



“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18-19

Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

January 26, 2025

The Third Sunday After Epiphany

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – January 26, 2025

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 *Fairest Lord Jesus* arr. by Raney

Welcome

Call to Worship –

The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

We gather to hear God’s liberating word of love.

Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

May the Spirit of God at work in Jesus, also work in us.

May the vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

And may it be enacted in our lives!

Opening Hymn #20 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Call to Confession –

Call to Confession: Every week, as we worship together, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God that we do not always live as we are called. In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is merciful and just, eager to offer grace and love. Together let us share in the Prayer of Confession found printed in our bulletin.

Prayer of Confession –

O Lord, as we gather today, interrupt our familiar lack of interest which leads us down paths of distraction and discouragement. Let today’s worship give us a freeing grace. By your abundant outpouring of Spirit lighten every burden carried from yesterday’s past. Help us to see more clearly your vision of a world made new. Forgive us and free us to accept the gift of forgiveness and mercy that you can offer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon –

Hear the good news! In Christ, God has declared that we are no longer captives to the past. All that we have carried, the Holy One has lifted. The eternal love of God, made known in Jesus Christ, has anointed us anew. We are forgiven and invited to join in the joy of God's great vision in our life for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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: O Lord our God, you Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Epistle Reading – Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

p.761

1 all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.

2 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. 3 He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. 6 Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Choir Anthem

Great Is Their Faithfulness

#39

Gospel Reading – Luke 4:14-21

p.1596

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the

scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

19

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Sermon

Connecting the Dots

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 #318 “In Christ There is No East or West”

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

Our discipleship is revealed in our love for one another, and our love is made known in the opening of our hands to share God's good gifts. We are witnesses to God's care for all creation through our offerings. Let us give generously, as God has given to us.

Offertory *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* arr. by Thygerson

Doxology #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Dedication –

Let us pray. Loving God, we place our faith in you, we place our confidence in the Spirit's power, and we place our hope in the ongoing work of Christ's church. Use our gifts to expand your peace, grace & justice throughout the world. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn #634 "To God Be the Glory"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Nature's Majesty* by Taylor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Educational Wing Refab Volunteers Needed: We're sprucing up our educational wing. Please contact Tammy or the Grace office if you would be willing to help with cleaning walls, taping, edging, or painting. Also, thanks to Tom and Alex Monnier for their prep work.

Afternoon of Fun and Games: Thanks to everyone who participated with our Fun and Games event this past Saturday, January 25.

Grace's Annual Congregational Meeting is January 26: Please plan on attending. We will be looking at the Annual Report of 2024. Copies of the Annual Report are in the narthex to review.

Grace's 25th Anniversary Save the Date: Plans are underway to celebrate Grace's 25th Anniversary on March 2nd. More information to come.

2025 Lenten Bible Study - Save the Date: Grace will be hosting a Lenten Bible study March 12 through April 16. There is a sign up in the narthex. The study will focus on following Jesus in uncertain times. More information on times and food to come. If you'd like us to order you a book (\$7.43) please indicate that on the sign up by February 16. Holly Bouthot is the contact for this event.

You Can Still Join the Grace's Prayer Team: If you missed out on the opportunity to join the prayer team in 2024, you can still be part of the gang. Reach out to Tammy if you are interested. The process is simple. When a request comes in you will receive a text. At that point you take a moment to pray for the recipient. That's it! You don't even need to respond to the text.

Birthdays

Courtney Lehman - February 2

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.

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.

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 (adm'n. Westminster John Knox Press)

ROYAL OAK
 7.6.7.6 with refrain

In Christ There Is No East or West 318

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in

him no south or north, but one great fel - low -
 high com - mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 e'er your race may be. All chil - dren of the
 him meet south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This text formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.

TEXT: John Oxenham, 1906, alt.
 MUSIC: Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836

ST. PETER
 CM
 (alternate tune: MC KEE, 317)

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise *him, all creatures here be-low; praise *him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men." The asterisked words indicate optional substitutions.

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

634 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

TEXT: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875
MUSIC: William Howard Doane, 1875

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
11.11.11.11 with refrain

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory: great things he has done!

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