

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”

I Corinthians 1:18



Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

March 3rd, 2024

3rd Sunday of Lent

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – March 3rd, 2024

How can we pray for you? Let us know at prayerrequests@gpcfwd.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 *Fantasy on How Great Thou Art* arr. by Mansfield

Welcome

Call to Worship – from *Sing Praises to His Name*

If you desire to be a people of vision, come to the Lord, who gives freely to those who earnestly seek.

We come to you, O Lord. Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may indeed be a people of vision.

Seek also wisdom, for without wisdom all visions are empty and useless.

Open our eyes and our minds, O Lord, so that we may understand what we see.

Opening Hymn #12 “Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise”

Call to Confession from *Book of Common Worship-1993*

The proof of God’s amazing love is this: while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession adapted from *Homiletics-2003*

Gracious God, we confess that we have disregarded your will for us. We have taken your commandments and dismissed them as suggestions. We have idolized our children, our political leaders and our possessions. We have misused your name by invoking your support for our favorite sport teams. We have not murdered, committed adultery or stolen except in our hearts. Holy God, forgive us. Show us that your law is life-giving, not restrictive.

**Remind us that you are God and bring us out of slavery to our own desires.
Amen**

Time for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news of the Gospel. Our God is the great physician who responds to our illnesses of the soul with gracious healing. Our God is our redeemer who takes away our sin. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

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!

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Prayer for Illumination — adapted from *The Book of Common Worship - 1993*

Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it that we may become instruments of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Hebrew Reading — Exodus 20:1-17

p.118

And God spoke all these words:

² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Choir Anthem

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Sermon

Foolish Wisdom

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

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.

Hymn of Response #707 “Take Though Our Minds, Dear Lord”

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal and triune God. You spoke the world into being; your Word become flesh in Jesus Christ; by your Spirit you made us your people. When we were lost in sin, you found us, sending us your prophets and even your own Son.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sin to the glory of your name:

#556 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessing is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born of Mary, he came to dwell among us, full of grace and truth. He forgave our failures, healed our hurts, and give himself in utter sacrifice for those he loved. After three days you raised him from the dead, that we might never die.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this fruit of the vine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

#557 “Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen”

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us

one with Christ that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. (Intercessions here.)

Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

#558 "Amen"

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.

Breaking the Bread

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Holy Spirit, you have filled us with your life. Christ our Savior, you have embraced us in your love. God our Mother, you have fed with your grace. Now send us out into your beloved world to share your life, your love, your grace with all. Blessing and honor and glory to you, holy, holy, holy Lord. **Amen.**

Call to Offering —

As God calls us to the foolishness of rejoicing in the Cross of Christ, God calls us to the foolishness of sharing our lives with God and one another for the

salvation of the world. With the joy of unity with Christ in our hearts, let us offer ourselves and our treasures to God.

Offertory *Communion Thoughts* arr. by Barrett

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

Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray. God of unending love: your love for the world has no bounds. You have given your Son as the gift that transforms the human heart. As we present our offerings to you, we pray that you will fill them with your endless love. Through our offerings, we pray that our work in your name will spread your peace throughout our troubled world. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen
Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn #516 “For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

Charge and Benediction

As we continue our Lenten journey, may we respond to the wisdom of the world with the foolishness of hope in the Cross of Christ. May we respond to world’s call to glorify ourselves by glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God go with us today and always blessing us with faith, hope and love.

Postlude *Classical Theme* by Marcello

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Just Neighbors: Grace is providing dinner for our local Just Neighbors’ clients March 10-15th. We’ve a little less help this time around and could use assistance with

sides and desserts. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Betsy Kachmar.

Foundation First Easter Egg Hunt: Grace is throwing an Easter Egg event for FF. We need volunteers and candy donations. Bring your sweet gifts to the narthex where we also have a volunteer signup sheet.

Grace's Lenten Bible Study: The seven-week study meets each Wednesday at 5:30 PM for all of Lent. Everyone is invited to attend and additional books can be ordered. People are encouraged to bring a meal to eat with the others attending in fellowship.

Boy Scouts Easter Breakfast: Troop 15 will be providing their annual Easter Breakfast for Grace on March 31st. Save the date. More information will be provided as it comes in.

Save the Date - Baseball: Grace and friends are scheduling another Tin Caps outing. The calendar date is May 19th. More info to come.

Grace & the Neighborhood Garage Sale: Grace will be participating with the North Highlands garage sale day. If you have items to donate we will be collecting them in our library. Please no clothes. Proceeds from the donated items will go towards sprucing up the lower level women's restroom. This is a Congregational Life event. More information will be posted as we approach the June 14th & 15th sale.

New Blood for the Tech Volunteers: There has been a request for additional volunteers to help with video and sound during our services. It's not difficult or scary ~ and you will receive training. If you can help, please talk to one of our volunteers.

Limited Office Hours of March 6: There will be limited office hours on March 6th. Emails will still be checked. Justin can be reached at 262.501.2095.

Upcoming Special Services:

- Maundy Thursday – 7:00 PM, March 28 @ United Faith
- Good Friday – Noon, March 29 @ Grace
- Easter – 10:30 AM, March 31 @ Grace

Your 2024 Offering Envelopes are in the Narthex: If there is no box for you and you would like one, please call the church office at 426-4712.

The New Per Capita (for 2024) is \$43.61:

Birthdays

Peggy Mahoney – March 5

Judy Bellis – March 8

Becky Barnett – March 9

Tom Monnier – February 27*

Nathan Bausser – February 28*

**corrections from 2.25.2024*

Anniversaries

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers of safe travel for Alex and Tom.

Prayers for Sue's recovery and guidance for her doctors.

Prayers for Kate Howard and her recovery.

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; arr. *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

ST. DENIO
 11.11.11.11

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)

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707 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

1 Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we hum - bly pray;
 2 Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;
 3 Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
 4 Take thou our - selves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;

give us the mind of Christ each pass - ing day;
 come thou with - in our souls and claim thy throne;
 have in our in - most souls thy per - fect way;
 through our sur - ren - dered souls thy plans ful - fill.

teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
 help us to shed a - broad thy death - less love;
 guard thou each sa - cred hour from self - ish ease;
 We yield our - selves to thee: time, tal - ents, all;

grant us in all our thoughts to hon - or thee.
 use us to make the earth like heaven a - bove.
 guide thou our or - dered lives as thou dost please.
 we hear, and hence - forth heed, thy sov - ereign call.

This hymn began with the tune, which the composer hummed to the author with a request for a text that would challenge the hearts and minds of young people. The text of the first three stanzas was written that day, and the fourth stanza later emerged at a youth conference.

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SERVICE MUSIC

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: '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

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516 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your
 3 With the saints who now a - dore you seat - ed
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our

wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
 at the heaven - ly board, may the church still wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward; in the world to which you

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

The author of this text, the editor of several Presbyterian hymnals, was the foremost American hymnologist of the early 20th century. Although some of his language in this text echoes early hymns of the church, he is writing here not as a scholar but as a person of deep faith.