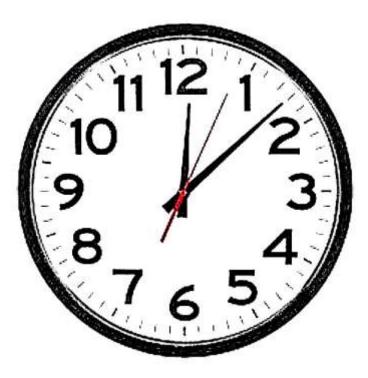
Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

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@gpcfw.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.

Time for silent confession

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 I fear no evil; for you are with Your rod and y they comfort m	vour staff—	
1	e of my enemies; ny head with oil;	
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.

It's That Simple!

Sermon

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 <u>graceoffice@gpcfw.org</u>.

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. <u>There is a sign up for the game in the narthex</u>. 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. <u>This is a great way to clean your out your house and garage!</u> Please no clothes. Proceeds from the donated items will go towards sprucing up the lower level women's restroom. <u>Members and friends can reserve a table to join in the sale for a \$10 donation</u>. 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

<u>Birthdays</u> Brenden Lehman - April 22 April Lehman - April 23 Erin White - April 26 Elaine Louise Lochry - April 26 Loretta Mary Lochry - April 26

> <u>Anniversaries</u> 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



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.
 GELOBT SEI GOTT

 MUSIC: Melchior Vulpius, 1609; harm. Pilgrim Hymnal, 1958
 8.8.8 with alleluias

 Text © 1958, ren. 1986 Hymns Ancient & Modern (admin. Hope Publishing Company)
 8.8.8





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CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

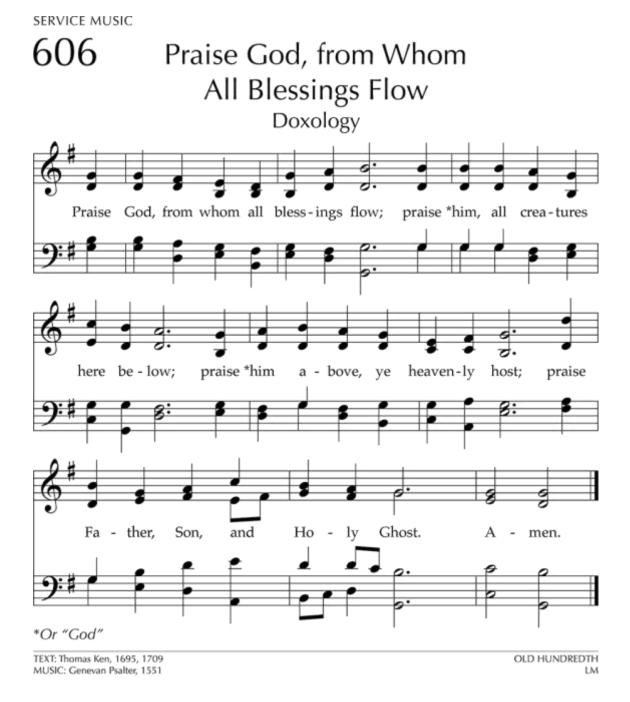


*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

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 FAITHFULNESS MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923 Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

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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.