

Grace Presbyterian Church  
Fort Wayne, IN – July 5, 2026  
6<sup>th</sup> 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: Cathy German – Ushers: Nancy Current, Rachel Lilly, & Bill Werling – Tech: John Current & Jen Mahoney – Counters: Kevin Mahoney & Volunteer – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *Prayer for Unity* arr. by Keil

Welcome — Breathe in and stop! Listen to the Sacred around you. – Rev. Sandy Garcia, Pastor

**\*Call to Worship —**

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

**We will tell of God’s goodness from generation to generation.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**God is near to all who call upon him in truth.**

Come, let us rest in God’s presence.

**Let us worship God!**

**\*Opening Hymn — 182 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”**

**\*Call to Confession —**

Jesus invites all who are weary to come to him. Yet so often we believe we must carry every burden ourselves. We rush instead of resting. We worry instead of trusting. We strive instead of receiving God’s grace. Let us confess our sin before the One who welcomes us with compassion.

**\*Prayer of Confession —**

Merciful God, We confess that we often live at a pace that leaves little room for you. We fill our calendars but neglect our souls. We worry about tomorrow instead of trusting your care today. We become impatient with others and with ourselves. Forgive us when we forget that your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Teach us

to rest in your grace, to trust your timing, and to walk gently with you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Time for silent confession*

**\*Assurance of Pardon —**

Hear the Good News. God's grace is not something we earn by working harder or moving faster. It is God's gift, freely given through Jesus Christ. In Christ, our sins are forgiven, our burdens are lifted, our hearts are renewed, and our souls find rest. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

**Song of Assurance #581 "Gloria Patri"**

**\*Passing the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**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 of wisdom, Quiet the hurried places within us. Open our ears to hear your voice, our minds to understand your Word, and our hearts to receive the rest that Christ offers. May your Spirit teach us today, that we might leave this place renewed for faithful living. Amen.

**Psalm Reading – Psalm 145:8-14**

p.979

8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

9 The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

10 All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you.

11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,

12 so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

14 The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading: Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30**

p.1513

16 “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: 17 “‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

25 At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

27 “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

*Come Away and Rest – Rev. Sandy Garcia*

**\*Affirmation of Faith:** *(from A Declaration of Faith)*

**We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ, our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ, God’s Word of acceptance takes flesh: by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not**

because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ, God's Word of demand is lived out: to love God and neighbor as Jesus did is what God requires of us. The Spirit adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.

\*Hymn of Response — #418 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

### Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, you are faithful in every generation, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. When we grow weary and burdened, remind us of Christ's invitation to come and find rest. Teach us to trust your goodness, to receive your peace, and to walk in your ways.

**God of grace, give us your rest.**

We pray for your church, that we may learn to listen for your voice amid the noise of daily life. Help us slow down enough to notice your presence and to respond faithfully to your call.

**God of grace, give us your rest.**

We pray for those facing uncertainty, transition, or important decisions. Be near to those beginning new chapters, seeking direction, carrying burdens, or wondering what comes next. Give them courage for the next faithful step.

**God of grace, give us your rest.**

We pray for those who are weary in body, mind, or spirit. Grant rest to the exhausted, comfort to the anxious, healing to the sick, and hope to those who feel discouraged.

**God of grace, give us your rest.**

We pray for our community and our neighbors. Open our eyes to those whom others overlook, and help us follow the example of Jesus, who made time for people and saw their worth and dignity.

**God of grace, give us your rest.**

As summer begins, teach us the gift of sacred slowing down. Help us find moments for prayer, rest, wonder, and gratitude. May we discover anew that you are present not only in extraordinary moments, but also in the ordinary rhythms of daily life.

**God of grace, give us your rest.**

We now lift before you the prayers that are on our hearts...

Faithful God, receive these prayers and those known only to you. Give us courage for the journey ahead, trusting that your grace goes before us and your Spirit walks beside us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying,

**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.**

## COMMUNION

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God, Creator of heaven and earth. In every season of life, you are present with your people. When we rush, you call us to be still. When we wander, you lead us home. When we grow weary, you renew our strength. You meet us not only in extraordinary moments, but also in the ordinary rhythms of life—in daily bread, in shared tables, in quiet prayers, and in the beauty of your creation. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the saints of every time and place, and with all creation, singing:

### **#566 “Holy, Holy, Holy”**

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ our Lord. He walked the dusty roads of Galilee, not in haste, but in faithfulness. He paused for those others overlooked. He welcomed children, ate with sinners, healed the suffering, and proclaimed your kingdom of grace. When the world demanded hurry, he made time for people. When others passed by, he stopped and saw. In him we see your love made flesh, your mercy made visible, your presence dwelling among us. Therefore, we remember his life, his death, his resurrection, and his promise to be with us always. And we proclaim the mystery of faith:

### **#557 “Christ Has Died, Christ is Risen”**

Gracious Holy Spirit, come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Slow our hurried hearts. Quiet our anxious minds. Open our eyes to Christ’s presence among us. As we share this meal, make us one with Christ, one with one another, and one in ministry to all the world. Teach us to trust your pace, to receive your grace, and to

walk faithfully in the way of Jesus. Until that day when all creation is gathered at your heavenly banquet, through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#558 “Amen.”

### **Breaking of the Bread**

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, he took the cup, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

For every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes again.

Family in Christ, this is the Lord’s Table. Our Savior invites all who trust in him, and all who seek him, to come and share in this feast of grace.

Come, not because you must, but because Christ welcomes you.

Come, for all is ready.

### **Communion**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us at this table with the bread

of life and the cup of salvation. Having paused to receive your grace, send us now into the world renewed and refreshed. Help us to notice your presence in ordinary moments, to trust your faithfulness one day at a time, and to share Christ's love with all whom we meet. May this meal strengthen us for the journey, until we gather again at your heavenly feast. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Call to Offering

Every good gift comes from God. As we have freely received God's grace, let us joyfully return a portion of what has been entrusted to us, supporting Christ's ministry in this place and throughout the world.

Offertory — *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* from "*Thesaurus Musicus*," c. 1744

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

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray: Generous God, Receive these gifts and use them to proclaim your love. May they provide hope for the weary, welcome for the stranger, comfort for those who are hurting, and rest for those searching for your peace. Bless both the gifts and the givers, that all we offer may glorify you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Announcements

\*Closing Hymn — #824 "There is a Place of Quiet Rest"

\*Charge & Benediction

Postlude – *Heal Our Land* by Brooks

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Grace Office Closed July 6<sup>th</sup>:**

**Sandy's Office Hours July 9<sup>th</sup>:** Sandy is flexing a partial day for the past holiday. On Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, she will only be in from 10:00 to 12:00 PM.

**Just Neighbors Dinners:** We are again dropping off meals for the clients of Just Neighbors for the week of July 12<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to help, please reach out to Betsy or the church office.

**Recognition from Bread for the World:** Grace received a special certificate for our continued participation with the ministry of Bread for the World. Check out the bulletin board to get a glimpse.

**July Newsletter in the Narthex:**

**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

- Prayers of healing as Anita, Sandy's friend, is going through her chemo treatments.
- Prayers for Tom, Tim Bauman's brother, and his medical needs.
- 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 fun and safety as people celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### Birthdays

Stacey Monnier – June 28\*

Dennis Allen – July 6

Jennifer Mahoney – July 8

Bonnie Geist – July 10

Laura Fuller – July 11

*\*was missed in last week's bulletin*

### Anniversaries

Brian & Carrie Geist

July 12, 2003

### Worship Volunteers for July 12, 2026

Lay Leader – Jill Werling

Ushers – Nancy Current, Rachel Lilly, & Bill Werling

Technology – John Current & Jen Mahoney

Counters – Kevin Mahoney & Jon Wolf

# 182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I  
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my  
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

CONFESSION

# 418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*  
 watch - ing for you and for me. "Come home, come home!  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

TEXT and MUSIC: Will L. Thompson, 1880

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY  
 11.7, 11.7 with refrain

# There Is a Place of Quiet Rest 824

## Near to the Heart of God

1 There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,  
 2 There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,  
 3 There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,

a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.  
 a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.  
 a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

*Refrain*

O Je - sus, blest Re - deem - er, sent from the heart of God,

hold us, who wait be - fore thee, near to the heart of God.

A Presbyterian campus pastor and choir director in Missouri wrote this simple but moving hymn in response to the death of two young nieces from diphtheria. By distilling such personal grief into the shared assurances of faith, these words have brought comfort to many.

TEXT and MUSIC: Cleland Boyd McAfee, 1901

MC AFEE  
 CM with refrain

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