

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

"Reign of Christ, Sunday!"

November 22, 2020

9:00 a.m.

"In the evening, we will be judged on love."

John of the Cross

PRE-SERVICE

OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Growing It Forward.....

Music Ministry Updates.....

Thanksgiving Sunrise Service

Frank Bauknecht

Andrea Allington

Pastor Colie Bettivia

PRELUDE

Anita Rappe & Beverly Mark

"Meine Seele erhebt den Herren" J.S.Bach

SYMBOLIC ENTRY OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

Kenna Stodola and Connor Ashenbrenner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Colossians 1:15-20

Pastor Colie: Praise the name of Jesus Christ. With Paul we proclaim, "No one can see God, but Jesus Christ is exactly like him. He ranks higher than everything that has been made."

Pastor Kim: Praise the name of Jesus Christ. With the church in Colossae we announce, "Through his power all things were made—things in heaven and on earth, things seen and unseen, all powers, authorities, lords, and rulers. All things were made through Christ and for Christ."

Pastor Colie: Praise the name of Jesus Christ. With Christians of other denominations, we say, "He was there before anything was made, and all things continue because of him."

Pastor Kim: Praise the name of Jesus Christ. With the church in poverty-stricken places we announce, "He is the head of the body, which is the church. Everything comes from him. He is the first one who was raised from the dead. So in all things Jesus has first place."

Pastor Colie: Praise the name of Jesus Christ. With believers who are isolated in their homes, we say, "God was pleased for all of himself to live in Christ. For it pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell."

Pastor Kim: Praise the name of Jesus Christ. With the church in heaven and on earth, we say, "Through Christ, God has brought all things back to himself again—things on earth and things in heaven. God made peace through the blood of Christ's death on the cross."

HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

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

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

CALL TO PRAYER

Come, faithful ones, let us enter into this time of prayer. Set aside pride. Set aside self-satisfaction, or any claim of self-achievement, and join me as we come humbly before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

With Christians in all times and places we announce that you, O God, are holy. We announce your reign in heaven and on earth. And when we have our best heads about us, we announce also your reign over this church and our individual lives.

Have mercy upon us for all the ways we bring confusion to these lives we live. Forgive us when our political persuasions have been stronger than our religious persuasion. We have been taught, 'You, you alone are God.' Forgive us when we claim moral superiority to others. We have been taught, 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' Forgive us when we are charmed by our own importance. We have been taught, 'As you have done it onto the least of these, you have done it onto me.'" Gracious God, we long to be free of these lives full of sin. Grant us, we pray, a knowledge of your saving power through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Praise God. Praise God for the grace of forgiveness. Praise God for the knowledge that we have been reconciled to God in Christ. Praise God for the trust that God's Holy Spirit is ministering to each of us at this very moment. Amen.

RESPONSE

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

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

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)

PSALM 56

Lucy Griffin

Each psalm in the Bible has a different message to announce. In Psalm 56, the psalmist turns to God with that special trust that God will guard, protect, and save us from all evil. Please pray with me.

Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me; all day long foes oppress me;
my enemies trample on me all day long, for many fight against me. O Most High,
when I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid; what can flesh do to me?
All day long they seek to injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil.

They stir up strife, they lurk, they watch my steps. As they hoped to have my life,
so repay them for their crime; in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record?

Then my enemies will retreat in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me.

In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid. What can a mere mortal do to me?

My vows to you I must perform, O God; I will render thank offerings to you.
For you have delivered my soul from death, and my feet from falling, so that I may walk
before God in the light of life.

A READING FROM THE PROPHET

Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28

(People of faith should expect push-back when we announce and practice our faith. In the text you're about to hear, Jeremiah's words are not well received. Jeremiah speaks and then writes down the sin he observes. After the scroll is read in the temple, the king asks that it be brought to him. As you will hear, the king responds by cutting the scroll up and throwing it in a fire. How will Jeremiah respond? He writes down the words from God once again.)

In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today. It may be that when the house of Judah hears of all the disasters that I intend to do to them, all of them may turn from their evil ways, so that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

Then Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the Lord that he had spoken to him. And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, "I am prevented from entering the house of the Lord; so you go yourself, and on a fast day in the hearing of the people in the Lord's house you shall read the words of the Lord from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the people of Judah who come up from their towns. It may be that their plea will come before the Lord, and that all of them will turn from their evil ways, for great is the anger and wrath that the Lord has pronounced against this people." And Baruch son of Neriah did all that the prophet Jeremiah ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the Lord in the Lord's house.

Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary; and Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. Now the king was sitting in his winter apartment (it was the ninth month), and there was a fire burning in the brazier before him. As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them into the fire in the brazier, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier.

Now, after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which King Jehoiakim of Judah has burned.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Fantasia on Thanksgiving Themes" arr. J. van der Pol

THE PROPHETIC WORD

Ezekiel 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer

shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

SERMON

"JEREMIAH'S CONSOLING WORDS"

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

Our church is in the midst of its 2021 stewardship campaign. We give in proportion to our faith in Jesus Christ and the needs we observe. One of the beautiful things to observe about this church is that without prescribed dues, enough is given to sustain a ministry that witnesses to the good news of the Gospel. We thank you for allowing Christ to speak through you.

DOXOLOGY

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

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

In the spirit of this morning's worship service, please pray with me these words penned by Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

In me there is darkness, but with You there is light; I am lonely, but You do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with You there is help; I am restless, but with You there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with You there is patience; I do not understand Your ways, but You know the way for me. Lord Jesus Christ, You were poor and in distress, a captive and forsaken as I am. You know all human troubles; You abide with me when others fail me; It is Your will that I should know You and turn to You. Lord, I hear Your call and follow; Help me. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

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

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hand and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who, from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,**

with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

"Psalm XIX", B. Marcello

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: *Anita Rappe*

Liturgist: *Adrienne Ewald*

HOSPITALIZED

Florence Luecker is a patient at Aurora Medical Center in Two Rivers.

OUR SYMPATHY....

We offer our sympathy to Rebekah Mueller and her family as they grieve the death of Rebekah's grandmother, Judith Ann TeWinkel. Judith died on November 5 and a funeral service was held on Friday, November 13.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Agnes "Chris" Avery. Chris dies on November 13, and funeral service was held at Klein and Stangel Funeral Home on Wednesday, November 18.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Marian "Granny" Rand. Marian died on Saturday, November 14. A funeral service was held at Lambert-Eckert Funeral Home in Mishicot on Thursday, November 19

A CHILD IS BORN

Nick and Ashley Sheeter are parents of a newborn boy, Noah Kenneth, who was born on Tuesday, November 17th. Marcia Donlon is the proud and very happy Grandmother to Noah!

SMALL-PRINT "DAILY BREAD"

We offer large-print and small-print devotionals entitled, "Our Daily Bread." If you desire a copy of the small-print "Our Daily Bread," please inform Pastor Kim (khenning1956@gmail.com) or the church office. If you prefer a large-print copy, you will have to wait until next month (they are printed one month later than the small print!).

THANKSGIVING SUNRISE SERVICE

A special prayer service will be held this Thursday morning to offer a blessing to our new Solar Panels! You are invited to join us for prayers in the parking lot. **We will begin at 6:50am.** Masks and distancing will be required. The service will not be livestreamed, but it will be video recorded and emailed out later in the day on Thursday.

"DAILY BIBLE STUDY"

The next quarter of Daily Bible Study begins November 30th. Copies can be picked up at church. OR, a copy can be delivered to your home if you simply contact Pastor Kim or the church office.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS – IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?

A qualified charitable distribution allows you to make a tax free donation from an IRA owned by an individual who is age 70 ½ or over. The distribution would need to be paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity such as the church. SO....

- If you are 70 ½ year or older
- If you have an IRA which you typically withdraw from to pay your pledge or personal expenses
- Talk with your financial advisor and they will provide you the form to withdraw from your IRA to pay your pledge or church donation directly to the church.
- It is Tax Free for both Federal and State Income Taxes.

From your Treasurer, Linda Justema

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL SERIES - "EXPECTATION"

Pastor Colie is making another video devotional series for advent! Sign up to receive a daily email with a video devotional of about 3 minutes. The theme this year is "Expectation", and will begin on Nov 29. To sign up, go to <http://eepurl.com/hgTTjr> or email Pastor Colie (pastorcolie@gmail.com)

INSPIRED BY RACHEL HELD EVANS

At 6 p.m. November 23, we are hosting by Zoom an adult study class using Rachel Held Evan's book, "Inspired." We are beginning tomorrow evening with just the introduction. A study guide will be used by our class. If you would like a hard copy or one sent by email, please contact Pastor Kim.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: "Don't Be Afraid"

Pastor Colie is putting together a Christmas Pageant for our children! It will be all pre-recorded and featured as our worship service on December 20. Roles are available for all ages and abilities, and even non-members. Filming can happen in a variety of ways: some will be filmed outside at the church, some by families at home, some over Zoom calls. For more information, contact Pastor Colie (pastorcolie@gmail.com, 920-973-5775)

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS HYMN LOVERS

You are invited to be part of our Christmas Eve virtual choir hymns. We are looking for people to record themselves (or family groups) singing Joy to the World, O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night, and/or O Little Town of Bethlehem at home. Andrea will collect the videos to compile a video to be used on Christmas Eve. If you're interested please contact Andrea romsosa96@gmail.com. If you're interested but hesitant about the process/technology please let Andrea know. Our choir members have become experts and are willing to help!

SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS' "MINI LESSON"

Pastor Colie (with the help of Lincoln!) are recording a video each week reading the week's Bible story from the children's Bible. These videos can be played for children as an introduction to the worship service, or as a stand-alone story. Look for the videos included in the worship service emails every weekend.

A REQUEST FROM WOG

Last year the Women of Grace adopted a family that had moved out of Hope House but remained involved with the After-Care program offered by Hope House. We provided Christmas and Birthday gifts throughout the year. The family we adopted beginning this Christmas will be moving out of Hope House in a week and they have virtually nothing to re-start their household. Do you have excess furniture, housewares, bedding & linens you are no longer using? Please consider donating to this wonderful and kind family. Small items can be dropped off at church. Contact Mickey at 920-609-8964 if you have larger items to donate. Thank you.

CALLING FOR THANKSGIVING PICTURES

We miss seeing your faces! On Sunday, November 29 we will be including a picture slideshow into the church service of you with your Thanksgiving meal. Please take a moment during Thanksgiving to take a picture of you with the meal and send it to gracephotos54241@gmail.com by noon on Friday, November 27. It will be fun to see each other again and share in the joy of this season.

DOUBLE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

A challenge grant has been established for the Two Rivers Ecumenical Pantry (TREP). Each gift will be matched, dollar for dollar. You have two options: 1) Make out a check to TREP and send

to: George Reis Investment Group Inc., 1523 Washington St., Two Rivers, WI 54241; or 2) Make out a check to Grace Congregational Church and in the memo write: TREP donation. Thank you for supporting TREP. Paul Schmid, our TREP liaison.

HOPE HOUSE WISH LIST

Laundry detergent, Brooms & dustpans, Dish Soap, Umbrellas, Pillows, Diapers size 5&6, Pull-up diapers size 5, toilet paper, baby wipes, floor cleaner. Items can be brought directly to Hope House (1000 S. 35th St., Manitowoc), Mickey's front porch (2405 Washington St., TR) or to church.

SUPPORT YOUR CONFIRMATION YOUTH

You can offer your support for our Confirmation Class by saving those aluminum cans and bringing them to the container located beside the garage on the east end of our property. The funds raised from this project support our youth and the trips/retreats we like to take with them (once this virus passes!). Please do not include aluminum foil or pie plates.

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 her home. Marian Duescher is a resident at Harbor View. Florence Luecker is a resident at Laurel Grove. Jean Sutter is with her daughter, Heidi Bender: 880 S. Madison Ave. Pasadena, CA 91106. Nicole Kellner is residing with her son in Manitowoc. Bill Monka is a resident at Tender Reflections.

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 (4614 High St. W., Portsmouth, VA 23703); Hunter Hayes (Bagram AFB, Afghanistan); 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 Jeff Harding and this week to Brandon Marx, Brandon Kraemer, Anita Rappe, Hannah Morse, Jennisa Novitski, Lucas Dewitt, Talon Klein, Maren Slickman, Barbara Baeckman, Kay Fencil and Colton Sayeski.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY this week to Paul & Joan Schmid and Stephen & Connie Bruse.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Thursday Thanksgiving Sunrise Service 6:50am

WISHING ALL A SAFE AND BLESSED THANKSGIVING