

# Grace Community Presbyterian Church

## May 12, 2024



### **Thought for Meditation**

In this parable Jesus spoke about two kinds of sheepfolds. In the villages and towns themselves there were communal sheep-folds where all the village flocks were sheltered when they returned home at night. These folds were protected by a strong door of which only the guardian of the door held the key. It was to that kind of fold Jesus referred in John 10:2-3. But when the sheep were out on the hills in the warm season and did not return at night to the village at all, they were collected into sheepfolds on the hillside. These hillside sheepfolds were just open spaces enclosed by a wall. In them there was an opening by which the sheep came in and went out; but there was no door of any kind. What happened was that at night the shepherd himself lay down across the opening and no sheep could get out or in except over his body. In the most literal sense, the shepherd was the door. That is what Jesus was thinking of when he said: "I am the door." Through him, and through him alone, [we] find access to God. " William Barclay

— GATHERING —

**Prelude & Meditation on “Olivet”** (My Faith Looks Up to Thee) Barr

**Welcome and Announcements** Owar Ojulu

**Opening Prayer**

**Call To Worship** Psalm 1:1-5 Lavonne Pelisari

L: Blessed are the people who do not follow the advice of wicked.

**P: Blessed are those who delight in the teachings of the Lord and meditate on His Law Day and night.**

L: They are like trees planted by streams of water, They yield fruits in season, and their leaves never wither—

**P: The LORD watches over them,  
And they prosper in everything they do.**

**All: Our delight in God will be our song of praise.**

**We come to worship God with our whole hearts. Alleluia**

\* Hymn of Praise Psalm 1 (tune: Ellacombe) (see insert)

**\*Prayer of Confession** James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

Grace Church, let us draw near to God in prayer.

**O Christ who prayed for us, died for us, and lives for us,  
you taught us that we belong to you,  
and your word is our truth.**

**Forgive us, O Lord, when we live as if  
we belonged only to ourselves.**

**Forgive us, O Lord, when we foolishly think  
that power is the ultimate truth.**

**Speak your words of peace to us this day,  
and make our lives a testimony to your grace.**

**For you are the source of life itself,  
and only in you can we truly live. Amen**

*Silent Prayer of Confession...*

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness** Acts 2: 17

Hear the good news of God’s promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Friends, believe this good news of the gospel.

**All: In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven, renewed, and sent.**

**\* Passing of the Peace**

L: Since we have been united with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection and have been granted the gift of peace, let us actively spread and share this peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**P: And also, with you.**

*Please pass the peace of Christ to your neighbors in the pews and introduce yourself to those you do not know.*

**\* Glory to God**

#815

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.#

**Anthem**

Kumbaya

Chancel Choir

Kumbaya, my Lord, kumbaya...  
Someone's prayin', Lord, kumbaya...  
Someone's cryin', Lord, kumbaya...  
Someone's singin', Lord, kumbaya...  
Sing alleluia, Lord! Alleluia! Oh, Lord, kumbaya.  
(words: traditional Spiritual music: arranged by Paul Sjolund)

**Time with Children**

Paige Newcomb

— THE WORD —

**Scripture**

John 10:7-10 (page 933)

**Sermon**

"I am the Gate"

**\* Responding Hymn**

Children of the Heavenly Father (V1-3)

#719

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)**

**Call for Tithes and Offerings**

2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

**Offertory**

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Childs

**\* Doxology**

O Bless the Gifts

#817

O bless the gifts our hands have brought;  
And bless the work our hearts have planned.  
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;  
The rest, O God, is in Your hand.

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

<b>* Hymn of Dedication</b>	Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us v1-2	#688
<b>* Charge and Benediction</b>		
<b>* Congregational Response</b>	Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing v.1	#237
<b>* Postlude</b>	Festival Piece on Hyfrydol	Dell

\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

## Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church

We extend a warm welcome to all worshipping with us today and hope you will return. Cheryl Landis and Debbie Roskey will be your greeters today. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship in Cana Hall right after worship today. Melody Highfield will be your host.



May 02 Darlene Artman  
May 03 Luke Ludwig  
May 04 Alma Woodhall  
May 14 Owar Ojulu  
May 17 Lily Householder



May 03 Jack & Shirley Trincisti  
May 10 Elsie & Bill Deem  
May 24 Marcia & Richard Sacket 55

If your name does not appear, or if the listed information is incorrect, please contact the church office so that the records can be updated.



Help fill shoeboxes all year long! The Operation Christmas Child items for the month of May are arts & craft supplies (colored pencils, crayons, watercolors, drawing paper and sidewalk chalk). Donations may be placed in the OCC box in the Narthex. Thank you.

Rev. Dr. Ojulu is available anytime if you have any concerns, want to schedule a meeting, or if you need a prayer. You can contact him at the office @ 724-339-9661 or his cell 507-304-5958.

A celebration of our 2024 high school and college graduates is currently being planned. Please let the office know if you have someone graduating this spring.

**WEAR RED ON PENTECOST!** As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit everyone is encouraged to wear something RED to church on Sunday, May 19. Red signifies the "tongues of flame" that appeared and the disciples at Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover.

**TODAY'S MUSIC:** Ray Palmer wrote "**My Faith Looks up to Thee**" in 1830, shortly after his graduation from Yale University, while working as a tutor at a New York school. He kept it to himself until meeting composer Lowell Mason on a street in Boston. When Mason asked him to write something for a new hymnal, Palmer dug out his old notes and produced these lyrics, written two years earlier. After taking the lyrics home and reading them, Mason composed the tune, a tune that he named "**Olivet**" (the basis for today's prelude).

Well educated and the product of a Christian home, Joseph Hart was a London school teacher who lapsed into dissolute ways and agnostic thought. In 1757, he was converted at the Moravian Chapel in London. Two years later "**Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy**" (#486 in our hymnal) was included in his *Hymns Composed on Various Subjects*.

In Hart's picturesque words, a direct invitation is addressed to sinners. In the final stanza comes this insight: "If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all." That strikes at the root of a common misconception: that we are responsible to somehow patch ourselves up, and improve ourselves to the point where God will accept us. We do not have that power. Only Jesus does. Only by his grace can we be redeemed and transformed.

Karolina (Lina) Wilhelmina Sandell-Berg (1832-1903) is known as the "Fanny Crosby of Sweden." Probably written as a teenager, "**Children of the Heavenly Father**" (the original title was "no one can be safer") was published when she was 23 or 24. Tragically, the year that saw its publication also saw a string of tragedies in the young woman's life. The loss of several members of her family to disease was followed by the drowning death of her father three years later.

Despite these blows, or perhaps because of them, she continued to write. Many of her hymns were used in Swedish revival services, and a number of them gained popularity during her lifetime, aided by by gospel singer Oskar Ahnfelt. The "Swedish Nightingale" Jenny Lind also promoted Sandell's hymns by singing them in concert and financing their publication.

**This Week's Calendar**

**May 12 - 18**

<b>Today</b>	<b>Children Sunday School</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Reach Out Meeting</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>CS Committee Meeting</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
	<b>Mission Meeting</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
	<b>Garden Club</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Men's Club</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
	<b>Cub Scouts Den Meeting</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
	<b>Ladies Club</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>

**Looking Ahead**

**May 19 - 25**

<b>May 19</b>	<b>Children Sunday School</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	<b>Congregational Meeting</b>	<b>11:15ish</b>
	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
	<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>May 20</b>	<b>Session Meeting</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>May 21</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>May 23</b>	<b>Cub Scouts Den Meeting</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>

**CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Grace Community Presbyterian Church  
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068  
(724) 339-9661

Website: [www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](http://www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)

Worship Service is at 10:00am

**Church Staff:**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Owar O. Ojulu  
pastorowar@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org  
Secretary: Wendy Stein Clark  
secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org  
Christian Ed: Bill Ludwig  
Organist: Kenneth McGearry  
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav  
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zunich

**Elders**

Reitha Bieranoski  
Cathy Brady  
Dave Briscoe  
Michael Cochenour (clerk)  
Dan Howard  
Henry Kedzierski  
Cheryl Landis  
Val Lester  
Glenn Nordmark  
Sharon Rupert  
Jack Trinclisti

**Deacons**

Gary Barbiaux  
Judy Barbiaux  
Margie Bistline  
Beulah Brown  
Elsie Deem  
Lisa Edwards  
Cindy Irvin (moderator)  
Terri Ludwig  
Lavonne Pelisari  
Debbie Roskey  
Marcia Sackett  
Rich Sackett  
Dee Shaffer  
Shirley Wilson