

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – May 10, 2026
6th Sunday of Easter



I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you.
John 14: 18

Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in **BOLD**. *Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.

Worship Volunteers: Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Pam Callahan – Children's Message: Katie Lochry – Ushers: Nancy Current, Rachel Lilly, & Bill Werling – Tech: Stacey Monnier & Tom Monnier – Counters: Cathy German & Stacey Monnier – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude

For the Beauty of the Earth by Kocher

Welcome

***Call to Worship –**

The God who made the world and everything in it is not far from each one of us.

In God, we live and move and have our being.

Jesus says, “I will not leave you orphaned.”

Christ comes to us and remains with us.

Come, let us worship the God who is near.

Let us worship with open hearts.

***Opening Hymn – #366 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

***Call to Confession –**

Though God is near, we often live as if we are alone. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession –**

Gracious God, you are closer than we think, yet we often fail to notice your presence. We look for you in distant places and miss you in our daily lives. We trust our own understanding more than your guiding Spirit. Forgive us, O God. Open our eyes to your nearness, and help us to walk in your ways. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon –**

Hear the good news: God is not far from each one of us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and held in love.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

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

Holy God, by your Spirit, open our hearts and minds, that as your Word is read and proclaimed, we may hear your voice and recognize your presence among us. Amen.

Epistle Lesson: Acts 17:22-31

p.1724

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. 24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ 29 “Therefore since

we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem — #318 “In Christ There Is No East or West!”

Gospel Reading — John 14:15-21 p.1676

15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message

God Is Closer Than You Think

Introduction to Confirmation

Today we celebrate something beautiful. Faith is not something we finish—it is something we grow into overtime. These young people have spent time listening, wondering, asking questions, and putting words to their faith. Some of that is personal. Some of it is still unfolding. And today, they come forward

not because they have all the answers, but because they are ready to say yes to the journey of faith. And we rejoice in that.

Presentation of the Confirmands

On behalf of the Session, I present these confirmands who have completed their preparation and now come to profess their faith and become members of the church.

(Call them forward by name)

Profession of Faith – Constitutional Questions

To the Confirmands:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

I do.

Do you renounce evil and its power in the world, which defies God's righteousness and love?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? I will, with God's help. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, sharing in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Let us join together in the Apostles' Creed:

***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.

Prayer & Laying on of Hands

Let us pray. Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon these your servants, that they may continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

(Lay hands on each confirmand—say individually)

[name] May the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Welcome

Through baptism and profession of faith, you are now members of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, and of this congregation. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the life of the church.

Congregational Response

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you. We promise to love, encourage, and support you, to share the good news of the gospel with you, and to help you grow in faith.

***Hymn of Response — #624 “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

As we welcome these new members into the life of the church,
let us join together in prayer for them, for one another, and for the world.

(Ask for prayers to be lifted up)

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world,
who taught us to pray...

**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

Today we have witnessed God at work—in the lives of these confirmands, and
in the life of this community. God is closer than we think—present in our
worship, in our relationships, and in the ways we care for one another. So we
give not out of obligation, but as a response to the grace we have already
received. Let us offer our gifts to God.

Offertory

Legacy of Grace by Logan

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

*Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray: Gracious God, you are nearer than we imagine and more present
than we often recognize. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and use
them to share your love in the world. Help us to give not only what we have,
but who we are, trusting that you are at work in and through us. In Jesus’
name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

*Closing Hymn – #828 “More Love to Thee, O Christ”

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* by Ellor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation Celebration in Fellowship Hall Following Service:

Offering of Letters: We're participating in Bread for the World's annual Offering of Letters on May 17th. Following the service in the fellowship hall (during the coffee time) there will be supplies and examples for writing letters to our local representatives about food insecurities.

Pace of Grace Running & Walking Club: We are starting something new, a running and walking club. This club will meet weekly on Sundays at 1:00 PM here at Grace. This opportunity is open to the public and our first outing will be on May 17th.

Joint Service: We will be hosting the annual Presbyterian Joint Service on May 24th. Sadly, our food truck canceled on us (no pupusa). We still might have something special for fellowship, stay tuned in for more details.

Wellspring Day Camp @ Grace: Our shared community project with Wellspring starts May 28th and will run through July 10th.

NHNA Garage Sale: The annual neighborhood garage sale is June 12th & 13th. We're opening our doors (to the fellowship hall) to anyone who'd like to take have a space in this event. If you'd like a table to sell you items from home, we're asking for a \$10 donation. If you're interested, contact the church office of Tammy.

Spanish Club: Everyone is invited to join the club. Thursdays at Grace, 5:30 PM. Learn some Spanish while hanging out with Sandy Garcia, or practice what you already know.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers of peace for the family of Kale. May comfort surround them.
- Prayers of peace and comfort for Butch, Sue's nephew, as he deals with his cancer.
- Prayers for Hidi with her upcoming ordination exams.
- Prayers for You to be with us, our country, and the world during these troubling times.

Birthdays

Henry Bowers - May 11

Worship Volunteers for May 17, 2026

- Lay Leader - Todd German
- Children's Message - Holly Bouthot
- Ushers - Nancy Current, Rachel Lilly, & Bill Werling
- Technology - Stacey Monnier & Tom Monnier
- Counters - Cathy German & Stacey Monnier

366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art 624

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re-deem-er art,
 2 Thou art the King of mer-cy and of grace,
 3 Thou art the life, by which a-lone we live,
 4 Thou hast the true and per-fect gen-tle-ness;
 5 Our hope is in no oth-er save in thee;

my on-ly trust and Sav-ior of my heart,
 reign-ing om-ni-po-tent in ev-ery place;
 and all our sub-stance and our strength re-ceive;
 no harsh-ness hast thou and no bit-ter-ness,
 our faith is built up-on thy prom-ise free;

who pain didst un-der-go for my poor sake;
 so come, O King, and our whole be-ing sway;
 sus-tain us by thy faith and by thy power,
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
 and give us strength in ev-ery try-ing hour.
 that we may dwell in per-fect u-ni-ty.
 that in thy strength we ev-er-more en-dure.

The original French text, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, not a typical practice for him. Yet this text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

828 More Love to Thee, O Christ

1 More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!
 2 Once earth - ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest.
 3 Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per thy praise;

Hear thou the prayer I make on bend - ed knee.
 Now thee a - lone I seek; give what is best.
 this be the part - ing cry my heart shall raise.

This is my ear - nest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee;
 This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;
 This still its prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;

more love to thee, more love to thee!

Perhaps because this prayer-poem by the wife of a leading 19th-century Presbyterian minister grew out of her own physical and emotional suffering, it has continued to speak to many people in similar distress. It is set here to the tune created for its first printing in a hymnal.

TEXT: Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1856
 MUSIC: William Howard Doane, 1870

MORE LOVE TO THEE
 6.4.6.4.6.6.4.4