

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Should I fear anyone?

Psalm 27:1a



Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

March 16, 2025

2nd Sunday of Lent

Community Worship on Zoom - Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – March 16th, 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 *Wonderful, Merciful Savior* arr. by Tornquist

Welcome

Call to Worship – Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?

Come, seek God in this time of worship.

Opening Hymn #12 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Call to Confession –

When we cry to God in prayer and confession, God hears. Let us approach God’s throne of grace with confidence and faith.

Prayer of Confession –

Eternal God, as enemies circle and fear grows large, the distance between us feels like absence and we come to believe you are hidden and concealed.

Forgive our doubt. Forgive our lack of spiritual seeking. Forgive us when we make our faith all about what you might do for us rather than how we might serve you and work at right relationship with you. Amen.

Time for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon –

God does not forsake us in times of trial. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace. 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: Merciful God, open us to your Word and your way. Help us to seek you, your truth, and the message you intend for us today. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Hebrew Bible Reading – Psalm 27 (CEB)

see insert

27 The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Should I fear anyone?

The Lord is a fortress protecting my life.

Should I be frightened of anything?

2 When evildoers come at me trying to eat me up—

it’s they, my foes and my enemies,
who stumble and fall!

3 If an army camps against me,

my heart won’t be afraid.

If war comes up against me,

I will continue to trust in this:

- 4 I have asked one thing from the Lord—
it's all I seek:
to live in the Lord's house all the days of my life,
seeing the Lord's beauty
and constantly adoring his temple.
- 5 Because he will shelter me in his own dwelling
during troubling times;
he will hide me in a secret place in his own tent;
he will set me up high, safe on a rock.
- 6 Now my head is higher than the enemies surrounding me,
and I will offer sacrifices in God's tent—
sacrifices with shouts of joy!
I will sing and praise the Lord.
- 7 Lord, listen to my voice when I cry out—
have mercy on me and answer me!
- 8 Come, my heart says, seek God's face.
Lord, I do seek your face!
- 9 Please don't hide it from me!
Don't push your servant aside angrily—
you have been my help!
God who saves me,
don't neglect me!
Don't leave me all alone!
- 10 Even if my father and mother left me all alone,
the Lord would take me in.
- 11 Lord, teach me your way;
because of my opponents, lead me on a good path.
- 12 Don't give me over to the desires of my enemies,
because false witnesses and violent accusers
have taken their stand against me.
- 13 But I have sure faith
that I will experience the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living!

14 Hope in the Lord!

Be strong! Let your heart take courage!

Hope in the Lord!

Choir Anthem

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

#661

Scripture Reading: Gospel Reading — Luke 13:31-35 (CEB)

see insert

31 At that time, some Pharisees approached Jesus and said, “Go! Get away from here, because Herod wants to kill you.”

32 Jesus said to them, “Go, tell that fox, ‘Look, I’m throwing out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will complete my work. 33 However, it’s necessary for me to travel today, tomorrow, and the next day because it’s impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’

34 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who were sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your people just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you didn’t want that. 35 Look, your house is abandoned. I tell you, you won’t see me until the time comes when you say, Blessings on the one who comes in the Lord’s name.”

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: from a Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of

Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Hymn of Response #819 “Be Still My Soul”

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer

God our creator, you made us for community and communion. You call us to the path of love and justice. You entrust us with gifts and talents and a planet that resources and provides. Yet, we live in a world torn by greed and violence. So, we pray for peace. Our nation, communities, and homes are tense with conflict and division. So, we pray for mutual respect and an ear for understanding. Our souls are stressed, stretched thin by responsibilities, exhausted by conflict, disappointed to not be heard or seen or understood. So, we pray for sabbath, for rest and refreshment, for friends and neighbors who can and will understand. God of comfort, stand with us in these distressing times so we may recall your promise that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall separate us from your love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Merciful God, as war rages and bombs fall and innocent lives are destroyed, we pray for those who long for safety and freedom. Prince of Peace, intervene on behalf of your people; change swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Diffuse our bombs, missiles and nuclear warheads. Turn our hearts to your way of righteousness, stockpiling goodwill and diplomatic relationships so we can wage love rather than war. Compassionate God, you bear the pain of the world. Bless those who are sick, suffering and struggling. May we turn to you for help and healing, instead of the shallow comforts and superficial sources the world is so keen to sell us. Be the rock to which we cling, strengthening and steadying us when we are at risk of falling. Open us to your presence, especially when we are distracted, and you feel hard to find. Eternal God, as we work and wait for your renewed creation, hear these prayers of your people. Now, we lift up the prayer Christ taught us by praying together . . .

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

God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. Let us praise the giver of all good gifts through our offering today.

Offertory

Hallelujah! What a Savior by Bliss

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

Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray. God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. May our offerings provide for others and be used to further Christ’s ministry and mission. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn #465 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Charge and Benediction — Psalm 27:14

Wait for the Lord. Be strong. Let your heart take courage. May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you now and always. Amen.

Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name arr. by Vogt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace 2025 Updated Directory: The draft of our Grace directory is available in the narthex. Please take a moment to review your information. If it’s correct, put a check mark next to your name. If any changes are needed, please make the edits. This is the

last week to update your information. The 2025 directory will be available next Sunday, March 23.

Scout Pie Sale: Troop 15, the troop that Grace supports, is selling pies, crisps, and cobblers to fund their upcoming activities. A list of options is available in the narthex. For questions or to place an order, please contact Aaron Bowers or Betsy Kachmar. The deadline to order and pay for your treats is March 23.

Bread for the World: Film Screening & Advocacy: Bread for the World Fort Wayne and Community Harvest Food Pantry will partner with In As Much Ministry to present the film Food Insecure on March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at Broadway Christian Church (corner of Broadway and Wayne, Fort Wayne). Everyone is invited.

After the service on March 30, we will be filling out cards/letters to our representatives during fellowship time.

Fellowship Hall & Basement Update: The fellowship hall downstairs is complete! While some restoration work continues in other areas, take a moment to check out the finished space and the hard work that has gone into it.

Easter Candy Donations: We are looking for candy donations for our Easter Egg Hunt at Grace event (April 16). Donations can be brought to the narthex. There is a bin for set up for them. We are also in need of volunteers. More on that to come.

Birthdays

Franklin James Lehman - 3/19

Diana Eller - 3/22

Anniversary

Jeffery & Lauren Widmann

March 21, 1999

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

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.

819 Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

This meditative text seems to be rooted in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God," while also reaching forward to 1 Thessalonians 4:17b, "we will be with the Lord forever." Much of the appeal of this hymn comes from its tune, named for the tone poem on which it is based.

TEXT: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

FINLANDIA
10.10.10.10.10.10

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

8

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, 1551OLD HUNDRETH
LM

465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

죄짐맡은 우리구주

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!

O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need-less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.

This text was written by an Irish-born immigrant to Canada to comfort his mother in Ireland when she was going through a time of special sorrow. The role of prayer as a source of strength and consolation is underscored by its repeated use as a rhyme word in all three stanzas.