

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – June 21, 2026
4th Sunday After Pentecost



The Sacred Slowdown: Summer invites us to slow down, breathe deeply, and notice God's presence in ordinary life. In a season shaped by vacations, neighborhood gatherings, longer evenings, walking, rest, and reconnection, this series explores how God continues to speak—not always through noise or urgency, but through presence, attentiveness, community, and grace.

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: Tyler Bowers – Ushers: Nancy Current, Rachel Lilly, & Bill Werling – Tech: Kevin Mahoney & Bill Werling – Counters: Tyler Bowers & Pam Callahan – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *Faith of Our Fathers* by Hemy

Welcome

***Call to Worship —**

When we wander through wilderness places,

God hears our cries.

When fear overwhelms us,

God sees us with compassion.

When the road ahead is uncertain,

God walks beside us.

Come, all who are weary.

Come, all who are burdened.

Come, all who are searching for hope.

Let us worship the God who hears, sees, and sustains us.

***Opening Hymn — #39 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

***Call to Confession —**

Friends, sometimes the wilderness is a place we choose. Other times, it is a place we never expected to be. We confess that we often hide our fears, pretend we are stronger than we are, or believe we must navigate difficult seasons alone. Yet Scripture reminds us that God hears the cries of the vulnerable, sees those who feel forgotten, and meets us with mercy. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

***Prayer of Confession —**

God of Hagar and Ishmael, You hear the cries we try to hide. Yet we confess that we often trust our own strength more than your presence. We become anxious about the future. We allow fear to shape our decisions. We overlook those who suffer quietly among us. We rush to fix what needs compassion, and we forget that your grace is sufficient for today. Forgive us. Meet us in the wilderness places of our lives. Open our eyes to your

provision. Open our hearts to those who feel alone. Teach us to trust that even in difficult seasons, you remain faithful. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon –**

Hear the good news: The God who heard Hagar in the wilderness hears you. The God who opened her eyes to see a well in the desert opens our eyes to grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and never abandoned. Thanks be to God!

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.

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination

God who speaks in wilderness places, As we hear your Word today, quiet the noise within us. Open our ears to hear your voice, our hearts to receive your comfort, and our spirits to trust your promises. When we cannot see the way forward, help us remember that you are already there. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading – Gen. 21:8-21

p.29

8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. 9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had

borne to Abraham was mocking, 10 and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.”

11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. 12 But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. 13 I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.”

14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. 16 Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, “I cannot watch the boy die.” And as she sat there, she began to sob.

17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. 18 Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”

19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. 21 While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

24 “The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

26 “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. 28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

32 “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

34 “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
36 a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

37 “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message

God Hears You in the Wilderness

In a world that urges us to move quickly and define ourselves by what we accomplish, the church invites us to slow down and remember who we are and whose we are. Let us join our voices with the communion of saints as we proclaim the faith of the church:

***Affirmation of Faith:** *The Apostle's 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 — #509 “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

(Ask for prayers to be lifted up)

God who hears us, we pray for those who find themselves in wilderness places: for those grieving losses, for those facing illness, for those struggling with anxiety, for caregivers, for those seeking employment, for those experiencing loneliness, for those wondering where you are.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for fathers and father figures this Father's Day: for those who have nurtured and guided us, for those who carry regret, for those grieving fathers

they have lost, and for those who long to become parents.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for children and families, especially those who feel unseen or unheard. May they know that your love reaches even the wilderness.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for Grace Presbyterian Church. Teach us to become a community that notices suffering, offers compassion, and reminds one another that no one walks alone.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We lift before you now the prayers spoken aloud and those held silently in our hearts...

As together we pray the prayer Jesus taught us...

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

In the wilderness, God provided water for Hagar and Ishmael. Again and again, God provides what is needed for life and hope. Our offerings become signs of that same provision—meeting needs, supporting ministry, and extending compassion. Let us give with grateful hearts.

Offertory — Legacy of Grace by Logan

***Prayer of Dedication —**

Let us pray: **Generous God, You sustain us in every season. Bless these gifts and those who offer them. Use them to bring hope to the weary, comfort to the hurting, and encouragement to those walking through difficult places. May our giving become a witness to your faithfulness and care. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Announcements

*Closing Hymn – #661 “Why Should I Feel Discouraged?”

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude – *How Majestic Is Your Name* by Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Office Hours June 22nd: The office hours on June 22nd will be adjusted so Justin can assist our friends at The Welcome Table.

Pace of Grace Running & Walking Club: Sundays, 4:00 PM (new start time), here at Grace. The club is open to the community. The run/walk starts at door #5.

Fiber Arts Fridays: Do you knit? Crochet? Have another craft you’d like to work on while having some fellowship? Then join us on Fridays, at 11:00 AM, in the conference room.

Prayer Requests

- Healing for JoAnn as she recovers from her procedure.
- Prayers for Jenny, JoAnn’s niece, with her cancer treatments.
- Prayers of peace and comfort for Butch, as he deals with his cancer.
- Prayers for our country and the world during these troubling times.

Birthdays

Tyler Bowers – June 27

Anniversaries

Worship Volunteers for June 28, 2026

Lay Leader – Tyler Bowers

Ushers – Nancy Current, Rachel Lilly, & Bill Werling

Technology – Kevin Mahoney & Bill Werling

Counters – Tyler Bowers & Pam Callahan

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!

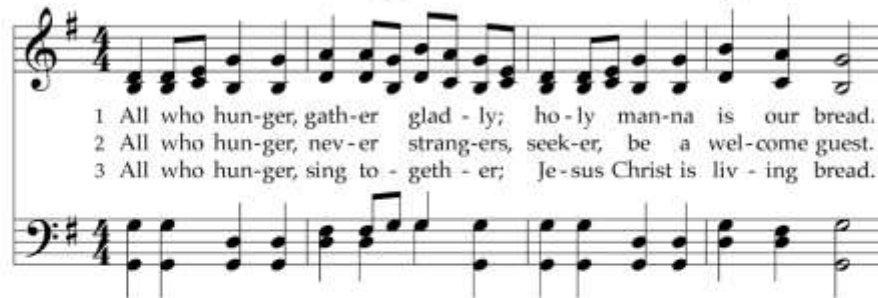
*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

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.

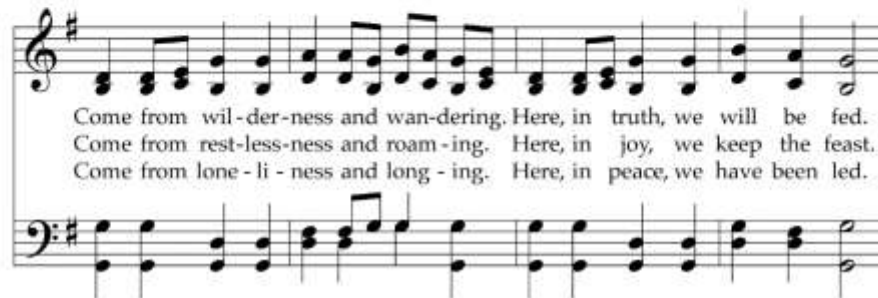
TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
 MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923
 Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

The United Church of Canada minister who wrote this text was introduced to shape note tunes at the 1990 Hymn Society conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Afterwards she vacationed with friends nearby and worked out this text while humming this tune as she walked up and down the beach.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1990
 MUSIC: William Moore's *Columbian Harmony*, 1825
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

HOLY MANNA
 B.7.B.7.D
 (alternate harmonization, 1996)

THANKSGIVING

661 Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

His Eye Is on the Sparrow



1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged? Why should the shad-ows come?
 2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," his ten-der word I hear,
 3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,



Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and home,
 and rest-ing on his good-ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
 when song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me dies,



when Je-sus is my por-tion? My con-stant friend is he:
 though by the path he lead-eth but one step I may see:
 I draw the clos-er to him; from care he sets me free:



his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me;



his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Refrain

I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, (I'm hap-py) I sing be-cause I'm free, (I'm free)

This hymn based on Jesus' saying about God's care for all creatures (Matthew 10:29-30/Luke 12:6-7) began with the refrain's last line, inspired by a woman who had endured much illness. It was first sung in public at the Royal Albert Hall, London, during evangelistic services in 1905.

TEXT: Civilla Durfee Martin, 1905
 MUSIC: Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

SPARROW
 Irregular

THANKSGIVING

for his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

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