

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – July 19, 2026
8th 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 & Jon Wolf – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *Jesus, I Come* by Stebbins

Welcome — Rev. Sandy Garcia

*Call to Worship —

God meets us in places we least expect.

Surely the Lord is in this place!

God comes to us in moments of fear and uncertainty.

Surely the Lord is in this place!

God calls us to worship with open hearts.

Let us worship the God who is always with us.

*Opening Hymn — #367 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

*Call to Confession —

*Prayer of Confession —

Faithful God, Too often we rush through life without noticing your presence. Like Jacob, we forget that you are with us even in unexpected places. We become distracted by worry, fear, and our own plans instead of trusting your promises. Forgive us when we overlook your grace in ordinary moments. Open our eyes to recognize your presence, strengthen our faith to trust your guidance, and help us become people who reflect your love wherever we go. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

*Assurance of Pardon —

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Song of Assurance #583 “Glory to God”

***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.

Stewardship Moment — Holly Bouthot

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Bible Reading — Gen. 28:10-22

p.43

10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. 11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.

12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 There above it stood the Lord, and he said: “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” 17 He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. 19 He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear 21 so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the Lord will be my God 22 and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

p.1518

24 Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

27 “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ 28 “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

29 “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” 37 He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

40 “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

42 They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Surely God is in This Place

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 — #401 “Here in This Place”**

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

For the Church throughout the world, that we may become a people who recognize your presence in unexpected places and faithfully bear witness to your love... God of Presence,

Open our eyes to see you.

For our nation and for all leaders, that they may seek wisdom, justice, and peace, caring especially for those who are vulnerable and forgotten... God of Presence,

Open our eyes to see you.

For those who feel alone, afraid, or uncertain; for those searching for direction; and for all who wonder if you are near, remind them that you never leave or forsake your people... God of Presence,

Open our eyes to see you.

For our local community—for our neighbors, schools, first responders, community organizations, and all who work to bring hope and healing—that together we may become instruments of your peace... God of Presence,

Open our eyes to see you.

For those who are sick, grieving, recovering, or awaiting news; for those whose burdens weigh heavily upon them; and for all who long for your comfort and strength... God of Presence,

Open our eyes to see you.

For Grace Presbyterian Church, that we may continue to recognize your presence in our worship, our fellowship, our outreach, and our daily lives.

Help us to trust that you are already at work in this place and in our community... God of Presence,

Open our eyes to see you.

(Invite prayers from the congregation. Remind them of the prayer cards in the pews)

Christ our Lord, 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.

Call to Offering

Offertory — *Abide with Me* by Monk

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

*Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray: Gracious God, Receive these gifts and use them to proclaim your love in this community and throughout the world. May our offerings become signs of your presence, bringing hope, healing, and welcome to all whom we serve. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

*Closing Hymn — #317 “In Christ There Is No East or West”

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude — *Joyous Toccata* by Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NHNA Block Party: The North Highlands Block Party is just around the corner, August 9th – 12:00 to 2:00 PM. Grace is planning on attending with our bright faces and a table with treats or games. MOE is excited to be planning out our interaction with the neighborhood but needs your help. For now keep your eyes open, but next Sunday, we’ll have a sign-up with our various needs.

Share a Baptism Blessing: On Sunday, August 30, we are excited to celebrate the baptisms of Myles Hochstetler and Rosalind Lilly! Please help us welcome Myles and Rosalind into our church family by writing a brief note of encouragement, a prayer, a blessing, or a favorite Scripture verse.

Blank cards are available in the narthex. After writing your message, please place it in the designated basket. The cards will be presented to each family in a keepsake baptism box as a reminder that Grace Presbyterian surrounds them with love, prayer, and support as they grow in faith.

Please return your card by Sunday, August 23, so we have time to prepare the baptismal keepsake boxes before the celebration.

Sandy's Thursday Office Hours: Sandy's Thursday office hours will now be 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

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 for Tammy's health and recovery.
- 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

Rosalind Lilly - July 20

Cindy Bowers - July 22

Delaney Seitz - July 24

Anniversaries

Worship Volunteers for July 26, 2026

Lay Leader – Tom Monnier

Ushers – Jen Mahoney, Nancy Current, & Sue Creager

Technology – John Current & Jen Mahoney

Counters – Kevin Mahoney & Jon Wolf

367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har-vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har-vest home.

All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:

Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har-vest home!

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.
 MUSIC: George Job Elvey, 1858

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
 7.7.7.7.D

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
 Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
 we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

THE CHURCH

317 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet

south or north, but one great fel - low -
 mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 race may be. All chil - dren of the
 south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This setting expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.

TEXT: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.

MUSIC: African American spiritual; *Jubilee Songs*, 1884; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940

MC: KEE

CM

(alternate tune: ST. PETER, 318)

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