

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

November 8, 2020

9:00 a.m.

"The heavens will not be filled with those who never made mistakes
but with those who recognized that they were off course
and who corrected their ways to get back in the light of gospel truth."

— Dieter F. Uchtdorf

PRE-SERVICE

OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Stewardship Sunday

Special Offering Envelope:

Chili Drive-Thru

Chris Blimel, Financial Secretary

Video from United Church Camps, Incorporated

Annie Kleman

PRELUDE

"This is My Maker's World"

ENTRY OF THE LIGHT

Max Loomis, Kathryn Ruhbusch

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Praise the Living God!

Praise God who has spoken hope through the Prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel.

Praise God who has spoken through Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah.

Praise God who has spoken through Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

In the midst of disorientation, they called for repentance and they spoke hope.

In the midst of oppression, they called for justice and they spoke of God's mercy.

In the midst of suffering, they reminded their listeners of God's loving kindness.

Now the word of God came to the prophet, Jonah, saying,

**"Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it;
for their wickedness has come up before me."**

Please join me in prayer,

Here we are, O God, in the midst of all the uncertainties of life. Some of us are disappointed. Some of us are hopeful. All of us know to honor you, the Holy and Righteous and Faithful One. Fill us with your Spirit, O God, so that we may not be like those who have no faith. Remind us that we stand upon the Rock of our Lord Jesus Christ and that we are baptized brothers and sisters. We praise you, O God. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all of us away;
We fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be now our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

John the Apostle years ago wrote a letter that was widely circulated between churches for Christians to read. In one place he writes, "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not with us." I invite you to quietly think on God as we prepare to pray.

"Lord Jesus, Think On Me" (one verse)

Andrea Allington

Lord Jesus Christ, you are supreme in my life. In truth, I am ever aware of the chasm I create between us. In truth, the sin within me is real. I choose anger over understanding; I choose revenge over reconciliation; I choose what makes me feel good over what is right. I am truly sorry, O God.

**Congregation: Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin;
from earth-born passions set me free, and make me pure within.**

I come, O God, as one who is weary. The world has gotten the best of me as it has many of us. I sigh. I groan. I complain. The divisions between are many. It is red against blue; it is blue against red; it is Black against White; it is White against Black. I repent of my sin and my participation in human divisiveness. I repent of my lack of desire to seek or even to practice your will of mercy.

**Congregation: Lord Jesus, think on me, with care and woe oppressed,
let me your loving servant be, and taste your promised rest.**

I confess my confusion of mind. I confess I resist the way of the cross; I prefer dominance over humility. I confess I resist the way of suffering love; I prefer power—I prefer being in the right. I confess I resist the selflessness of Christ, preferring instead to be a self-made, self-centered person.

**Congregation: Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity point to the heav'nly way.**

Hear me, O God. Against you have I sinned. Daily I forget that this is your world, not mine. Daily, I ignore your presence in my midst. Daily I choose a pathway of pleasure instead of obedience. Heal me of those painful memories when I have violated the trust of another. I pray, O God, that you would hear this prayer and each prayer lifted up to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Congregation: Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
I may eternal brightness see, and share your joy at last.**

PSALM 66:1-7,20

Josey Allington

Many of the psalms in the bible are focused on people of faith, especially those who reside in Israel. In the prayer that follows, you will notice that the Psalmist speaks a word that is directed to everyone, even those who live in far-away places. God's presence is to be honored throughout the world. Please pray with me.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."

Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

There we rejoiced in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

AN OLD TESTAMENT READING

JONAH 3:1-11

(The prophet Jonah lived about 750 years before Christ. At that time in history, the 10 northern tribes of Israel had been conquered by the Assyrians. In the text you're about to hear, Jonah will be sent to preach a sermon of repentance to the capital city of Assyria, Nineveh, in hope that they will turn to God. Since the reading is a bit long, I'll read a portion of the story; you'll hear more in just a bit....)

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days'

walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.'

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Find Me at the Feet of Jesus"

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Jonah 4

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

SERMON

"JONAH: A RELUCTANT PROPHET"

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.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION AND COVENANT

Ed and Ann Plansky

Sponsored by Pat and Bonnie Wichlacz

THE OFFERING

Today is stewardship Sunday. During this pandemic, we have to work a little harder at practicing our faith. We have to be courageous in offering our prayers at home. We have to intentionally think of those who are in need. We have to be mindful of the ways we are vulnerable to the coronavirus. And like every time in history, it is still our duty and delight to praise the living God who has come in Jesus Christ. Please join me as we sing.

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

I invite you to pray with me a stewardship prayer penned by John Calvin,
Almighty God, I give thanks for all that I have and for all that I am. Most of all I give thanks for the gift of your Son, Jesus. I pray that through a personal relationship with the Risen Christ, my heart will be open to continued conversion in my life. I pray that I may be a good steward: that I will follow faithfully, serve joyfully, give generously, live responsibly, and possess sensibly. In gratitude for the abundant gifts you have so graciously given to me, I return to you the first fruits of these gifts, through acts of service and by generously sharing all that you have entrusted to me. Heavenly Father, by your Holy Spirit, help me to be a gift to others, in your name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"How Can I Keep from Singing?"

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing,
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
Refrain

What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.
Refrain

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?
Refrain

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"Blessed Be Your Name"

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
Song Leader: Don Lewellen
Liturgist: Brian Van Ells
Psalm Reader: Josey Allington
Acolytes: Max Loomis, Kathryn Ruhbusch

LET US SERVE YOU

We are again in that position of being physically separate from one another because of the recent high level of Covid-19 activity in Northeast Wisconsin. If the leaders of this church can be of service to you, please inform us of your need. Or, if you are aware of someone we should attend to, please let us know. We trust you to help us know and understand the ways in which we can be a community committed to love, service, and growth.

HOSPITALIZED

Ginny Posny was a patient at Aurora Medical Center in Two Rivers. She has since moved to Felician Village where she continues her recovery. Cards of encouragement may be sent to 1635 S. 21st Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220.

Buddy Davidson was hospitalized this week at Holy Family Memorial Hospital.

OUR SYMPATHY.....

Kathryn Kuhn died on the day following All Saints Day, November 2. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Karl; and her two children Clare Kuhn and Josh Kuhn. (20027 Rockville Road, Kiel, WI 53042) A Memorial Service will be held in spring when we can gather outdoors.

Jim Taddy died on Tuesday, November 3 at Aurora Medical Center. He had been a resident at Shady Lane. Funeral plans are pending. Jim's brother and sister-in-law, Tony and Joan Taddy. (6701 Sunset Drive, Two Rivers).

WEDDING CELEBRATION

Lucas and Kacie Shimulunas Dewitt exchanged their marriage vows on Saturday, November 7 at Silver Valley, outside of Manitowoc. We offer words of happiness and blessing as they begin their life together as husband and wife.

THANK YOU

Hello to my church family. Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, thoughts, and food that has come our way in my recent illness. I am now on my way to almost full health. The hospitals are over with and it's now up to me to get stronger. My progress is marked and I know that a large part of that was a God-thing brought on by my church family. Thanks so much. Hopefully I can thank you in person in the not too distant future. Sharing God's grace, Jim Miller

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)

GRATITUDE FOR HOPE HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Well, we accomplished another week of service at Hope House. With more than 20 guests in their midst, your show of hospitality is greatly appreciated. We thank Betty Becker, Mickey Veleke, Fay Henning, Brian Boomgarden, Debbie Augustine, Linda Justema, and Debbie Rhein.

HOPE HOUSE WISH LIST

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

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.**

SOLAR PANEL PROJECT INSTALLATION: WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16

With at least two years of time spent planning, fund-raising, and permission-granting, it appears that the solar panels will be installed during the week of November 16. Individuals in our community have subscribed to the entire cost of this project. Thank you so very much.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY today to Tobin Bettivia and this week to Linda Langman, Carole Schwobe, Laura Hayes-Stoeger, Hannah Bauknecht, Lori Brandt, Elizabeth Gauthier, Danielle Gulseth, Lisa Taylor, Adrienne Ewald, Cindy Schindl, Cameron Bruckschen, Donna Weier, Heidi Claudel, Zoe Coenen, Jim Lester, Emory Mecha and Lynn Rennert.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY today to Scott & Lana Linzmeier and this week to Bill & Kay Bero, Keith & Susan Diedrich and George & Genevieve Taylor.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Monday	Bell Choir Practice	11:00am
	Christian Ed Board	
	Meeting (Zoom)	6:00pm
Tuesday	Trustees Meeting (Zoom)	4:30pm
	Mission & Outreach (Zoom)	5:00pm
	Cabinet Meeting (Zoom)	6:00pm
Wednesday	Confirmation Class	6:00pm
	Generation G (Zoom)	7:00pm
	Adult Choir (Zoom)	7:00pm
Saturday	Women of Grace – Chili Drive-Thru	11:00am – 5:00pm

CHILI DRIVE-THRU

Just Heat & Eat

Saturday, November 14th

11:00am - 5:00pm

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

CARRY OUT ONLY !!!

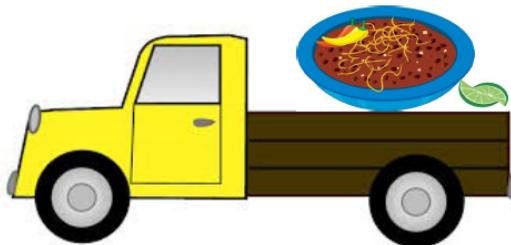
Quart of Chili: \$6.00

Gallon Bucket of Chili: \$20.00

(Great for Sunday's Packer Game.)

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

**Pre-orders appreciated (not required)
Call Mickey 920-609-8964**



**Sponsored by:
The Women of Grace**