - men.' and ends with a double bar line. The bass staff concludes the piano accompaniment with a final chord marked with an '8'.

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# In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

## Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) F (Em) Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) C7 (D) F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)  
 F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y.  
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)  
 Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."  
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

TEXT and MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1986  
 Text and Music © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

PROMISE  
 8.7.8.7.D

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# 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise \*him, all creatures here below; praise \*him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen." The asterisk indicates an alternative word, "God", which can be substituted for "him".

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise \*him, all crea-tures  
here be-low; praise \*him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise  
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

\*Or "God"

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709  
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH  
LM

GATHERING

# 410 God Is Calling through the Whisper

1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,  
 2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,  
 3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,

through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.  
 through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.  
 through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.

Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:  
 Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:  
 Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:

God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?  
 God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?  
 God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2003  
 MUSIC: Polish carol; harm. Wilbur Lee, 1958  
 Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.  
 Music Harm. © 1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY  
 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7  
 (this tune in a higher key, 128)