

# Worship Leader Guide

DATE: Sunday, February 2, 2025

SERIES TITLE:

**Preacher: Pastor Amy**

Liturgist: Gary T

Accompanist: Leigh Ann C

Greeters/Ushers:

Media Technicians: Tammy M

Nursery Attendant: Shirley C

*[9:55 AM]*

**PRELUDE** "The Water is Wide" by Edward Broughton - Leigh Ann C, Director of Music

*[10:00 AM]*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME & WORDS OF GRACE

**Amy:** The Lord be with you!

What a joy to see you all today. My name is Amy Sell, and I use she/her pronouns. I am the pastor here at Grace UMC. It is a joy to welcome you today, whether you are in our sanctuary or joining us on livestream. We know we have a wonderful, diverse group of folks who 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: God of life, death, and resurrection, we are grateful for life and all its gifts. Increase in us the stuff that life is made of- faith, hope, and love, but especially love- that we may abide with you eternally through Jesus Christ, our lover and our Lord. Amen.

**Liturgist:** Please stand as you are able in body or spirit and join me in the Call to Worship.

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our hope is in God all of our lives.

**Many: God is a rock of refuge: a fortress against threat and shame.**

One: God has held us since birth.

**Many: So we are never in the full grasp of the unjust and cruel.**

One: In love, God saves and supports us.

**Many: Trusting in God, we continually offer our praise!**

**Liturgist:** Please join me as we lift our voices together in our opening hymn #529, How Firm a Foundation.

## \*OPENING HYMN: UMH #529 How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,

For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow,  
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus still leans for response,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no never forsake.

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

### **SCRIPTURE READING** Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." <sup>7</sup> But  
the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy,'  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the Lord."

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,  
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant."

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

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** - "Spirit, Sing Through Me" by Mary McDonald & Herb Frombach

Dedicated to the memory of Joan Shipley

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **Second LESSON** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge

and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

**MESSAGE** "Shifting Ground" Pastor Amy

**Prayer Hymn:** UMH #399 Take My Life and Let It Be - vs 1 & 2

Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in endless praise,  
Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.  
Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

## **JOYS & 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?

## **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD**

**Amy:**

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

In times of despair, the psalmist reminds us that God keeps us day and night. As a community church, we seek to care for others. Your giving makes a difference here. This week we celebrated Thanksgiving, we had a group of folks provide a Thanksgiving feast for the families at Family Promise. We also received a great note of thanks from one of the recovery groups who were so grateful for the ability to have a space for them to meet each week. May these gifts that we give transition suffering into hope.

There are many ways that you can give today. There is an offering box at the back of the sanctuary. You can give online at [graceumcbillings.org/give](http://graceumcbillings.org/give) or you can text to give as well. You can text (406) 660-3699 and follow the prompts to give that way as well. Whatever you give, great or small, thank you for giving so we can continue to spread God's love for all people to all the folk we meet.

Let's pray:

O God, bless the gifts that we have given, as an expression of our love for you and our neighbors, that they may bring closer to fulfillment your reign of peace and love; through Jesus Christ, our Love. Amen.

**Prayer Hymn:** UMH #399 Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my will and make it thine;

it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart it is thine own;

it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour

at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be

ever, only, all for thee.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,  
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

P: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT,  
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.  
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES  
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.

L: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him

to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

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

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the  
forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: CHRIST HAS DIED, CHRIST IS RISEN, CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and cup.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory,  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

P: AMEN.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Amy: And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us saying: Our Creator, 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 us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Amy:

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body,  
for we all partake of the one loaf.  
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
[break bread]  
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.  
[lift cup]

Amy: Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,  
you have knit together your elect  
in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son, Christ our Lord.  
Grant us grace,  
so to follow your holy saints in all virtuous and godly living,  
That we may come to those unspeakable joys,  
Which you have prepared for those who sincerely love you;  
Through Jesus Christ our Love. Amen.

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

**Amy will introduce at the end of communion.**

TFWS #2238 In the Midst of New Dimensions

In the midst of new dimensions,  
in the face of changing ways.  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples  
wandering in their separate ways?

[Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

Through the flood of starving people,  
warring factions and despair,  
Who will lift the olive branches?  
Who will light the flame of care? [Refrain]

As we stand a world divided  
by our own self seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village  
might envision wider dreams. [Refrain]

We are man and we are woman,  
all persuasions, old and young,  
Each a gift in your creation,  
each a love song to be sung. [Refrain]

Should the threats of dire predictions

cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit,  
resurrect the church again. [Refrain]

## **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**Amy:**

Empowered by God's love for you,  
Go out and love your neighbors,  
The ones just like you  
And those different from you.

Now may the grace of God,  
The love of Christ,  
And the friendship of the Holy Spirit  
Go with us all. Amen.

Postlude: "Episode on Dunlap's Creek" by David Paxton

Leigh Ann Corcoran, Minister of Music

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

<https://billingsgrace.breezechms.com/form/virtualpewcard>