



**I am about to do a new thing; now it
springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

Isaiah 43:19a NRSV

Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

October 20, 2024

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Stewardship Sunday

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – October 20, 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 *I Love You, Lord with Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

Welcome

Call to Worship –

As people formed by God, we give praise to God:

Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,

Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!

As people restored by God, we give praise to God:

Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,

Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!

As people pressing on in faith, we give praise to God:

Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,

Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!

Opening Hymn #645 *“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”*

Call to Confession –

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been, then we have not asked for as much as God intends to give. God is not content simply to return or restore us to former things. Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection—a new and abundant life. With confidence in God’s generosity, let us confess our sins and seek the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Confession –

Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world. We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, for you overturn our notions of power and protocol. Certain

of our own righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us. Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon –

Friends, hear the good news: seen or unseen, God is with us. Bidden or unbidden, Christ is Present with us. May we live assured of what we cannot see, trusting in the power who makes all things new.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

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 –John 12:3

Let us Pray: O God, break open the Scripture through the power of your Spirit. Let your word, read and proclaimed, pour out until its fragrance fills this house and our lives. Then, anointed with your word, send us out to share the good news we have received. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is with us always. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 43:16-21 NRSV

see insert

16 Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
17 who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
18 Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
19 I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
20 The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
21 the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Choir Anthem

Scripture Reading: New Testament Reading — John 12:1-8 NRSV

see insert

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the

money given to the poor?” 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

Sermon

God's Gift of Generosity

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in a nourishing God who provided manna in the wilderness and water from the rock. We believe in God-with-us, Jesus of Nazareth, who sat with the lonely and ate with the forgotten. We believe in an expansive God-the wild Holy Spirit-meeting us in ritual regardless of where we gather. Trusting that good news, we pull up extra seats when we come to the Table. We learn each other's names. We bless the food. We tell the story. We remember Christ's love, and we look for God in all of it. We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen

Hymn of Response #201 “A Prophet Woman Broke a Jar”

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.

Ministry Minute – Jim Wolfe

Call to Offering

Let us share the joy of giving as we present our morning offerings and our pledges for 2025.

Offertory

It Is Well with My Soul by Bliss

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

Prayer of Dedication –

Let us pray. Gracious God, we come before you with thankful hearts, grateful for the blessings you have bestowed upon us. Your importance in our lives, O God, is reflected in our gifts. We return to you, through the ministry and outreach of this church, a portion of all you have entrusted to us. We promise that these offerings will not be the end of our giving. Guide us to use these gifts wisely, to uplift those in need, and to spread your love. We will also invest our time and abilities in your work of healing, comforting, teaching, guiding, and proclaiming the good news. Bless each gift, whatever its size, and multiply the good to be done through our time, talents, and treasure. Together, we dedicate our offerings and our pledges for 2025 to you, trusting that with your guidance, we can accomplish great things in your name. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn #177 “I Will Come to You”

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Foundation arr. by Barrett

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Tickets to Serve It Forward: We have four free tickets to Wellspring’s upcoming fundraiser on October 27th. The event will include lessons, free play, food, drinks, and a raffle. Serve It Forward is being held at Ace Pickleball Club on 5310 Merchandise dr. and will run from 1:00-5:00 PM. Contact the office if you are interested in going.

Volunteers Needed for Halloween at Grace: There is a sign up for our annual Halloween event. We are in need of decorated trunks, people to hand out candy, and potential floaters between stations. If you can help in any way, please sign up on

the sign-up sheet in the narthex. The hours of Trick-or-Treating should be 5:30-7:30 (that was what it was last year). We are also in need of candy donations which can be left in the narthex.

Stewardship Sunday – This Sunday: A generous giver contributes for the joy of helping others, without expectation of reward. If we are blessed with more than enough, we are called to be a blessing to others. This Sunday, October 20th Grace members will be asked to make a generous pledge of financial support to our church for calendar year 2025. We will celebrate our mutual commitment with a pitch-in lunch following worship (chicken provided). If you are not attending this service, you can mail in your card.

Save the Date: 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.

Truck & Muscle Needed: We have some leftover furniture from our two rummage sales. We are planning on donating them but need help transporting them. If you have a truck or can help lift our items, please contact Tammy Menkes (tamjmenkes63@gmail.com) so we can get this on the calendar and clean out our fellowship hall.

Your Input Requested: We're looking to freshen up our property. If you've noticed any particular places that can use some attention or paint, please let us know. There are some funds at our disposal and we are beginning to prioritize our list. If you have ideas, please contact Tammy Menkes.

Birthdays

Matt Seitz – October 23

Ken Mahoney – October 24

Anniversaries

Carl & Bonnie Geist

October 21, 1972

Dylan & Grace Hochstetler

October 23, 2021

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

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al - might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.




mur-mur stilled:
 all is right:
 cho-sen band:
 take your part:

to God all praise and glo-ry!

SERVICE MUSIC

Glory Be to the Father 581



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



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



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



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

201 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

1 A proph-et - wom - an broke a jar, by Love's di - vine ap -
 2 A faith - ful wom - an left a tomb by Love's di - vine com -
 3 Though wom - an - wis - dom, wom-an-truth, for cen - tu - ries were
 4 The Spir - it knows; the Spir - it calls, by Love's di - vine or -

point - ing. With rare per - fume she filled the room, pre -
 mis - sion. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, a -
 hid - den, un - sung, un - writ - ten, and un - heard, de -
 dain - ing, the friends we need, to serve and lead, their

sid - ing and a - noint - ing. A proph - et - wom - an broke a jar,
 ris - ing from sub - mis - sion. A faith - ful wom - an left a tomb,
 rid - ed and for - bid - den, the Spir - it's breath, the Spir - it's fire,
 powers and gifts un - chain - ing. The Spir - it knows; the Spir - it calls,

the sneers of scorn de - fy - ing. With rare per - fume she
 with res - ur - rec - tion gos - pel. She saw; she heard; she
 on free and slave de - scend - ing, can tum - ble our di -
 from wom - en, men, and chil - dren, the friends we need, to

This text seeks to reverse the neglected witness of biblical women by celebrating the woman who washed Jesus' feet (unnamed in Matthew 26:6-13/Mark 14:3-9/Luke 7:36-50; Mary of Bethany in John 12:1-8) and Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10/Mark 16:1-7/Luke 24:10).

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1991
 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.
 Text © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING
 8.7.8.7.D

filled the room, pre - par - ing Christ for dy - ing.
 preached the Word, a - pos - tle to a - pos - tles.
 vid - ing walls, our shame and sad - ness mend - ing.
 serve and lead. Re - joice, and make them wel - come!

SERVICE MUSIC

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Doxology

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 HUNDRETH
 LM

I Will Come to You

You Are Mine

Leader or All

1 "I will come to you in the si - lence;
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less;
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom; I

I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.

You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, † I will be your light. †
 All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand

still and know I am here. (to stanza 2)
 Come and rest in me. (to Refrain)
 all will know my name. (to Refrain)
 up, now walk and live! (to Refrain)

Refrain All

Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by

name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I

love you and you are mine." 4 "I

Presuming to speak in the voice of God, as this song does, can only be done with integrity if the singers understand their words as an expression of what they believe about God's nature and God's intentions. It is an occasion for affirming faith, not for wishful thinking.