

Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to
our God, for he will freely pardon.

Isaiah 55:7b



Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

March 23, 2025

The Third Sunday After Epiphany

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – March 23, 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 *What Wondrous Love Is This* arr. by Smith

Welcome

Call to Worship –

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn #65 *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

Call to Confession –

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

Prayer of Confession –

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Assurance of Pardon –

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of 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.

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination

Let us Pray: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen**

Scripture Reading: Hebrew Bible Reading – Isaiah 55:1-9

p.1148

1“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

2 Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

3 Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

4 See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

5 Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor.”

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

7 Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the Lord.

9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Choir Anthem #442 “Just as I Am, without One Plea”

Scripture Reading: Gospel Reading – Luke 13:1-9

p.1619

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in

Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. 7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

8 “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

Sermon

It Was Never About a Tree.

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 #441 “Hear the Good News of Salvation”

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

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

Offertory

"Are Ye Able," said the Master arr. by Pugh

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

Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn #435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Scout's Benediction

Postlude

Thine Is the Glory by Handel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace 2025 Updated Directory: Hard copies of our Grace directory are available in the narthex.

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

Karla Lee - March 29

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

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

Glory Be to the Father

581

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

The first system of music consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in 4/4 time, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment consists of chords: G2-Bb2-Eb3, A2-Bb2-Eb3, and C3-Eb3-G3.

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

The second system continues the vocal line with quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, followed by a half note G5. The piano accompaniment continues with chords: A2-Bb2-Eb3, Bb2-Eb3-G3, and C3-Eb3-G3.

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

The third system continues the vocal line with quarter notes G5, A5, and Bb5, followed by a half note C6. The piano accompaniment continues with chords: A2-Bb2-Eb3, Bb2-Eb3-G3, and C3-Eb3-G3.

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

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, followed by a half note G5. The piano accompaniment continues with chords: A2-Bb2-Eb3, Bb2-Eb3-G3, and C3-Eb3-G3, ending with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

442 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
 4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
 con - flict, man - ya doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

come to thee,
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
 I be - lieve, thine a - lone,

SPANISH

1 *Tal como soy de pecador,
 sin más confianza que tu amor;
 a tu llamada vengo a ti,
 ¡Cordero de Dios, heme aquí!*

KOREAN

1 큰-죄에 빠-진 날 위해
 주보-혈 흘려주시고
 또-나를 오-라 하시니
 주께로 거-저 갑니다

When illness limited her involvement in a bustling household, the author wrote this hymn that helped her both to achieve and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ's self-giving. Its simple, direct, and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort to many.

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

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.