

Worship Leader Guide

DATE: Sunday, March 23, 2025

SERIES: Drink From the Fountain of Grace

Preacher: Pastor Amy

Liturgist: Stacy C

Accompanist: Leigh Ann C

Greeters/Ushers:

Media Technicians: Tammy M

Nursery Attendant: Shirley C

[9:55 AM]

PRELUDE "The Mystery of God" by Paul Taylor

[10:00 AM]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME & WORDS OF GRACE

Amy: The Lord be with you!

I am pastor Amy, and I use she/her pronouns, and I am glad that you are starting this Sunday morning here at Grace UMC. It is a joy to welcome you today whether you are here in our sanctuary today or joining us on livestream. We know we have a wonderful, diverse group of folks that come to worship with us online.

Friends, no matter where you come from today, or where you go at the close of this service, no matter what you believe or doubt, no matter what you feel or don't feel today, no matter your immigration status, no matter whom you love, you're welcome to come just as you are to be met by our God who knows you by name and who loves you and who wants to have an ever closer relationship with you. You are welcome here.

Let's pray: Almighty God, we praise your holy name. You have chosen us as your people and in return we love you and it is our desire to know you more. Give us a thirst for you and may we choose nothing less than to become just like Jesus. In the wonderful and powerful name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Liturgist moves to the pulpit.

Liturgist: Please stand as you are able and comfortable and join me in the call to worship.

CALLING ON GOD

One: God, we choose you! Our hearts are glad! Our whole bodies shout for joy and rest in you.

Many: God, we choose you when good things are happening and joy can easily be found.

One: We choose you when our thoughts trouble us and we can't find sleep.

Many: God, you are our cup of blessing and you hold our futures.

One: We bless you because you are our Counselor, Guide, and the One who secures us.

Many: God, we choose you! Our hearts are glad! Our whole bodies shout for joy and rest in you.

Liturgist: Let's lift our voices together in our opening hymn from the red hymnal page 451 Be Thou My Vision

OPENING HYMN: UMH #451 Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me Lord;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 10:11-14, 15-18, 19-25

Liturgist: Today's first lesson comes from Hebrews.

¹¹ Every priest stands every day serving and offering the same sacrifices over and over, sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, he sat down at the right side of God. ¹³ Since then, he's waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for his feet, ¹⁴ because he perfected the people who are being made holy with one offering for all time.

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit affirms this when saying,

¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them.

After these days, says the Lord,
I will place my laws in their hearts
and write them on their minds.

¹⁷ And I won't remember their sins
and their lawless behavior anymore.

¹⁸ When there is forgiveness for these things, there is no longer an offering for sin.

¹⁹ Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by means of Jesus' blood, ²⁰ through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the curtain, which is his body, ²¹ and we have a great high priest over God's house.

²² Therefore, let's draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water.

²³ Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable.

²⁴ And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. ²⁵ Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Follow by Ed Harris

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Amy: Now, let us pass the peace of Christ with one another.

JOY & CONCERNS

Amy: As we make our way back to our seats, we will move into a time of prayer. Are there joys and concerns that you would like to lift, so that we can be in prayer and praise with each other today and in this coming week?

PRAYER HYMN UMH #130 God Will Take Care of You

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.

Refrain:

God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you;
when dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]

All you may need he will provide,
God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]

No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
lean, weary one, upon his breast,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Truth and Grace,
Forgive us when we are tempted to turn to the many false gods out there,
gods like politics, vanity, consumerism, self-rejection, achievement, or constant satisfaction.**

**You are the Lord of Lords, our True North, our First Love.
Help us place you at the center of our thoughts,
discover you to be the ground beneath our walking,
And stand firm on trust in you as the foundation on which we build our lives.
Forgive us, quench us, make us whole, all in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy:

The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Response UMH #130 God Will Take Care of You, refrain x2

God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Amy:

I invite the ushers forward.

God is our chosen portion, and our hearts are glad! Choosing God leads us to a posture of generosity, sharing our resources with others, that all may know the joy of abundant life.

When we turn our lives to you, we find ourselves enrolled in your sacred story, becoming participants in the work of salvation. With open hands we offer to you now our gifts, so that all your children may come to declare "the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places." Amen.

DOXOLOGY UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

SECOND LESSON Psalm 16

Amy: Today's gospel lesson comes to us from the book of Psalms.

Protect me, God, because I take refuge in you.

² I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord.
Apart from you, I have nothing good."

³ Now as for the "holy ones" in the land,
the "magnificent ones" that I was so happy about;

⁴ let their suffering increase because
they hurried after a different god.

I won't participate in their blood offerings;
I won't let their names cross my lips.

⁵ You, Lord, are my portion, my chosen cup;
you control my destiny.

⁶ The property lines have fallen beautifully for me;
yes, I have a lovely home.

⁷ I will bless the Lord who advises me;
even at night I am instructed
in the depths of my mind.

⁸ I always put the Lord in front of me;
I will not stumble because he is on my right side.

⁹ That's why my heart celebrates and my mood is joyous;
yes, my whole body will rest in safety

¹⁰ because you won't abandon my life to the grave;
you won't let your faithful follower see the pit.
¹¹ You teach me the way of life.
In your presence is total celebration.
Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.
Many: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Drink from the Fountain of Grace: The Cup You Choose

CLOSING HYMN TFWS #2129 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus -
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me -
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow—
no turning back, no turning back.

CHORAL BENEDICTION "Light of Grace" by Andy Beck

POSTLUDE "Choral Postlude" by Ellen Jane Lorenz Leigh Ann Corcoran, Minister of Music