

# A SERVICE OF THE WORD

## Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 2021

9:00 a.m.

"We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do,  
and more in the light of what they suffer." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

### PRE-SERVICE

Bill Hampton trumpet solos  
John Schanilec handbell solos

### 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

Michelle Jaschob

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

### SYMBOLIC ENTRY OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

Grace Backus, Shane Kahlenburg

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather our spirits for this time of worship. We are met in the presence of God,  
**And we do not meet alone.**

With the angels in the highest heaven and creatures in the depths of the sea,  
**We gather to worship the Lord.**

With our ancestors in faith: Abraham and Sarah; Moses, Miriam, and Aaron; Joshua and Rahab;  
Ruth, Esther, Samuel, Elijah....

**We gather to worship the Lord.**

With the saints of every age and people of faith of every nation, tongue, and race,  
**We gather to worship the Lord.**

In the desert and in the city, in simple living rooms and opulent basilicas,  
**God's Holy name be praised.**

We embark on our own journey of faith – we each have our own journey, but we do not travel  
them alone. And so,

**God's Holy name be praised.**

God makes of us a great people – together we accomplish far more than each one on our own.  
And so,

**God's Holy name be praised.**

We journey in the presence of God.  
**And we do not journey alone.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Generous God, you gave us our voices, no two the same. As you did with those before us, you take and touch our ordinary lives and they can become extraordinary. And in your Church you have gathered us, in your community of common folk and complainers, prophets and puzzled people, you have called us and made a place for us. So let what we say and do here in this time, what we ponder and decide here in this time, be real for us and honest to you, as you prepare us for the life of the world in which you are praised. Amen.

## HYMN

### “Many Gifts, One Spirit”

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

God of change and glory, God of time and space,  
When we fear the future, Give to us your grace.  
In the midst of changing ways, Give us still the grace to praise.

*Refrain:* Many gifts, one Spirit, One love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing, From diversity we praise  
One Giver, one Lord, One Spirit, one Word  
Known in many ways, Hallowing our days.  
For the Giver, for the gifts: Praise, praise, praise!

God of many colors, God of many signs,  
You have made us different, Blessing many kinds.  
As the old ways disappear, Let your love cast out our fear. *Refrain*

Freshness of the morning, Newness of each night,  
You are still creating, Endless love and light.  
This we see, as shadows part, Many gifts from one great heart. *Refrain*

## PRAYER FOR COMPASSION

If we're honest, compassion does not come easy to us, God;  
We see others who struggle; those without homes, or food; those dying from curable diseases, simply because they can't get access to the healthcare they need; those who are working yet can't afford to care for their families; those who have lost loved ones through death or circumstance, and long for human companionship; those who are judged because of their difference; those who are facing the awful consequences of bad choices they have made; and those who must live with the consequences of choices that others make that impact their lives—

**It all just feels like it's too much, and there's nothing I can do.**

God, when we are honest with ourselves and with you, we know that's not true – we know that compassion is enough; that when we allow ourselves to truly see the “others” and to feel, compassion will lead us to do what we can, and that this will make a real difference.

And so, I pray first for myself: Forgive me, God, for my hardness of heart. Work within me to soften my heart, and still my fears, and lead me into those acts of compassion that I am capable of doing.

And then we pray for all of these others whose lives can be changed through small, simple acts of care; that you would disturb us, and others like us, until we finally step up and play our part in the saving of your world; and that enough of us would answer your call, that the needs of the hurting ones may be met.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who shows compassion to us. Amen.

## RESPONSE

## “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

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

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, Like the wideness of the sea;  
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, Which is more than liberty.  
There is welcome for the sinner, And more graces for the good;  
There is mercy with the Savior; There is healing in His blood.

For the love of God is broader Than the measure of our mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more simple, We would take Him at His word;  
And our lives would be illumined at the presence of our Lord.

## PSALM 119:105-112

Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm in the Bible. In fact, it is the longest chapter of any book in the Bible! It is an acrostic poem, which means that each line begins with a particular letter. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, and in Psalm 119 each letter is at the start of eight verses for a total of 176 verses. This is the section that begins with the letter נ (nun)



Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey.

I have sworn, and I fully mean it: I will keep your righteous rules.

I have been suffering so much—

LORD, make me live again according to your promise.

Please, LORD, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise. Teach me your rules!

Though my life is constantly in danger, I won’t forget your Instruction.

Though the wicked have set a trap for me, I won’t stray from your precepts.

Your laws are my possession forever because they are my heart’s joy.

I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.

## THE NEW TESTAMENT

1 John 4:7-12, 19

(The first letter of John is where the scripture "God is love" is found. In this section, followers of Christ are encouraged to show love for others around them because God first loves us. Listen....)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us. We love because God first loved us.

## SERMON ON THE STEPS

'OUR FEARS AND JESUS'

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"Come to Jesus"

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 7:1-17

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

## 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

When we give of ourselves to meet the needs of others, we are co-creators in the health of God's creation. As we have been given much, let us give in return.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts for the health of your creation. May those who receive these gifts be blessed by your love and compassion and be inspired to give to others so that your creation will continue to be transformed by your love. Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

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

*Refrain:* Take my life and let it be - consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
Take my moments and my days - let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move - at the impulse of thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be - swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain*

Take my voice and let me sing - always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be - filled with messages from thee. *Refrain*

Take my silver and my gold - not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use - ev'ry power as thou shalt choose. *Refrain*

Take my will and make it thine - it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own - it shall be thy royal throne. *Refrain*

## COMMISSION AND BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

"Hornpipe"

Bill and Audra Hampton, Rory Beatty & Andrea Allington

Some lines in the Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are from Worship Ways, a resource of the United Church of Christ. Prayer of Compassion adapted from a prayer by John van de Laar, Sacredise.com. Offering and Prayer of Dedication also from Worship Ways.

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**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:** *Michelle Jaschob*  
**Liturgist:** *Theo Lynne Hoffman*

**HOSPITALIZED**

Joan Dewey was a patient this week at Aurora Medical Center.

**MONDAY STUDY CLASS---DON'T MISS THIS**

We have a guest speaker at our Monday Study Class---6 p.m.. If you would like to join us on Zoom, contact Pastor Kim Henning ([khenning1956@gmail.com](mailto:khenning1956@gmail.com)). We are studying pages 115-130 (the Prophets!) in Rachel Held Evans' book, Inspired. Dr. Clint McCann of Eden Seminary will enter into our meeting and help us understand the role of the prophets in Israel's history.

**A PHOTO SLIDESHOW – PICTURES OF LOVE**

We all miss seeing one another during this time of virtual everything. Sharing images is one way to maintain some of these personal connections. Our church is a place where we speak about love in a different way than much of the rest of the world. We all have a person or persons who have made our life special and made us feel loved. Please send us your photos of people that you love or of things that demonstrate acts of love. You can send your photos to [gracephotos54241@gmail.com](mailto:gracephotos54241@gmail.com) before February 10th.

**HOPE HOUSE**

As this is written, 10 guests are being served by Hope House. Grace Congregational Church is the host congregation for Hope House during the week of February 14-20th. Our volunteer shifts are 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. We need to provide a meal on Monday and Thursday. If you are interested in serving, and what to learn 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](http://graceucc.org/sundayschool2021) or contact Pastor Colie ([pastorcolie@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcolie@gmail.com), or call cell - 920-973-5775 / the church office - 920-553-1222).

### **WEDNESDAY 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.

### **EXCEPTIONAL GENEROSITY**

We must offer up to God a word of gratitude for the Women of Grace. They heard of a struggle: the church camps in Wisconsin are struggling through the challenges of Covid. They devised a plan: let's host a chili supper and give the proceeds to the camping ministry in Wisconsin. Women of Grace, you abound with generosity of heart, soul, and body. On behalf of our church, thank you.

**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 ([anj.kleman@gmail.com](mailto:anj.kleman@gmail.com)) and Mission & Outreach thank you.

### **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 Laura Slickman and this week to Dave Loomis, Olivia Mancheski, Keith VanEss, Heather Antoniewicz, Joyce Marcelle, Jackson Zich, Grace Backus, Tom Christensen, Keith Diedrich, Betsy Freiberg, Richard Ott, James Schleif and Steven Schwobe.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY this week to John & Judy Lango and Randy & Lynn Kirt.

### THIS WEEK AT GRACE

All meetings via Zoom unless otherwise noted.

<b>Monday</b>	Handbell Choir practice (FH)	11:00 am
	Board of Christian Ed	6:00 pm
	Adult Book Study	6:00 pm
	Pastor/Parish-Pastor Colie (FH)	7:00 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Trustees meeting	4:30 pm
	Mission & Outreach meeting	5:00 pm
	Cabinet meeting	6:00 pm
	Earth Care Ministry	7:00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Women's Bible study	4:00 pm
	Confirmation class (Sanctuary/Zoom)	6:00 pm
	Generation G	7:00 pm
	Adult Choir practice	7:15 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Grace Notes practice (FH)	1:30 pm