

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

"Second Sunday after Epiphany"

January 17, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Hate is as all-absorbing as love, as irrational, and in its own way as satisfying.

As lovers thrive on the presence on the beloved, haters revel in encounters with the one they hate.

The major difference between hating and loving is perhaps that
whereas to love somebody is to be fulfilled and enriched by the experience,
to hate somebody is to be diminished and drained by it.

Haters simply lose themselves. Theirs is the ultimately consuming passion.

Frederick Buechner

PRE-SERVICE

"Breathe on Me Breath of God"

Jim Rasmus

"Spirit of the Living God"

OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

A Visitor from United Church Camps, Inc.
Annual Meeting Announcement

The Rev. James Schleif
Betty Becker

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

"Gather Us In"

SYMBOLIC ENTRY OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

Shaelyn Gamble, Shane Kahlenberg

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace from God and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let all the people say, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me."

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me."

The people of Israel, years ago, had endured exile and hopelessness.

The prophet Isaiah issued a prophetic word to those very people.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

Because the Lord has anointed me;

He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

To bind up the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives,

And release to the prisoners."

Generations of time have passed, but the presence and promises of God endure.

In times of rugged uncertainty,

In times of desperation,

In times of seeming despair,

We have a word from God:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

Because the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
To bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And release to the prisoners."

INVOCATION

Gracious God,

We are ever indebted to you for the hopeful promises of your Holy Spirit. When our world casts heavy shadows of anxiety upon us, you would offer us your very presence. When our world speaks of gloom, you would offer us the promise that we are not alone. When those of fearful hearts speak of anger and hatred, you would speak to us of steadfast love. Glory be to you, O God, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

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

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish – but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In this holy act of worship, we turn our thoughts now to consider the ways in which our lives are in disrepair. I invite you to come with me before God as we offer up those heartaches and disappointments that are all too real for each of us. Please pray with me....

Lord of all life, by your very nature you bring good news to the oppressed, healing to the brokenhearted, liberty to captives and release to prisoners. Save us, O God.

Save us, we pray, from our bondage to sin. We are prisoners of hatred and anger. We cannot free ourselves. Lord, we confess that we are addicted to certain negative stereotypes of

people that are harmful. We cannot free ourselves. Lord, we confess that we are enslaved to our greed and pride. We cannot free ourselves. And so we pray, O God of the Cross, liberate us from these terrible sins and lead us along that pathway that gives glory to you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The good news of the Gospel is that in Christ we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. As far as east is from west, so far would God cast our sin from us. Believe the good news of the Gospel, Christ is resurrected for the salvation of our souls. 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 the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end, Amen.

PSALM 69:1-3, 6-8, 13-15

Andrew Wagner

We are not self-sufficient. We have a relationship with God that is important. Our faith invites us to bring to God all those things that are difficult to bear. We do not have to carry these things alone. Please pray with me.

Save me, O God,

for the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;

I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched.

My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.

Do not let those who hope in you be put to shame because of me,

O Lord God of hosts;

do not let those who seek you be dishonored because of me,

O God of Israel.

It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,

that shame has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my kindred,

an alien to my mother's children.

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord.

At an acceptable time, O God,

in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.

With your faithful help

rescue me from sinking in the mire;

let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.

Do not let the flood sweep over me,
or the deep swallow me up,
or the Pit close its mouth over me.

THE PROPHETIC WORD

Isaiah 61:1-4

(God sends his prophet, Isaiah, to bring encouragement to the exiled and oppressed. It is commonly thought that that words you are about to hear were written as the people of Israel were preparing to come home after their exile to Babylon. Listen.....)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service"

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:1-4; 4:16-30

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' " And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the

time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SERMON

"JESUS, IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT"

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

Jesus today announced that he had been anointed to bring good news to the poor and to proclaim release to the captives. That was the mission and purpose of Jesus' ministry years ago. And obviously that continues to be the mission of the church today. Thank you for being the church of Jesus Christ.

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God, we are ordinary people who have been entrusted with an extraordinary ministry. We have been called to serve after the manner of Jesus Christ. Day by day, help us to know how we might serve you. Day by day, help us to know how we might bring healing and love to others. Day by day, help us to know how we might live this life rightly to your glory. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

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

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding o'er a world of gloom and blight;
Holy Spirit, ever raising earthbound souls to glory high;
Living, life imparting Spirit; you we praise and magnify.

Holy Spirit, ever breathing on the church the breath of life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving through your people's ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming in the church the mind of Christ:
In our worship we will praise you for your fruit and gifts unpriced.

Holy Spirit, ever working through the church's ministry
Quickening, strengthening, and absolving, setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul,
In community unending you we worship and extol.

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

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: *Brian Boomgarden*

HOSPITALIZED

Joyce Boldt is hospitalized in the ICU at Holy Family Memorial Hospital.

OUR SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy to the family of Roland Dvorak as they grieve his death. Roland died on Tuesday, January 12, and is survived by his wife, Margaret, and his son and daughter-in-law, Todd and Tonya Dvorak. A funeral service was held at Klein and Stangel Funeral Home on Friday.

We extend our sympathy to Max and Lisa Onderbeke as they grieve the death of Max's sister, Janice Henning. Janice had battled long against cancer, and died on December 18. A private family funeral was held in Quincy, IL.

WEDDINGS

On Friday afternoon, Michael and Cassandra (Warner) Coldren exchanged marriage vows in our sanctuary. We offer our blessings, encouragement, and all happiness to the Coldrens as they begin their married life together.

On Saturday, December 19, Harleen and Christina (Onderbeke) Hinzbeke exchanged their marriage vows. Christina is the daughter of Max and Lisa Onderbeke. We offer our well-wishes and blessings to the Hinzbeke as they begin their married life together.

A CHILD IS BORN

Aria Zivko was born on Thursday, January 14 to Joe and Jacqui Curcio Zivko. Aria's grandmother is Carrie Curcio. Blessings and joy abound!

"INSPIRED" BY RACHEL HELD EVANS

Our Monday Adult Study Class will meet on Monday, January 18th when we will study pp. 106 -111 of Rachel Held Evans book, "Inspired." We will also view The Bible Project's video resource on the book of Ecclesiastes. Contact Kim Henning at khenning1956k@gmail.com if you would need a study book or if you would like to receive a Zoom link.

SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS

Your friends at church want to see your face. We know you have been busy during the Christmas Season and we want you to share what you have been up to. Please send a photo or two or three of your Christmas activities to gracephotos54241@gmail.com by Thursday January 21st and we will put together a slideshow to present at the end of the worship service. the more the merrier, so please get those photos rolling in!

EARTH CARE MINISTRY RESCHEDULED

We had technical difficulties last week! The Earth Care Ministry will meet on Tuesday, January 19, via Zoom, at 7:00 p.m. If you have an interest in our environment or ways that we can enhance our property north of church, please come. Contact Betty Amuzu at betty.amuzu@gmail.com and the meeting link will be sent to you.

ANNUAL MEETING OF GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST: JANUARY 31

The Annual Meeting of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ will take place on Sunday, January 31, at 10:30AM. You will have 3 options to participate: on Zoom from a computer/smartphone; dialed in on the phone; or physically present in the church sanctuary. All 3 modes will allow for full participation of asking questions, joining in discussion, and voting. If you would like to be present in the sanctuary, please call the church office (920-553-1222) to register so we have a count.

If you would like to dial in over the phone, here are the details:

Phone number: (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 920 973 5775

Passcode: 2801

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Two Rivers Ecumenical Pantry (TREP) is hiring a part-time treasurer. The job entails approximately 10-12 hours a month and is paid \$11.53 an hour. If interested, contact Lyn Skarvan (920) 860-0721 or Paul Schmid (920) 374-9054 for further details.

'SUPER' CHILI DRIVE-THRU

The Women of Grace are sponsoring a "Super" Chili Drive-thru on **Saturday, February 6**, the day before the Super Bowl. Proceeds will benefit all 3 of our church camps. Because retreats, programming and camping has been cancelled for nearly a year, there has been no income to keep the camps afloat. Your purchase will not only give you the knowledge that you will be helping the camps at this very difficult time, you will also get some great tasting chili too. See details at end of bulletin. Pencil in February 6 to pick up your chili. **Note: We are in need of 1-gallon ice cream buckets with lids. Please bring to church at your convenience.**

ISLAM, CHRISTIAN, JEWISH CONVERSATION—FEBRUARY 1---6:30-8:00 P.M.

Sharing our faith stories to increase understanding and respect

Fear, distrust, and misinformation have often characterized the relationships between Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities. Featuring a panel of Jewish, Muslim and Christian thinkers, this program will help participants understand forms of antisemitism and Islamophobia in American society, and dispel the biases that contribute to prejudice and hate. Featured panelists are Dr. Charles Cohen, E. Gordon Fox Professor of American Institutions, Emeritus, at UW-Madison, Dr. Sulfiqar Shah, Director of Religious Affairs of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, and Rev. Dr. Julie Mavity Maddalena, Ulrich Ethicist in Residence, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion and Chaplain at Lakeland University. The panel will be moderated by Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn, Grace Chair of Religious Studies and Professor of Religion at Lakeland University.

To receive a Zoom link or phone number to access this virtual program, **please register at Lakeland.edu/interfaith** by Jan. 28 or call 920-565-1023 ext. 2151.

PEOPLE WE WANT TO HOLD IN PRAYER....

Gene Krueger and Bob Stephens are residents 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 Ron Boudnik, Kay Olker and Mickey Veleke and this week to Tim Hirvela, Karen Loritz, Karen Tadych, Karl Kahlenberg, David Loritz, Logan Novitski, Callie Thor, Frank Bauknecht, Ron Krizek, Rich Langman, Richard Peterson, Sue Shaw, Alaina Novitski, Ann Plansky, Doug Albright, Autumn Buchholz, Carson Kintgen and Dominick Springstube.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

All meetings via Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Monday	Handbell Choir practice (FH)	11:00am
	Endowment Board Meeting	5:00pm
	Adult Book Study – “Inspired”	6:00pm
Tuesday	Earth Care Ministry	7:00pm
Wednesday	Confirmation class (Sanctuary/Zoom)	6:00pm
	Generation G	7:00pm
	Adult Choir practice	7:15pm
Thursday	Grace Notes practice (FH)	9:30am

CHILI DRIVE-THRU

Just Heat & Eat

Saturday, February 6th, 2021

11:00am - 3:00pm

**Grace Congregational
United Church of Christ
2801 Garfield Street - Two Rivers**

CARRY OUT ONLY !!!

Quart of Chili: \$6.00

Gallon Bucket of Chili: \$20.00

(Great for Sunday's Super Bowl Game.)

**Available with or without noodles.
Vegetarian also available.**

**Pre-orders Recommended and
accepted thru January 29th**

Call 920-553-1222 (Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm)

or

Email: unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com

**Sponsored by
The Women of Grace
To benefit the UCC
Church Camps**

