

**Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in
truth and action.**

1 John 3:18



Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

April 21, 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Community Worship on Zoom - Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – April 21, 2024

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 *Near the Cross* by Doane

Welcome

Call to Worship –

Children of God, we gather this morning with joy to greet one another and to tell again and again the amazing news: Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Love is victorious over death!

God have given us new life!

May our singing, praying, listening, and proclaiming be a testimony to the power of God’s love to make us a new creation.

The Lord is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed?

Opening Hymn #239 “*Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing*”

Call to Confession –

Beloved, we are God’s children now, but what we will be has not been revealed. What we know is this: we will be like Jesus. Let us consider how Jesus was revealed among us and pray to be more like him in every way.

Prayer of Confession –

Jesus embodied the unconditional love of God for all people. We pray, may we be more like Jesus. Jesus fed those who were hungry in body and in spirit. We pray, may we be more like Jesus. Jesus drew near to those living on the margins and excluded; the poor, the shunned, the foreigner. We pray, may we be more like Jesus. Jesus brought healing and wholeness to those in need. He touched those considered unclean, and wept with those who were grieving. We pray, may we be more like Jesus. Jesus hungered and thirsted for righteousness. He lifted up the oppressed, and invisible to polite society. We pray, may we be more like Jesus.

Assurance of Pardon –

Beloved, through the love shown to us by Jesus, we can be sure that we are God's children now. The Spirit of Christ is among us and the nature of Christ is revealed within us. We are becoming more and more like Christ each day. Therefore, let us live joyfully as God's people, instruments of God's way. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Song of Assurance #583 "Glory to God"

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.

Children's Message

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination

Let us Pray: Jesus our teacher, in our weakness, you call us. In our confusion, you teach us. In our troubles, you offer us peace. Meet us, your students, as we come to hear your word. In the beginning, you breathed life. In chaos and darkness, you brought hope. In many tongues, you spread good news. Transform us, your people, as we open our minds and hearts to you.

Amen.

Scripture Reading: Hebrew Bible Reading – Psalm 23

p.862

The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me besides still waters;
He restores my soul.
He leads me in the right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff—
they comfort me

you prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anointing my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Choir Anthem *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* #353

Scripture Reading: Epistle Reading — 1 John 3:16-24 p.1900

We know love by this that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and loved one another, just as he has commanded us.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

It's That Simple!

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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 #39 “*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*”

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

Believing the gracious promises of our Lord and remembering that Jesus gave himself for the salvation of the world, we are called to renew our dedication to God's Kingdom through the giving of ourselves. With thanksgiving for the hope we have through Jesus Christ, let us present our offerings to God.

Offertory

Classical Toccata arr. by James

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

Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray. Lord, use the gifts we give and use us as instruments of your peace. Bless us with vision for the future and reverence for the past. Guide us as we minister to one another and to the world for which you gave yourself. Help us to bear witness to the good news and to do what you would have us to do. We ask it through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn #300 "We Are One in the Spirit"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *To Walk in God's Ways* by Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Nominating Committee Survey: The PNC is looking for Grace's thoughts on pastoral priorities. Your opinions will be a valuable tool in their efforts. The survey is on a very visible orange paper and can be found in the narthex. Please return it to the PNC by April 28th. If you or someone you know will need a copy mailed to them, please contact the office at graceoffice@gpcf.org.

Tin Caps Deadline & Payments Due 4.28: Grace and friends are scheduling another Tin Caps outing. The calendar date is May 19th and the cost is \$29. There is a sign up for the game in the narthex. The deadline to sign up and the payment is due April 28th. Please see Tammy Menkes or contact the office if you have any questions.

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. This is a great way to clean your out your house and garage! Please no clothes. Proceeds from the donated items will go towards sprucing up the lower level women's restroom. Members and friends can reserve a table to join in the sale for a \$10 donation. More information will be posted as we approach the June 14th & 15th sale.

Let's Play—Our Taxes are Done: Thanks to everyone who participated in the Congregational Life fellowship event on Saturday.

New Blood for the Tech Volunteers: There has been a request for additional volunteers to help with video and sound during our services. If you can help, please talk to one of our volunteers.

Welcome Table Needs Volunteers:

Hello Grace,

I am hoping to gather up helpers for the following Welcome Table dates. We have been a little tight the last few times and we're hoping for more help. Upcoming dates are: Apr 29, May 6, May

20, Jun 10, Jun 24, Jul 15, Jul 29, Aug 12, 26, Sep 9, and Sep 23.

Cooking and desserts seem to be covered, we mostly need help for the event itself. If you could give me an idea who might be coming and what they might like to do, that's really helpful.

Thank you!

Kate Howard, revpenney@gmail.com

Birthdays

Brenden Lehman - April 22

April Lehman - April 23

Erin White - April 26

Elaine Louise Lochry - April 26

Loretta Mary Lochry - April 26

Anniversaries

Alex & Amanda Bowers

April 20, 2019

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

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! 239

1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Death's might - y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way. Let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

This 20th-century Easter text is both a song of encouragement (stanzas 1–3 directed to the congregation) and a song of praise (stanza 4 addressed to the risen Christ), all ending with joyous alleluias. It was written specifically for the dancelike 17th-century tune found here.

TEXT: Cyril A. Alington, 1931, alt.

MUSIC: Melchior Vulpus, 1609; harm. *Pilgrim Hymnal*, 1958

Text © 1958, ren. 1986 *Hymns Ancient & Modern* (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

GELOBT SEI GOTT

8.8.8 with alleluias

Glory to God

583

Gloria, gloria

Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D)

Dm Gm C F (chords continue)

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
 Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**May be sung as a canon.*

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979
 Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

GLORIA (Taizé)

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

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
 MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923
 Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. 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.' The asterisk indicates an alternative word 'God'.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures

here be-low; praise *him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

*Or "God"

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

OLD HUNDREDETH
LM

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

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
Bbm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
Bbm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
Db Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
Bbm Fm Bbm Cm Fm Bbm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.