



# Grace United Methodist Church

November 21, 2021

## OUR WELCOMING STATEMENT

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status.

We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

We are all invited to bless this church with our love, our presence, and our participation.

## PRELUDE

"This Little Light of Mine"  
Dave Busiek and Laura Sands, piano

arr. Joel Raney

## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETING ONE ANOTHER

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God of power and justice and peace,  
In our broken world  
We seek a new order

**Where there is courage to speak truth to power**

We seek a new order

**Where there is mutual support in church and community**

We seek a new order

**Where there is abundant time for healing**

We seek a new order

**Where there is peace and freedom for all**

### \*OPENING HYMN

UMH 569

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

### OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty, Eternal, and Holy God, who is, who was, and who is to come, worthy are you to receive our praise and thanksgiving. Here in this holy place where you have promised to dwell among us, we gather to offer our praise to your holy Name. To you be glory and dominion forever.**

**Your revelation in Jesus Christ gives life to our bodies and souls. He has shown us the way to everlasting life and has promised to make us priests and a royal nation, but not in a place that we can see in the here-and-now. Still, we try to fit your ways into our expectations and then we grumble when you do not conform. Where we have doubted your wisdom and your truth, forgive us, good Lord.**

**Jesus was born to come into the world and bear witness to the truth. He has said that whoever is of the truth hears his voice. By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit equip us to bear witness to that same truth and so help others in hearing your voice.**

**On this day we await your coming in power and might to reclaim your Church and establish the reign of righteousness. In that same power we ask you to take into your**

care those whom we have named this day; relieve their suffering, end their captivity and restore their brokenness.

**O God, our Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, hear our prayers and in your mercy, answer them in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## READING

John 18:33-37

## SERMON

Pastor Nate Nims

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT

**Our Father, (God, Creator) 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERING ANTHEM

"Once More, My Soul""

arr. Robert Roesch  
text by John Milton

### CLOSING HYMN

UMH 213

"Lift Up Your Heads, ye Mighty Gates"

## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

"Now Thank We All Our God"

arr. Robert Hobby

### Keep in your prayers:

Diane and Bob Dean  
Ron and Ruth Anne Petrak

The church and preschool will be closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday

## New Group Reading the Bible in One Year

Have you ever wanted to read the entire Bible? Grace is starting a new Bible study group in January of 2022 with the goal being to read the entire Bible in one year. The study will be based on "The Bible Year: A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days", which features weekly videos and lessons. Once we have identified all of those who wish to participate, we will figure out a regular meeting time that works for the majority of the group. Contact Coreen Witke at [coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:coreenwitke@gracedesmoines.org) or call her at 515.255.6400 ext. 230 to register for the group.



Grace is working on our Charge Conference goals and we need your help! If you are interested in:

- Expanding our outreach and membership to our online community
- Engaging with young adults
- Updating our Christian Education program

Please email [jennapokorny@gmail.com](mailto:jennapokorny@gmail.com) with your interest and ideas!

## Guide to Prayer and Study

### Monday, November 22

**Read** - Ephesians 2:4-10

**Notice** - "God is rich in mercy." "You are saved by God's grace." That was central, said the letter to the Ephesians. God saved us FROM a broken, self-seeking way of life. But that wasn't the end of the story; it was just the beginning. What Jesus called "the kingdom of God" aims to restore not just individuals, but this whole broken world to God-given wholeness. John Wesley, Methodism's founder, applied Ephesians 2:10 to everyday life in his "second general rule": "By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men." Are there "sorts" of goodness you didn't used to practice, but do now as a Christ follower? Let "doing good of every possible sort" spark your creativity. What new sorts of goodness might God plant in your life?

**Pray** - Jesus, thank you for all that you have saved me from. Guide me day by day into a way of living that honors and carries out the purpose that you saved me for. Amen.

## **Tuesday, November 23**

**Read** - Revelation 11:15, Revelation 21:3-5

**Notice** - The Bible's last book, in highly symbolic visions, declared that at history's end Jesus (not the Roman emperor) will be the true ruler. For Christians in the first century, the arrogant, persecuting Roman Empire was evil incarnate. But Revelation 21 drew from Ezekiel 43:7's vision of a restored temple as God's "throne" and Isaiah 65:17-19's announcement that God would make all things new and banish all sadness. Scholar N. T. Wright noted that, despite the 1611 King James Version rendering Revelation 11:15 as "the kingdoms of this world," further study of Greek manuscripts has made it clear that the noun in Greek was singular—"the kingdom." He wrote, "It matters quite a lot that 'kingdom' here is singular. The vision which John is passing on is a cosmic, global vision, and the 'kingdom' which God has established through his Messiah is not simply a collection of kingdoms, ruling over this nation and that. It is his universal rule, scooping up 'the kingdom of the world' as a single entity and claiming it back as his own rightful property."\* In the end, our faith says, the God we serve will reign unchallenged and unrivaled. What does it mean for you to give your allegiance to Jesus as the eternal King who rules your life?

**Pray** - King Jesus, rule today, and every day, in my heart. When you claim the kingdom of this world as your own rightful property, I want to be thoroughly accustomed to honoring your rule. Amen.

\* Wright, N. T., Revelation for Everyone (The New Testament for Everyone) (pp. 102-103). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.

## **Wednesday, November 24**

**Read** - Mark 10:23-31

**Notice** - Watching the young man with many assets sadly walk away (Mark 10:17-22), Jesus shocked his disciples, raised to believe that prosperity was always a sign of God's favor, by saying, "It's easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God's kingdom." Jesus' perspective on wealth and poverty completely reversed his disciples' view of how things work. When have you found God's values challenging, even reversing, some choice that seemed sensible in light of what you read on the Internet or heard over the TV business channels? How do you strengthen your trust in God, and reset your valuation of earthly treasures?

**Pray** - Jesus, please keep growing me into a person only your love owns, someone who can take or leave worldly wealth as you direct. Amen

## **Thursday, November 25**

**Read** - Matthew 5:13-16

**Notice** - Ephesians 1:14 used the Greek word arrabon ("down payment"). Scholar William Bar

clay said, "There are many Greek commercial documents still extant in which the word occurs. A woman sells a cow and receives so many drachmae as arrabon...Paul is saying the experience of the Holy Spirit which we have in this world is a foretaste of heaven; and it is the guarantee that some day we will enter into full possession of the blessedness of God."\* Jesus told his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), even in the hostile Roman Empire. And they did. Paul wrote that Christians mourn, but not like those "who don't have any hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Ephesians said the best worship, praise, service or caring times the Holy Spirit gives us are God's "down payment," signs that full renewal will come. What are some ways you are experiencing the down payment of life in the Spirit?

**Pray** - Jesus, you call me to be salt for the earth, to help preserve and enhance creation. By your spirit, help me to share the goodness and grace that I have to offer to my friends, family, church, and community. Amen.

\* Eugene Eung-Chun Park and Joel B. Green, study note on Matthew 5:13-14 in The CEB Study Bible. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013, p. 13 NT.

## **Friday, November 26**

**Read** - Luke 24:44-51, Acts 1:2-8

**Notice** - Surely the creator God could have written Jesus' story in the sky or thundered it across the globe. But God's wisdom made people (us!) the main way to carry out the mission: "You will be my witnesses." How did Jesus' command make it clear his people must always focus their life together in mission-driven, outward ways? Whose witness has shaped your life? Now you too are a witness to Jesus' life-changing work. In what ways can you share your own story of a changed heart and life with those who know you?

**Pray** - Jesus, you called yourself the good Shepherd, willing even to give your life for your flock. Jesus, I love the daring of telling 120 people in a small Roman province to reach "to the end of the earth." I love that the Holy Spirit's power keeps that mission moving. Fill me with that vision and that power. Amen.

## **Saturday, November 27**

**Read** - Mark 1:1-15

**Notice** - Mark shared Jesus' clear, urgent message. "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives." The Common English Bible renders the Greek metanoia, often translated "repent," with the phrase "change your hearts and lives." The Greek word meant "to turn around, change direction." Jesus called people to a lasting choice to live God's way, not just a one-time emotional event. What are some key ways Jesus has led you to change your heart and life?

**Pray** - Jesus, in my darkest times I feel unworthy of your love. Give me "eyes to see" and "ears to hear" how much you love and value me as I reflect on the beginning of your saving mission. Amen.

## Charge Conference regarding The Boy Scouts of America

Dear leaders,

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) filed for bankruptcy after numerous suits were filed for sexual abuse. As part of the bankruptcy process, United Methodist local churches across the country had the opportunity to file a proof of claim. Filing a proof of claim indicated, among other things, that the local church had a right to be indemnified/protected by BSA as well as BSA insurance policy coverage for any claim filed against the local church by a scout survivor. Your congregation was in the past and/or is presently a charter organization and could have a lawsuit filed by an abuse survivor against your local church. Your local church filed a proof of claim and now has the opportunity to vote on the bankruptcy plan. Because local churches' votes must be received by December 14, 2021, and because we will not know if all United Methodist local churches will be covered against BSA claims until November 23, 2021, all United Methodist local churches that filed a proof of claim must prepare now to record their vote. The congregation's vote is critical to ensure United Methodist local churches are protected from a lawsuit filed concerning an individual claiming they were abused while in a scouting program associated with the local church.

To this end, I would like to schedule a special called charge conference to vote on the following motion:

We the Grace United Methodist Church (approve) (disapprove) the BSA plan of reorganization and give authority for the chair of the board of trustees to execute the plan ballot document.

The ballot has to be submitted by December 14, 2021 or electronically after the charge conference. The minute of the charge conference will be submitted to the district office. Please contact me anytime if you have any questions.

Peace,

Heecheon Jeon

Grace's charge conference will be held on November 30 from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Here is the Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5488012301>

**WORSHIP LEADERS:** Rev. Nate Nims; Jenna Pokorny, liturgist; Ann Gerdom, Music Director and Organist; Michael Gookin, Choir Director.

† In hymns, prayers, and liturgies, use language that makes worship meaningful, enriching, and inclusive.

\*Please rise in body or in spirit

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Hymnals: United Methodist Hymnal (UMH); The Faith We Sing (TFWS); Worship & Song (W&S).



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**Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter**

Worship in-person with us at 10:15 a.m. Sunday morning, or join us online. Watch the livestream of the 10:15 am service on the GraceDesMoines Facebook page, on our YouTube channel, or at [gracedesmoines.org](http://gracedesmoines.org).