

“While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” John 9:5



Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

March 19th, 2023

4th Sunday of Lent

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – March 19th, 2022

How can we pray for you? Let us know at prayerrequests@gpcfww.org or in the Zoom/Facebook Chat!

We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in ***BOLD*** with us from your homes!

10:15 – Zoom Meeting Starts ~ ~ ~ 10:20 – Facebook Live Stream Starts

10:30 – Live Prelude Starts O Divine Redeemer - Gounod

Welcome

Pastor Kevin

Call to Worship

Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

We are learning to follow Jesus.

On this Lenten journey, where do we find God’s presence among us?

One thing we know: God calls us to witness extraordinary love in ordinary moments.

On this Lenten journey, how does God’s presence work among us?

One thing we know: God uses the messy and mundane to heal and restore us to one another.

On this Lenten journey, what does God’s presence do in our midst?

One thing we know: God opens us to recognize presence, sustenance, and abundance where the world perceives isolation and lack.

Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, August 2022.

Opening Hymn #401 “Here in This Place”

Call to Confession

As children of God’s light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illuminated by grace.

Prayer of Confession

O God of miracles and mighty deeds, we acknowledge your healing and comforting presence in our lives. We confess that we have been [drawn in] by

materialism and driven by consumerism. Open our [hearts] to a new way of being. Send your anointing and grant us fresh insight for spiritual breakthroughs. Shine the light of your truth into our relationships and grant us victory over every secret and shame.

We thank you in advance for healings and renewals in our lives. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Time of Silent Prayer and Confession.

Junius Dotson, The Africana Worship Book, Year A, edited by Valerie Bridgeman Davis and Safiyah Fosua (Discipleship Resources, 2006), 141.

Assurance of Pardon

The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.

Song of Assurance #581 "Gloria Patri"

Passing the Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

Let us take a moment, wave to each other on Zoom, say a quick "Hello!" in person, send a message of peace to each other on Facebook, and invite the peace of Christ into our worship.

Children's Message

Time of Music and Meditation

Prayer for Illumination —

Let us pray. Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Choir Anthem

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.

¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind.

²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus

was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

Sermon

Seeing Again

The Sacrament of Baptism

Presentation

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling. **One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.**

Profession of Faith

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, Eternal God . . .

The Baptism

Laying on of Hands

Welcome

Vivian, you have been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through Baptism. By the power of the Holy Spirit, you have become a member of the household of God, to share with us in the ministry of Christ and the priesthood of all believers.

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the body of Christ.

Alleluia! Amen!

The Sacrament of Baptism liturgy is from Book of Common Worship (PCUSA)

Hymn of Response #488 “I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry”

Prayers of the People 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.

Call to Offering –

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

Offertory

I Need Thee Every Hour - Lowry

Doxology #606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayer of Dedication –

Let us pray. In gratitude, O God, we come to your table and baptismal font, into your presence, into your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially, for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep, and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn #649 “Amazing Grace”

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Stand Up for Jesus - Webb

All unattributed pieces come from Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion, ed. by Kimberly Bracken Long, Louisville, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Foundations First East Egg Hunt: Grace is once again sponsoring an Easter egg hunt for the children of Foundations First. The event is scheduled for Thursday, **April 6th, from 10:00-Noon**. We are looking for volunteers to help hide eggs, read stories, and play games with the little ones. Please contact the office or Betsy if you can help. There will also be a bin for collecting candy for the eggs in the narthex.

For Emphasis – We Need a Few More Volunteers for Easter Egg Hunt. Contact Betsy or the church office.

Tin Caps Baseball: Join Grace for a baseball game behind home plate in a reserved concourse suite. The tickets are **\$29** and the game starts at **1:05 PM** on **May 28th**. Please contact Tammy for more information or to reserve your spot. Deadline for Grace exclusive seats **March 26th** (after open to others). Payments due **May 7th**.

Lenten Study – Wednesdays – 5:30 PM: *Each Wednesday in March. This is a book study. Sign up in narthex for books. Light meals provided.

Bread for the Word Letter Offering: Grace Missions is hosting a letter offering after the service on March 26th. It will take place during the fellowship time.

Euchre and More: Congregational Life is sponsoring a euchre event at Grace on Saturday, April 29th. Beyond the cards, there will also be games for children and beverages provided. Please bring a snack to share. The fun runs from 3:00-5:00 PM.

Our Lenten Gifts: This year Grace Mission Team is offering several opportunities to help our neighbors and friends during the Lenten Season.

- 1) **Lenten Coin Folders and Fish Offering Coin Boxes** are available on the table in the Narthex. Your donations will be used for Just Neighbors. Just Neighbors IHN assists children and adults with emergency shelter, meals, skill development, employment assistance and information about community resources. Our gifts help these neighbors in our community move from crisis to self-sufficiency and independence.
- 2) **Fishes and Loaves Collection.** We are collecting cans of tuna, salmon and crackers to help the United Faith Food Bank. Monetary donations are

welcome also.

- 3) **One Great Hour of Sharing Collection** on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday
Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to:
- relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program
 - promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People
 - assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Birthdays

Franklin James Lehman – 3.19

Diana Eller – 3.22

Anniversary

Jeffrey & Lauren Widmann

March 21, 1999

Robert & Carol Fahrenbach*

March 12, 1966

*was missed last week.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers of peace for Stacy and the larger Monnier family after the passing of her father.

Prayers for Mary McNeely, Peggy's sister's recovery.

Prayers for Sharon Allen's continuing recovering.

Prayers for Dianna Eller recovering from surgery.

Prayers for Vivian Louise, for continuing recovery.

For Dustin Brown, that his medical procedures can move forward.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

To connect to our worship services on Zoom, follow these instructions to watch or listen. You can connect at 10:15 for fellowship; the service starts at 10:30.

Option 1: Automatically Join the Meeting

Follow the link in the email sent every week. This is by far the easiest way to connect to the live video.

Option 2: Manually Join the Meeting

You can download Zoom from <https://www.zoom.us>.

After you have installed the program/app, click on “Join” and enter this information:

Meeting ID: 9712063468 *Password:* 030414

Option 3: Call in to Listen (Audio Only)

On Sunday Morning, you can call to listen to the service. After you call, it will ask you to enter the Meeting ID and Password Below:

Phone Number: (301) 715-8592 *Meeting ID:* 9712063468 *Password:* 030414

Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish'd a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

Songs reprinted with permission under CCLI 1292718 or ONE LICENSE A-731346.

488 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid-dle a-ges of your life, not too old, no



you are old. I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv-ing Lord to
 lon-ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-



see your life un-fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be-long. If you find some-one to share your
 plete what I've be-gun. When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es



child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea-ry eyes, I'll be there as



light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 make your vers-es rhyme from dusk till ris-ing sun."
 I have al-ways been with just one more sur-prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

SERVICE MUSIC

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

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. Amen.

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDRETH
LM

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie

AMAZING GRACE

MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.

CM

Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw © Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;

Phonetic Transcr. Navaho © Albert Tsosie