

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement,  
because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the  
Lord's people. Philemon 1:7



Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

September 7, 2025

The 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

## Sunday Service – September 7, 2025

*How can we pray for you? Let us know 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**      *Here I Am to Worship* by Hughes

### Welcome

### Call to Worship –

Come, people of God, to learn the ways of the Lord.

**We come with open minds and willing hearts.**

The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

**We come to be taught, shaped, and sent in love.**

In Christ, we find wisdom greater than knowledge, truth deeper than facts.

Come, let us worship the One who is our Teacher and our Savior.

**We lift our hearts in praise to the Lord of wisdom and love!**

### Opening Hymn #718 “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

### Call to Confession –

The Lord is our Teacher, but we are slow to learn. The Spirit leads us, yet we wander down our own paths. Christ shows us love, but we struggle to live it. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin together.

### Prayer of Confession –

Gracious God, You are our Teacher, yet we confess that we have not always been eager students. We hear Your Word but do not always obey. We know Your command to love, yet we struggle to practice it in our daily lives. We prefer easy answers over deep understanding, and we resist correction when it challenges us. Forgive us, Lord. By Your Spirit, reshape our hearts, so that what we know in our minds may be lived in our words and deeds. Teach us again

the way of Christ, and write Your truth upon our lives. In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.

*Time for silent confession*

### **Assurance of Pardon —**

Hear the good news of the Gospel: God is patient with our stumbling, gracious with our questions, and steadfast in love when we fail the lesson. In Christ, we are not cast aside, but welcomed again into the classroom of grace. God's promise endures: "I will never leave you or forsake you." 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.

### **Children's Message**

### **Recognition of Teachers and Students**

Today we give thanks for the teachers who guide, the volunteers who serve, and the students who seek to grow in faith. We celebrate your dedication, your patience, and your love for God's Word.

As Proverbs 9:9 reminds us, "Give instruction to a wise person, and they will be still wiser; teach the righteous, and they will gain in learning."

May God continue to bless your efforts, deepen your understanding, and inspire you in the work of discipleship. Let us honor their commitment with gratitude and prayer, rejoicing in the gift of faith shared and received.

## **Time for Music & Meditation**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Let us Pray: Teacher of truth, open our minds by Your Spirit, that as Scripture is read and proclaimed, we may not only understand with our heads, but be transformed in our hearts and lives. Make us eager students of Your Word, and faithful disciples in Your way.

**Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading: Gospel Reading — Luke 14:25-33**

p.1623

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

31 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— 2 also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Thanksgiving and Prayer

4 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. 6 I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. 7 Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, 9 yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— 10 that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

12 I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. 13 I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. 14 But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. 15 Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— 16 no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

17 So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18 If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. 19 I,

Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. 20 I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

## Sermon

*Probably*

### 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 #761 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

#### Prayers of the People

Eternal Teacher,  
You call us to grow in wisdom and grace,  
to seek understanding, and to live Your Word in our daily lives.  
Hear our prayers this day as we lift our hearts to You.

For the Church universal, that it may be a place of learning, discipleship, and faithful witness,  
For leaders in our communities, schools, and workplaces, that they may guide with wisdom and integrity,  
For the nations of the world, that Your Spirit may inspire peace, justice, and understanding among all people,  
For this congregation, that we may be diligent students of Your Word, patient teachers of Your love, and faithful doers of Your commands,

Now we lift to You the special needs and concerns of our hearts, both spoken and unspoken...

- We ask that you be with Marcia Dawkins, Diana's sister, as she continues with her recovery.
- Prayer for guidance and peace as Diana's cancer has returned.
- Prayers for Holly and Jill's cousin Kevin, who is waiting for a transplant.
- Prayers for Grace, that God will bring to us our future pastor.
- We ask that you give guidance and wisdom to our teachers and volunteers.

Loving God, we place all these prayers before You, trusting in Your wisdom and mercy, and we join together in the prayer our Savior taught us:

#### **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**

All that we have is a gift from God—our minds to learn, our hearts to love, our hands to serve. In gratitude for God's teaching and mercy, let us return our tithes and offerings, that the ministry of Christ may continue to shape lives.

#### **Offertory**

*I've Found a Friend* by Stebbins

**Doxology #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

**Prayer of Dedication —**

Let us pray. Gracious Teacher, You have given us every good gift, and You call us to grow in wisdom and love. Bless these offerings, that they may nurture learning in faith, extend compassion in service, and build up Your people in knowledge and grace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

## **Announcements**

**Closing Hymn #213** *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

### **Charge & Benediction:**

Go now as students of Christ:  
learn from His Word,  
live by His example,  
and teach His love in all you do.

“The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

### **Postlude**

*When Morning Gilds the Skies* by Barnby

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Joint Worship Next Sunday:** We will be worshipping with The Welcoming Church (the combined United Faith and North Christian Church) next Sunday, September 14. Members attending are encouraged to bring a canned food donation for their food bank. There will be no service held at Grace that Sunday.

**First Choir Practice September 18:** Everyone, at any skill level, is invited to join. Practice starts at 7:30 PM. The choir will be joining our weekly Sunday services starting September 21st.

**Request for Favorite Bible Verse Sunday:** On Sunday, September 28, we will celebrate a special themed worship service: Favorite Bible Verse Sunday.



For this service, we invite you—members and friends of Grace—to share a passage of Scripture that is meaningful to you. Please fill out a Favorite Bible Verse form, available in the narthex, and return it by Sunday, September 21.

During worship, you will have a chance to read your verse (or have the Lay reader read it) and briefly share why it's meaningful to you. Don't worry—there will be a microphone, and your explanation can be as short and simple as you like. If you're unsure how to put it into words, the form includes a few prompts to help.

Your filled out forms will also be available that Sunday if you'd like to read from them your reasons from the card.

*[Warning, if we don't get many cards, Justin will pick all of his favorites.]*

**Grace's Congregational Life's Game Day:** Everyone is invited to join us in an afternoon of casual fun on September 27. People are invited to bring a favorite game and a snack to share. Festivities will run from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

### Birthdays

Rachel Lilly – September 8

Lauren Widmann – September 8

Dorothy Gilber – September 12

Anne Courtney – September 14

### Anniversaries

## 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

# Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said 718

1 Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, if  
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill  
 3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and  
 4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and

you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with  
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your  
 let your fool - ish pride be still; the Lord for you ac -  
 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -

will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.  
 spir - it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.  
 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.  
 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

Written by a nineteen-year-old in Connecticut, this challenging text has been widely printed on both sides of the Atlantic. It is strengthened by its resolute repetition of the same four words at the beginning of each stanza and by the appropriately stark shape note tune.

TEXT: Charles William Everest, 1833, alt.  
 MUSIC: Attr. Freeman Lewis, 1814; harm. John Leon Hooker, 1984  
 Music Harm. © 1984 John Leon Hooker

BOURBON  
LM

## 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.

# Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,  
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,  
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life

we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
 let us fol-low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.  
 help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
 that sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,  
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.  
 blend-ing hu-man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.  
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

Text © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

BEECHER

8.7.8.7.D

(alternate tune: EBENEZER)

606

# Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

## Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise \*him, all creatures

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 HUNDREDTH  
LM

## In the Cross of Christ I Glory 213

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the  
 5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing

o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the cross for -  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the ra - diance  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that knows no  
 o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred

sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.  
 sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

Like Isaac Watts's "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (nos. 223, 224), this hymn is a reflection on Galatians 6:14, but this text is more abstract and devotes no attention to the person hanging on the cross. The tune is named for a soloist in the composer's Connecticut choir.

TEXT: John Bowring, 1825  
 MUSIC: Ithamar Conkey, 1849

RATHBUN  
 8.7.8.7

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