

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

Transfiguration Sunday

February 14, 2021

9:00 a.m.

*"Why did I pray? A strange question.
Why did I live? Why did I breathe?"* — Elie Wiesel

PRE-SERVICE

Bill and Audra Hampton-Gregory, Andrea Allington and Rori Beatty

OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

TOLLING OF THE BELL

The tolling of the bells is an opportunity for you to transition your thoughts towards God as we begin worship.

PRELUDE

Jim Rasmus

"O Wondrous Image, Vision Fair"

SYMBOLIC ENTRY OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

Aubry DeRosier and Kenna Stodola

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give glory to God. People of faith, give glory to God.

Our God, the Holy God of Israel is the first, the last, and the living One!

Our God reigns in heaven above and on earth beneath.

The steadfast love of God is everlasting, always dependable, the rock of our faith.

"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork."

We too proclaim the glory of God.

We join our voices with the angels who announced Jesus' birth.

"Glory to God in the high heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

We join our voices with the Palm Sunday disciples who said,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

We join our voices with the early church when they announced,

**At the name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth
And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, we come this morning knee-bent and body-bent before your throne of grace. We come like empty pitchers needing to be filled. We come like beggars needing to be blessed. We come with no entitlements and no privilege. Visit us with your love, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN

"Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

(If you are worshiping in the sanctuary, please do not sing.)

Jesus, take us to the mountain where, with Peter, James and John,
We are dazzled by Your glory, light as blinding as the sun.
There prepare us for the night by the vision of that sight.

What do you want us to see there that Your close companions saw?
Your divinity revealed there fills us with the self-same awe.
Clothed in flesh like ours You go, matched to meet our deadliest foe.

Take us to that other mountain where we see You glorified.
Where You shouted, "It is finished!" where for all the world You died.
Hear the stunned centurion: "Truly this was God's own Son!"

We who have beheld Your glory, risen and ascended Lord,
Cannot help but tell the story, all that we have seen and heard,
Say with Peter, James, and John: "You are God's beloved Son!"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

I invite you to join your voice with mine as we come before God in prayer
Lord of Life, when King David came before you---he knelt. When Moses recognized your
voice---he took off his sandals. When you came near to Elijah, he covered his face. And
when you spoke to Mary, she answered with selfless obedience. Help us, O God, to practice
our holy trust in you.
Forgive us for our strong egos that are ever thirsty for more power. Forgive us for our
outspoken voices that speak over others. Forgive us for our glaring eyes that lack
humility. We confess that all these speak of the vanity and emptiness of life.
God of our salvation, we seek to be disciples of Jesus. Help us to listen. Save us from our
pride. Show us again how much we need you and each other. We pray in the name of Jesus,
our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our Lord's steadfast love is from everlasting to everlasting. Our God has come to us in Jesus
Christ, he has borne our iniquities, and he has suffered our grief. The good news of the
Gospel is that we are saved by faith through grace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE

"Gloria Patri"

(If you are worshiping in the sanctuary, please do not sing.)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen. Amen.

PSALM 99

Owen Moore

Psalm 99 is a prayer of celebration that announces the rule of God. Three times you will hear the refrain, "Holy is he!" Notice also in the center of this prayer, God's concern for justice and God's fidelity toward his people.

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

**The Lord is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.**

Let them praise your great and awesome name.
Holy is he!

**Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.**

Extol the Lord our God;
worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!

**Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.**

He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees,
and the statutes that he gave them.

**O Lord our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.**

Extol the Lord our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the Lord our God is holy.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:1

(In a letter that Paul writes to the church, he informs them that they are being transformed from one degree of glory to another. You and I have not arrived at a point of full maturity. Day by day, the Holy Spirit is transforming us as we grow in faith, hope and love. Listen for a word from God....)

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Good, Lord, to Be Here"

THE GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-45

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and, in those days, told no one any of the things they had seen. On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, 'Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.' But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

SERMON

"JESUS' INVITATION: COME PRAY WITH ME"

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

THE OFFERING

Throughout the season of Epiphany, the church contemplates the character and witness of Jesus Christ. Story by story, we experience the ways in which lives are transformed by Jesus' ministry. As the church of Jesus Christ, we continue the ministry inaugurated by Jesus and now empowered by God's Holy Spirit.

CHORAL RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

I invite you to pray with me,

Years ago, dear Lord during your ministry in our midst, you healed ten lepers. That was a miraculous moment that dramatically changed ten human lives, ten families and lots of friends. Ten human lives were transformed by your grace; one of the ten remembered to give you thanks. Dear Lord, in this simple prayer that comes near the close of our worship service, we remember to give thanks to you. Thank you for those inspirations that inspire us to love. Thank you for those inspirations that inspire us to share grief, suffering, and pain. And thank you for those inspirations that inspire us to share our abundance with others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Beautiful Savior"

(If you are worshipping in the sanctuary, please do not sing.)

Beautiful Savior! King of creation!

Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,

Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,

Robed in flowers and blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;

He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,

Bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer

Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!

Son of God and Son of man!

Glory and honor, praise adoration,

Now and forevermore be thine!

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"We are a Christian Community Committed to Love, Service and Growth."

2801 Garfield Street, Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241 (920) 553-1222

Website <http://www.graceucc.org>

Missionaries: Mark Knowles and Danielle Murry-Knowles, Serving in Lesotho, Africa

Ministers: *All the People of the Congregation*

Pastor: *Kim M. Henning*

Associate Pastor: *Colie Bettivia*

Moderator: *Betty Becker*

Administrative Assistants: *Debbie Augustine and Jean Schwalbe*

Organist/Choir Director: *Andrea Allington*

Organist: *Beverly Barnes Mark*

Maintenance: *Michael Timm*

Sound Board: *Bruce Suettinger*

Worship Technology: *Bill Heinsohn, Bob Randerson, Cal MacAuley*

Song Leader: *Jim Rasmus*

Liturgist: *Aaron Buchholz*

Equal Exchange Is Available

HOSPITALIZED

No one, to our knowledge, is hospitalized. Please contact our pastors or the church office if you learn of any hospitalized.

OUR SYMPATHY

We are grieved to pass along to you news of the unexpected death of Mike (Becky) Price's father. Edward Price died on February 11. A funeral is planned for Thursday, February 18. We extend our sympathy to Mike and Becky, and their daughters, Brooke, Lindsey, Claire and Elizabeth. (3606 Debra Anne Drive---New Franken, WI 54229)

LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME

Recently, we have two high chairs for children donated to our church. They replace the very nice ones we had. If you are a caregiver of children and would have any use of these, we want to give them a new home. Come, and pick them up.

Likewise, we have a plastic bin and a nice cooler with wheels that we would also like to give away. For reasons of cleanliness and fire inspections, we would like these to find a new home. If you have need and are interested, please contact the church office.

MONDAY STUDY CLASS---DON'T MISS THIS

Our Monday Adult Study Class is making its way through Rachel Held Evans' book, "Inspired." On Monday, February 15 at 6 p.m. we will look with some depth at the book of Esther and briefly at the book of Revelation. We are in chapter 6, Resistance Stories. If you would like a link to our Zoom meeting, contact Pastor Kim (khenning1956@gmail.com).

HOPE HOUSE

Every other month, volunteers from Grace Congregational Church serve at Hope House. The week of February 14-20 is our week to serve. Bundles of thanks to those who have stepped forward and offered to service. Are you interested in learning more? Contact Mickey Veleke (920-609-8964) or Betty Becker (323-7945).

ZOOM KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning on February 21, 2021, we will be hosting our first Zoom Sunday School! Class will be on Sunday morning, 10:15-10:45, for children preschool age through 6th grade. Classes will run for 10 weeks and we will be learning together the Beatitudes (Jesus's statements of Blessings from Matthew 5). Children need not attend every lesson! Sign up at graceucc.org/sundayschool2021 or contact Pastor Colie (pastorcolie@gmail.com, or call cell - 920-973-5775 / the church office - 920-553-1222).

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

We are hosting 'parking lot worship services' throughout Lent beginning on February 17th at 7 p.m. The service will be about 30-40 minutes in length. We will offer the sacrament of Holy Communion at Ash Wednesday and again on Maundy Thursday. When you come to the parking lot, tune your radio to 89.5.

AN EVENING WITH DR. KARL KUHN

On Monday, March 8th, Dr. Karl Kuhn from Lakeland University will join our Adult Study Class from six to seven o'clock in the evening. His presentation will focus on, "What Does the Cross Mean?" Here is the explanation he offers:

"The cross is the most pervasive and powerful of Christian symbols. But as the case with most powerful symbols, the cross doesn't mean just one thing. The meaning of the cross within the Christian tradition, and among Christians today, is richly textured and variable. This study will explore the transformation of the cross—from a symbol of death and subjugation to a symbol of victory and liberation—and its multiple resonances within the New Testament. The goal of the study is to encourage thoughtful reflection and use of this powerful symbol in the church today."

EQUAL EXCHANGE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS. The following items are available for you.

Mind, Body & Soul and Love Buzz ground coffee, \$7

7 flavors of tea, \$3.25

Both Baking and Hot Cocoa, \$5.50

Chocolate bars - \$3. Dark Choc w/Almonds, Dark Choc w/Orange, Dark Choc Lemon Ginger, Milk Choc Caramel

Plain Almonds, \$7 and Salted Cashews, \$6

Please contact me for items you would like from current in-stock items. Your order will be put together by the end of the week. If there are other items not currently in stock, I will order from Equal Exchange for you.

Annie Kleman (anij.kleman@gmail.com) and Mission & Outreach thank you.

THE WOMEN OF GRACE ARE AT IT AGAIN

If per chance you had a plate of cookies delivered to you yesterday, we know to thank the Women of Grace. They came up with the idea of delivering cookies close to Valentine's Day. They baked the cookies; packaged the cookies; and then arranged for their distribution. Women of Grace, thank you for your generosity of kindness. You are loved.

RETURN TO CHURCH---A REPORT FROM OUR DIACONATE

The Diaconate recommends that we continue in a virtual format until a vaccine is readily available to all those who want the vaccine and that all of our staff have been able to be vaccinated with both doses.

After the point that everyone has access to the vaccine, we will plan a return to indoor worship in a stepwise fashion. We expect that when we return, we will wear masks, limit numbers, and avoid singing. Over time, we will be able to relax those restrictions month by month as case numbers remain controlled in our community.

Outdoor worship will still be a great way to be together in a safe manner when weather improves. Of course, we will be offering online streamed services for the indefinite future as well. The Return to Church Committee also enthusiastically recommends that all those who are eligible to receive the vaccine make sure to take advantage of this lifesaving measure.

NEXT QUARTER OF DEVOTIONALS

We have the new quarter's devotionals, "Our Daily Bread" and "Daily Bible Study" at church. If you would like a copy of either sent to you, please notify the church office or Pastor Kim Henning.

PEOPLE WE WANT TO HOLD IN PRAYER...

Bob Stephens is a resident at Hamilton Home/Northland Lodge. Ruth Hauboldt is a resident at River House Apartments. Lesley Huffer is at Rivers Bend, & Bruce Huffer is at his home. Marian Duescher is a resident at Harbor View. Jean Sutter is with her daughter, Heidi Bender: 880 S. Madison Ave. Pasadena, CA 91106. Nicole Kellner is a resident at Arborview Manor at 1520 Arboretum Drive, Apt. 1120, Oshkosh, WI 54901. Bill Monka is a resident at Tender Reflections. Bonnie Burmeister is living at 2790 Elm Tree Hill, Room 301, Howard, WI; Ginny Posny is at her home.

OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Bracken Tadych (PFC4 107-1 Lilac Lane, Minot AFB, ND 58704); Jacob Hearley (5350 Berger Street, Stop 1330, Moody AFB GA 31699); MSgt Kevin Allie (PSC37, 19 Naomi Street Magnolie, DE 19962); Gavin and Emily LeGreve (1344 N Lafayette Avenue; Bremerton WA 98312); Hunter Hayes (Air Force, Tucson, AZ); Kaity Pietenpol (Pietenpol-Prueter, Kaitlynn, 4540 Carswell Ave Unit C-9 Nellis AFB NV 89191); Alec Dewane (PVT Dewane, Alec J. B Btry 2-6 ADA BN 2750 Miner Rd. Fort Sill OK 73503); Jimmi & Alex Anderson, (164B Lower Brick Rd., Fort Riley, KS 66442)

Please notify the office of additions, changes or corrections to the above lists.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY today to Nicole Thor, Ryker Heimerl and Levi Taylor and this week to Grace DeRosier, Amy Loomis, Lily Mancheski, Chris Sayeski, Larry Wensauer, Henry Basken, Aubry DeRosier, Saleena Gulseth, Auden Peterson, Wil Schmid, Minoka Skenandore-Veleke, Arianna Stodola, William Otto and Jim Rasmus.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY today to Keith & Cheryl Barneson and Gary & Gesine McVey.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

All meetings via Zoom unless noted below

Hope House Host Week

Monday	Handbell Choir practice (FH) Adult Book Study	11:00 am 6:00 pm
Wednesday	Women's Bible study Confirmation class (Sanctuary/Zoom) Ash Wednesday service (parking lot) Generation G Adult Choir practice	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:15 pm
Thursday	Grace Notes practice (FH)	1:30 pm

