

Worship Leader Guide

DATE: Sunday, February 23, 2025

Preacher: Pastor Amy

Liturgist: Gary T

Accompanist: Leigh Ann C

Greeters/Ushers:

Media Technicians: Tammy M

Nursery Attendant: Shirley C

[9:55 AM]

PRELUDE

[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: God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good, sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life. Teach us your way of grace- to meet hatred with kindness, to answer curses with blessing, to love without holding back, to give without thought of return; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: Take delight in God, who satisfies the desires of your heart.

Many: Commit your way to God and trust in God's actions.

One: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.

Many: The Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble.

Liturgist: Please join me as we lift our voices together in our opening hymn, #3151 Welcome, found in your smaller green hymnal

OPENING HYMN: W&S #3152 Welcome

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin

To build a world where love can grow and how can enter in

To be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,

Singing welcome, welcome to this place.

You're invited to come and know God's grace.

All are welcome the love of God to share

'cause all of us are welcome here;

All are welcome in this place.

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
And joy will set the table as join our hands to pray,
Singing welcome, welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here;
All are welcome in this place.

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice,
crying welcome, welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here;
All are welcome in this place.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Liturgist: Today's first lesson comes from Psalm 37.

- Don't get upset over evildoers;
don't be jealous of those who do wrong,
² because they will fade fast, like grass;
they will wither like green vegetables.
³ Trust the Lord and do good;
live in the land, and farm faithfulness.
⁴ Enjoy the Lord,
and he will give what your heart asks.
⁵ Commit your way to the Lord!
Trust him! He will act
⁶ and will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
your justice like high noon.
⁷ Be still before the Lord,
and wait^[b] for him.
Don't get upset when someone gets ahead—
someone who invents evil schemes.
⁸ Let go of anger and leave rage behind!
Don't get upset—it will only lead to evil.
⁹ Because evildoers will be eliminated,
but those who hope in the Lord—
they will possess the land.
¹⁰ In just a little while the wicked won't exist!
If you go looking around their place,
they won't be there.

¹¹ But the weak will inherit the land;
they will enjoy a surplus of peace.

³⁹ The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;
he is their refuge in times of trouble.

⁴⁰ The Lord will help them and rescue them—
rescue them from the wicked—and he will save them
because they have taken refuge in him.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “Child of God” by Mark A. Miller

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?

Congregational Response: TFWS #2171 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, vs 1 & 3

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord

And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console,

To be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love with all my soul.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Response: TFWS #2171 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, vs 2 & 3

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, only light,

And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console,

To be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love with all my soul.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Amy: Jesus tells us to love others as we love ourselves, do good, bless and pray for friends and enemies alike. And so, when we give, we are doing to others as we would have them do to us, as what we give helps our siblings in Christ who are in need.

Thank you for giving support to the ministries and mission of Grace. We cannot be a beacon of hope to this community and to each other without your faithful giving.

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 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 folks we meet.

Let's pray: Holy God, you have given us land in which to grow and thrive, food for survival and pleasure, air and water, fire and cold. Make our thanksgiving bloom forth into the lives of others, in the name of the one who gave everything for us. Amen.

Congregational Response: TFWS #2171 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, vs 4 & 3

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

SECOND LESSON Luke 6:27-38

Amy:

"But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don't withhold your shirt either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back from those who take them. ³¹ Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

³² "If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. ³⁶ Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

³⁷ “Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.”

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

MESSAGE “Willing to Hear”

Pastor Amy

Amy will introduce at the end of the sermon.

CLOSING HYMN W&S #3148 There’s a Spirit of Love in This Place

There’s a spirit of love in this place,
There’s a spirit of love in this place.
You can’t see it, but it’s there
just as precious as the air.
There’s a spirit of love in this place.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!
We bless your holy name.
O alleluia, sing alleluia!
There’s a spirit of love in this place.

There’s a presence of peace in this room,
There’s a presence of peace in this room.
In God’s tenderness is found
Peace that passes human bounds.
There’s a presence of peace in this room.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!
We bless your holy name.
O alleluia, sing alleluia!
There’s a spirit of love in this place.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Amy: UMH #481 The Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Go in peace to be an instrument of God's peace.
To sow love, faith, hope, light, and joy.
Go in peace. Amen.

Postlude: "An Epilogue of Praise" by David Paxton

* Leigh Ann Corcoran, Minister of Music

WORSHIP NOTES

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