

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

"Fourth Sunday after Epiphany"

January 31, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Act as if everything depended on you;
Trust as if everything depended on God.

St. Ignatius

PRE-SERVICE

OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

WOG Chili Drive-Thru

Donna Weier

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

Gail Trenholm

"When Jacob Awoke"

SYMBOLIC ENTRY OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

Grace Backus, Ella Schroeder

CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the Lord's Day, a day set apart from others.

This is the Lord's Day, a day ordained to be holy.

Today is Sunday, the first day of the week.

At the beginning of time, God created light on the first day.

God said, "Let there be light."

And God saw that the light was good,

And God separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night, the first day.

Today is Sunday, the first day of the week.

In the fullness of time, God came among us in Jesus Christ.

On Friday, he was put to death. On Sunday, he was resurrected.

On the first day of the week, at early dawn,

they came to the tomb,

taking the spices that they had prepared.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

Two men in dazzling clothes said to them,

"Why do you look for the living among the dead. He is not here, but has risen."

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***HYMN**

"Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness"

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

Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.

Praise the one who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the Gospel, healing every dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the one who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.

Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.
From this well comes living water, quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ who suffered in our place.

Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.

Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.

Praise the one redeeming glory, Praise the One who makes us one.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Through all the seasons of life, God's love is constant. Jesus says to the wounded, the broken-hearted, the aging, and the angry, "Come to me, all you who are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Pray with me.

There is more to life than going faster. There is more to life than filling our closets.
There is more to life than pleasure and fun. God, grant us the wisdom found in the words,
"Be still, and know that God is God."

Forgive us when we have delighted ourselves with ease, and missed that higher, upward calling. Forgive us when we have distanced ourselves from another's pain, and missed an opportunity to love. Forgive us when we have hastened from one activity to the next, and missed the opportunity to be the presence of Christ to another. Help us, O God, to seek the way of humility after the manner of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The good news of the Gospel is that God's heart is passionate about reconciliation. As far as east is from west, so far does God cast away the sins we have confessed. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***RESPONSE**

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

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

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain
but then the holy spirit revives my soul again. (Refrain)

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul
you can tell the love of Jesus and say he died for all. (Refrain)

Don't ever feel discouraged for Jesus is your friend
And if you lack for knowledge He'll ne'er refuse to lend. (Refrain)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Bergen Schmid

In a certain moment of time, years ago, God offered these words to Moses, to the people of Israel, and to all who would seek the way of God. I invite you to read with me responsively, as we listen again to the Ten Words.

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

Honor your father and your mother

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Philippians 1:1-11

(Philippi was a city of Macedonia. The Christian community in Philippi was the first church established by Paul on European soil. Paul seems to have had a healthy and close relationship with this community that those to follow the way of Christ. Listen....)

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SPECIAL MUSIC

Adult Choir

"Find Me at the Feet of Jesus"

THE GOSPEL

Luke 6:1-16

One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?"

He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?" Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him.

Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." He got up and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?"

After looking around at all of them, he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Now during those days, he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

SERMON

"LORD OF THE SABBATH"

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

Today is a Sunday set aside to remember social agencies related to the United Church of Christ in Wisconsin. We remember Cedar Community in West Bend, Fairhaven in Whitewater, Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, New Glarus Home in New Glarus, Orion Family Services in Madison, Emmaus Homes in St. Louis, MO, Crossroad in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Retirement Housing Foundation, and Park's Edge Preschool in Hales Corners. As the church of Jesus Christ, we give thanks for these ministries of mercy.

*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 LITANY

Today is Health and Human Service Sunday. We offer this litany.

O God of Absolute Necessity,

who reveals to us our interdependence and our inherent value.

We lift up to you now all essential workers and their life-saving ministries.

Let us ground ourselves in the roots of gratitude.

For sanitation and environmental service workers,

for janitors and mask-makers, who create spaces of well-being.

For healthcare workers and rescue breathers,

for emergency and crisis intervention teams,

for veterinarians and funeral directors,

who hold life and death in their compassionate care.

May they be held and safe in your loving arms.

For food service workers and farmers,

for postal workers and transportation providers,

who deliver sustenance and connection.

May they too be nourished and safe.

For those working with children and older adults,

for housing providers and service professionals,

who cultivate community at every experience of life.

May they be nurtured and safe.

For teachers and school workers, for poets, musicians, and artists,

who gift the world with wisdom, beauty, and joy.

For chaplains, spiritual directors, and therapists,

for hospice care-givers who journey alongside the presence of pain.

May they be companioned and safe.

For activists, protestors, and organizers,

for poll workers, policy-writers, and journalists,

who cry out for justice.

May they be heard and safe.

For family and friends,

who lift each other up and leave no one behind, alone, or lost.

May they feel loved and not alone.

Together, let us build the City of God
one moment, one relationship,
one conversation, one ministry at a time. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN**

"O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come"

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

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health to pray for friends.
How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed.
yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.

In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease;
Our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find.
The wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach and prosper humankind.

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

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 Bettavia*

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: *Fay Henning*

Liturgist: *Jessica Sayeski*

HOSPITALIZED

No one, to our knowledge, is hospitalized.

OUR SYMPATHY

A funeral was held on Thursday for Harlan Gene Krueger. We offer our sympathy to his son, Keith and Stephanie Krueger as they grieve his death.

Yesterday, a funeral was held for Michael Boomgarden, the brother of Brian and Kathy Boomgarden. We hold our dear friends in prayer.

"INSPIRED" BY RACHEL HELD EVANS---NO CLASS THIS WEEK

The next Monday Adult Study Class will meet on Monday, February 8th.

CHILI SUPPER---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 that have been pretty much shut down for nearly a year with no income to keep the camps afloat. Please consider ordering chili to help the camps or even getting a quart for a homebound friend. Pre-orders are highly recommended and excepted through Friday, Jan. 29. Call the church office at 553-1222 from 8-1 or email unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com to place your order. You will have a choice of chili with or without noodles, or vegetarian - \$6 quarts, \$20 gallons,. Pick up your "Heat & Eat" chili on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 11-3. Monetary donations to the cause will also be gladly accepted.

If you are part of our Grace community and no longer able to get to church, limited deliveries are available on Saturday. We ask that you have correct change or use a check. Please let the church office know that you need it delivered.

LIVE ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL!!

Pastor Colie and the Board of Christian Education are starting a Zoom Sunday School to end the year! We'll begin on February 21 and have a 10 week series on the Beatitudes. Classes are open for kids preschool age through 6th grade. We will meet over Zoom on Sundays from 10:15-10:45. More information will be sent out next week. You can register online at <https://forms.gle/c8QJ1QbENBNDxTHR7>. Call or email Pastor Colie (920-973-5775 / pastorcolie@gmail.com) with any questions

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).

ORDINATION OF DANIEL JAMES KRUEGER

The church and ministry team of the Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ invite you to the ordination of Daniel James Krueger on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 3 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://youtu.be/moeJStNqk1I>.

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 this week to Kay Bero, Mark Schmitt, Lou Ann Smith, Carol Gruetzmacher, Sandy Way, Diane Grimmer, Allen Miller, Andrew Wagner, Pam Wargin and Madilyn Zich

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

All meetings via Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Monday	Handbell Choir practice (FH)	11:00 am
	Diaconate meeting	6:00 pm
Wednesday	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
Thursday	Grace Notes practice (FH)	1:30 pm
Saturday	WOG Chili Drive-thru	11:00am-3:00pm