



Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 28, 2024
at 11:00am

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude "Kum ba yah" arr. Robert Schultz
Harper Zeuch, piano

Welcome

The Lord be with you!
And also with you.

Meditation "This Little Light of Mine" arr. Edwin McLean
Harper Zeuch, piano

* Call to Worship adapted from Prayer for Christian Unity by Carolyn Smith.
Posted on the World Council of Churches website.
http://www.oikoumene.org/en/home.html

One: Holy Spirit of Freedom and Light,
All: as the poor long
for abundance shared
and injustice ended,
One: and the Church longs for unity;
All: challenge us to see these two visions
as vital threads in a single tapestry;
One: sharpen our wit and imagination
All: to weave the two together
in the footsteps of Jesus
One: for the life of the world
All: to the glory of God!

* Hymn of Praise
For the Healing of the Nations No. 428

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination
adapted from Peace & Unity Prayer Copyright © 2016, Therese Wilson-Favors.
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Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others.
Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities.
Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will.
Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity.
Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue. Illumine this path for us today through your holy Scriptures.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalter Response 2, Pg. 752
with Psalm 22:25-31, Pg. 753

* Gospel Lesson John 15:1-8 (NRSVUE)

The word of God for us the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection "Spring Cleaning" Pastor Anna Layman Knox

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

Prayer of Confession
adapted from the Liturgy of the French Reformed Church

O God,
whose will it is that all your children should be one in Christ;
we pray for the unity of your Church.

Pardon all our pride and our lack of faith,
of understanding and of charity,
which are the causes of our divisions.

Deliver us from narrow-mindedness,
from our bitterness,
from our prejudices.

Save us from considering as normal
that which is a scandal to the world
and an offense to your love.

Teach us to recognize the gifts of grace
among all those who call upon you
and confess the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May we remember that you have cleansed us
and prepared us for this life together
through your dying and rising again.

And so, may receive your forgiveness yet again today,
as we follow your life's pattern,
as children of unity, justice, and peace.

The Lord's Prayer Pg. 895
We pause in a time of silence for reflection and self-examination.

Anthem "I Will be a Child of Peace" Elaine Hagenberg
I will be a child of peace
O Holy Father, I will be a child of peace and purity
For well I know Thy hand will bless the seeker after righteousness

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.

* Sharing The Peace
Let us offer one another covid-conscious signs
of reconciliation, love, and peace.

* Hymn
Where Charity and Love Prevail No. 549

Prayers of the People with An Ancient Prayer for Christian Unity
From the Didache (2nd century). Posted on David Beswick's
Worship and Preaching website. http://www.beswick.info/

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer. Amen.

Sharing our Tithes & Offerings

At Grace, we practice giving our tithes and offerings by sharing
through plates distributed by ushers and also through giving online.
We pray that you experience God's joy during this tangible act of giving today.

Offertory "Fairest Lord Jesus" arr. Kevin Olson

* Doxology No. 95

* Offertory Prayer

In December of 2023, our church wrote prayers of Gratitude from Grace.
These prayers are shared weekly during our worship time of giving.

Holy Communion The Great Thanksgiving for Easter Day or Season
Pg. 17, Musical Setting A

Prayer Following Communion Pg. 11

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Hymn of Sending
To God be the Glory No. 98

* Benediction

Postlude "Lift Up Your Voice and Sing" arr. Burkhardt

We invite you to be seated during this postlude time of meditation,
as we prepare our minds, bodies, and spirits to reenter a world that needs Grace.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS
Sound Board & Video - Hilary Holmes, Becky & Scout
Worship Leader - Wayne Bender
Director of Music - Shelly Moorman-Stahlman
Guest Pianist - Harper Zeuch
Pastor - Anna Layman Knox

A Note from the Music Director:
Harper Zeuch, age 8, is a second grader in the Annville-Cleona Schools. Along
with studying piano for two years (one year with Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman),
she takes dance lessons in tap, ballet, and jazz at Palmyra Academy of Dance.
She enjoys musicals, participates in musical theatre camps, and sings in the
Lebanon Valley College Community Youth Choir. One day she hopes to become
an elementary school teacher.

PRAYER CHAIN

We request prayers of grace and discernment for all who are involved with the General Conference in Charlotte, as United Methodists from around the world gather to make decisions on behalf of the worldwide church from April 23 through May 3. Especially, we invite prayers for the delegates representing our Annual Conference in Charlotte:

Laity:

Christina McDermott, Carlisle UMC
Milton Loyer, Shepherdstown UMC
Toni Oplinger, Bethlehem UMC, Codorus
Cindy Weaver, Carlisle UMC
Lisa Bender, Grace UMC, Harrisburg
John Konieczny, Aldersgate UMC, Mechanicsburg
Kim Shockley, Carlisle UMC (Alternate)
Wesley Bealla, Elm Park UMC (Alternate)

Clergy:

Tom Salsgiver, Fishburn UMC, Hershey
Kathy Kind, Grace UMC, Hummelstown
Mark Reisinger, Wesley UMC, Bloomsburg
Gary Weaver, Conference Superintendent
Rachel Wong, Linglestown Life
Jake Waybright, Carlisle UMC
Lenore Hosier, Extension Ministry (Alternate)
Paul Amara, Conference Superintendent (Alternate)

We pray for Charles Wirth, who is suffering from heart failure. May God bring ease to his body and hope to his heart. - 4/22

We give thanks that after emergency abdominal surgery and a hospital stay, Grace Flesher has returned home to recover. We pray for her continued restoration to good health. - 4/22

We pray for Mack Granderson and his family, as they mourn the loss of his mother, who passed away peacefully at the age of 104 on March 24th. A memorial service will be held in her honor on April 27, 2024 at 11am at Crossroads Christian Ministries, for those who wish to attend and support Mack. - 4/11

We lift up Doug Blacksmith, as doctors seek to discern the source of persistent headaches. We pray for their wisdom and for relief from his pain. - 3/26

We pray for Mike and Julie, as Mike battles colon cancer. May he experience healing mercies. - 3/26

We give thanks that Jady Conroy is recovering well from successful spinal surgery on April 16th. We pray for continued relief from pain. - 4/21

We pray for the family and friends of Roger Nick's sister, Terri, who passed away this week while on hospice care. We give thanks that she now experiences relief from her suffering but mourn the loss of her presence. - 4/9

We lift up Bonnie Rhoads in prayer, as we celebrate the conclusion of her radiation treatment! - 4/22

We continue to pray for Carly Wolf, who has suffered several serious setbacks following her recent surgery and seeks prayers for relief and hope. - 4/8

We give thanks for the success of Robert Hall's second knee surgery and pray for continued relief from pain. - 4/15

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Michael Kains - for cancer treatment, Eileen Young, Marjie Creamer, Carol Moore, Jim Flesher

If you are aware of anyone homebound, please let the office know so we can see that they are cared for. Thank you!



OUR MISSION: We celebrate human diversity and affirm God's gifts of love and grace for ALL persons. Each of us is created in the image of God and is a child of God. We invite you, no matter your age, race, ethnicity, family structure, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical ability, or economic situation, to be in ministry with us. We support the full participation of all persons in every phase of church life. We believe that at Grace Church you will experience our God who already knows you by name, loves you, and yearns to have an even closer relationship with you. As a Reconciling Congregation, our hearts, minds and doors are open, and we are blessed by your presence.

STAFF

Anna E. Layman Knox
Pastor
aknox@susumc.org

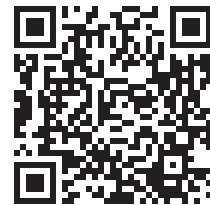
Amy Hall
Interim Church Administrator
gracehbg@gmail.com

Thomas Moran
Facilities Manager
tmoran1304@comcast.net

Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman
Director of Music
moorman@lvc.edu

Carly Wolf
Grace Intern
carlyelizabethwolf@gmail.com

Hannah Reasoner
**Missionary in Bogotá
Colombia, South America**
hreasoner@umcmision.org



GIVE ONLINE: Give to Grace UMC Harrisburg online via PayPal. Please scan the QR code with the camera on your phone for a direct link to our PayPal or visit gracehbg.org. Please contact the church office for any questions at 717-238-6739.

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LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Class of 2024
Barb Janecko
Sue Kompare
Lisa Bender

Class of 2025
Don Reasoner, Vice-Chair
Jim Flesher
Jessica Schneck

Class of 2026
Steve Drachler
Amy Hall
Rick Albright, Chair

Non-voting Secretary
Joy Makin

**Facilities Team Liaison
& Church Historian**
Wayne Bender

Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator
Christie House

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
BOLD IN CHRIST • ABOUNDING IN LOVE • GROUNDED IN FAITH

Fifth Sunday of Easter

UNITY & JUSTICE SUNDAY



SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

 **GRACE**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH