

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – July 12, 2026
7th 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: Jill Werling – Ushers: Nancy Current, Rachel Lilly, & Bill Werling – Tech: John Current & Jen Mahoney – Counters: Kevin Mahoney & Jon Wolf – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *Our Great Savior* by Prichard

Welcome

***Call to Worship —**

Come, all who seek the presence of God.

We come with hearts open to hear God's voice.

Like seeds planted in good soil, may God's Word take root within us.

May our lives bear fruit through God's grace.

Come, let us worship the One who patiently prepares our hearts.

Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn — #15 All Creatures of Our God and King**

***Call to Confession —**

Jesus teaches us that the condition of the soil determines how well the seed grows. In the same way, our hearts can become distracted, hardened, anxious, or weary. Yet God never stops sowing seeds of grace. Trusting in God's mercy, let us prepare our hearts through confession.

***Prayer of Confession —**

Gracious God, Too often we allow the worries of life, the rush of our schedules, and the distractions around us to crowd out your voice. We confess that our hearts are not always open to receive the seeds of your love. Sometimes we become impatient, sometimes fearful, and sometimes we simply fail to notice your presence among us. Prepare the soil of our hearts once again. Remove whatever keeps us from trusting you more deeply, and

plant within us a faith that grows in love, joy, generosity, and compassion. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon —**

Hear the Good News! The God who sows seeds of grace never gives up on us. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven, renewed, and given new life. God's mercy is abundant, and God's love continues to bear fruit within us. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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 of growth, Just as a gardener prepares the soil before planting, prepare our hearts to receive your Word today. Remove whatever keeps us from hearing your voice, and by your Holy Spirit help your truth take root within us, so that our lives may bear fruit for your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

19 This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, 20 and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

21 Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. 22 The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

23 The Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."

24 When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. 25 The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. 26 After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

27 The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the

tents. 28 Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. 30 He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.)

31 Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”

32 “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”

33 But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

p.1516

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As

he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Preparing the Soil

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 — #451 Open My Eyes, That I May See**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

God of abundant grace, You are the faithful sower who scatters seeds of hope, mercy, and new life. You patiently prepare the soil of our hearts and continue your work within us, even when we cannot yet see the harvest.

God of growth, prepare our hearts.

We pray for your Church throughout the world, that we may faithfully plant seeds of love, justice, and hope wherever you send us.

God of growth, prepare our hearts.

We pray for those whose hearts are burdened by grief, illness, loneliness, or uncertainty. Surround them with your healing presence.

God of growth, prepare our hearts.

We pray for our community, for our neighbors, schools, workplaces, and families. Help us to cultivate lives that bear the fruit of kindness, generosity, and peace.

God of growth, prepare our hearts.

We pray for all who teach, mentor, parent, and encourage others. Bless the seeds they plant, and give them patience to trust your timing.

God of growth, prepare our hearts.

(Ask for prayers to be lifted up...also prayers of thanksgiving)

We gather all of these prayers—the joys, the concerns, the hopes, and the thanksgivings of your people—and place them into your loving hands.

God of growth, prepare our hearts.

Trusting that you hear us and continue your faithful work within us, we join our voices in the prayer Christ taught his disciples, 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.

Call to Offering

Every good harvest begins with seeds planted in faith. God has generously sown grace into our lives, and now we have the opportunity to respond with grateful hearts. Let us offer our gifts, our lives, and our love to the work of God's kingdom.

Offertory — *Shine, Jesus, Shine* by Kendrick

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

*Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray: Generous God, You have entrusted us with many gifts. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and use them to plant seeds of hope, compassion, and new life in our community and throughout the world. May all we give bear fruit for your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

*Closing Hymn — #36 For the Fruit of All Creation

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude — *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* arr. by Chesterton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wellspring Day Camp: Friday marked the last day of the Wellspring day camp here at Grace. It was a delight having them.

Just Neighbors Dinners: We are again dropping off meals for the clients

of Just Neighbors for the week of July 12th through 17th. If you'd like to help, please reach out to Betsy or the church office.

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.
- Prayers for Jenny, JoAnn's niece, with her cancer treatments.
- Prayers of peace and comfort for Butch, as he deals with his cancer.
- Prayers of safety for the members of our armed services as conflict continues.

Birthdays

Katelyn Monnier – July 13

Anniversaries

Brian & Carrie Geist

July 12, 2003

Tyler & Courtney Bowers

July 13, 2019

Worship Volunteers for July 19, 2026

Lay Leader – Volunteer

Ushers – Nancy Current, Rachel Lilly, & Bill Werling

Technology – John Current & Jen Mahoney

Counters – Kevin Mahoney & Jon Wolf

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

15 All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
 2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts
 3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-
 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain

Harmony

and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 of fruit and grain. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 ows of the night. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 or sor-row grieve, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison

O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon
 O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, make mu-sic for
 Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-
 Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in

Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

TEXT: Francis of Assisi, 1225; trans. composite
 MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, alt.; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 LM with alleluias
 (this tune in a higher key, 327)

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Harmony

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

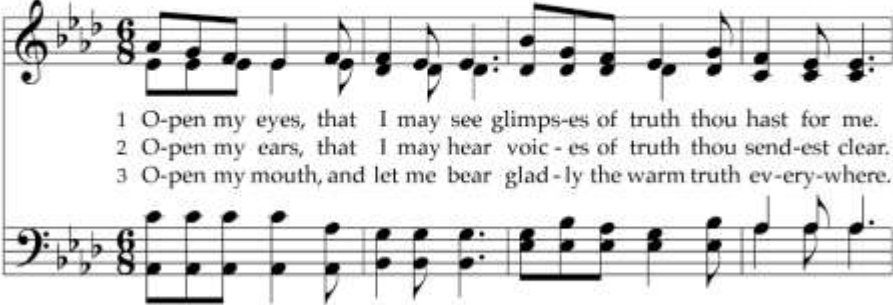
Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

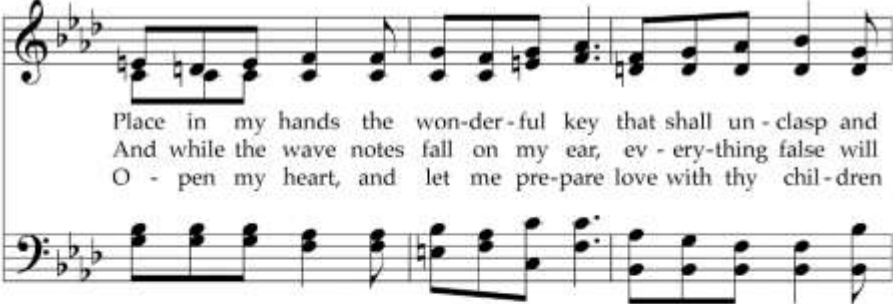
5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

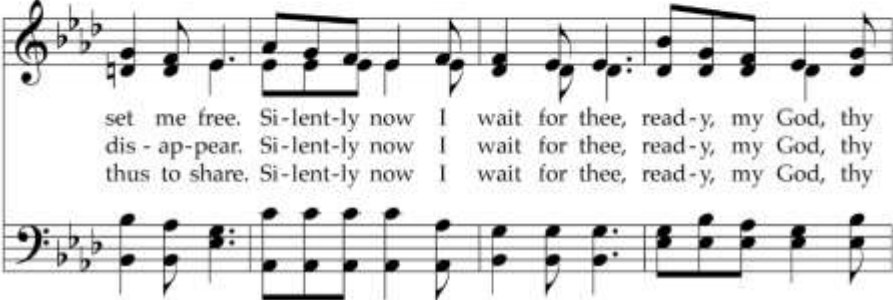
Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear.
 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev-ery-thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 dis-ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my ears; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my heart; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

For the Fruit of All Creation 36

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh melody, c. 1784
 Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

AR HYD Y NOS
 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4