

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
July 7, 2024



Thought for Meditation

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

There is nothing in the entire Scripture that is more capable of stirring up contrition in even the most hardened heart than the parable of the Prodigal Son. I once encountered a convict in New South Wales who showed no signs of repentance in any other aspect of his life, yet whenever he heard a sermon or an analysis of this parable, he would burst into uncontrollable tears. I witnessed this on numerous occasions. Truly, the one who spoke this parable understood the innermost depths of human nature." This parable is the pinnacle among parables, a gospel within the gospel, a reflection of humanity, a simple yet profound portrayal of human downfall and redemption. Its ability to touch emotions is truly remarkable. *A.G. Thomas, D.D.*

Prelude Arioso Bach
Welcome and Announcements
Opening Prayer

Call To Worship Psalm 30:1-5 Cathy Brady

L: Sing the praises of the LORD, you His faithful people; praise His holy name.

**P: The steadfast love of God never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning.**

L: Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes in the morning.

**All: Great is Your faithfulness, O God!
We sing praises and give thanks to Your holy name.**

* Hymn of Praise "We Have Come to Join in Worship" (V.1-2) #207

*Prayer of Confession 1 John 1:1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
Grace Church, let us draw near to God and confess our sins.

**You shower us with blessings,
with chances to know your grace.
Still, O Lord, we twist your promises
and pray for blessings we can own.
You call us to leave our selfish ways
and follow your call to compassion.
Still, O Lord, we choose shallow belief
over transformative faith.
You have told us that your love is enough,
that the waters of mercy will not run dry.
Still, O Lord, we choose fear instead of trust,
hiding behind the illusion that we can survive on our own.
Forgive us, Holy One, and by your forgiveness,
offer us a chance to try again. Amen**
Silent Prayer of Confession...

*Assurance of Forgiveness Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of His grace. Friends, believe this good news of the gospel.

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

* Passing of the Peace

L: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 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 #813

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, a world without end. Amen, Amen

Solo O Glorious Love Judy Barbiaux

— THE WORD —

Scripture Luke 15:11-32

Sermon Making A “U” Turn

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant Rhonda DeBlasio

Call for Tithes and Offerings Romans 12:1

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our lives and our tithes to the Lord.

Offertory O Worship the King Cherwien

* Doxology O Bless #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 CTW-571B

Generous God, we give you thanks for all your blessings to us. Use these gifts we offer as a sign of your great love for the world, so that all may know and share the abundance of your grace; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn of Reflection Nothing But the Blood of Jesus (v. 1-2) #337

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer (debts & debtors) Responsively

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God: ...

Therefore, we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir: **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.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior...

Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.

Christ Has Died,

Christ Is Risen,

Christ Will Come Again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord...

Breaking the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Holy Spirit, you have filled us with your life. Christ our Savior, you have embraced us in your love. God our Father, you have fed us with your grace. Now send us out into your beloved world to share your life, your love, your grace with all. Blessing and honor and glory to you, holy, holy, holy Lord. Amen

— SENDING —

* **Hymn of Dedication** "America, the Beautiful" (V 1-2) #799

* **Charge and Benediction** Romans 15:5-6
May the God of endurance and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accord with Christ Jesus,
that together you may with one voice
glorify God the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

* **Congregational Response** "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (v. 1) #807
My Country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride, From every mountainside
Let freedom ring!

* **Postlude** Rejoice Beloved Christians Bach

*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 that you will return. Please Join us Coffee Fellowship immediately following worship.

Help fill shoeboxes all year long! The Operation Christmas Child items for the month of July are WOW toys (soccer or playground balls, dolls, large trucks, etc.) 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.

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 4	Lee Johnson	July 18	Arch & Bonnie Carroll
July 7	Sharon Rupert	July 27	Barb & Ken McGeary
July 22	Jennifer Beck	July 30	Dave & Melody Highfield
July 23	Charlie Markle		
July 31	Paul Zunich		

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.

GREETERS NEEDED!!!!

GREETERS ARE NEEDED FOR JULY. THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GREET THOSE ATTENDING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY MORNING, PLEASE SIGN UP. IT IS A NICE WAY TO START THE DAY.

This Week's Calendar

July 7 - July 13

Today	Worship	10:00am
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
Tuesday	NO BIBLE STUDY	1:00pm
Tuesday	Garden Club	6:00pm

Looking Ahead

July 14 - July 20

July 14	Worship	10:00am
July 16	NO BIBLE STUDY	
July 17	Sewing Group	7:00pm

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Use your cell phone camera to go to the Grace Community Church Closed Facebook



Use your cell phone camera to go to the Grace Community Church Open Facebook

Grace Church has both an “Open” Facebook for the public and a “**Closed Facebook**” for our church family only.

Church members and friends can request to belong to the Closed Facebook.

Anyone can view and post on the “**Open Facebook**” where you will find pictures and information about our many events and activities.



Use your cell phone Camera to go to Grace Church Website



Use your cell phone camera to go to the Grace Community Church YouTube

The **Grace Church Website** has information about our church, past bulletins, church calendar, information about activities and staff bios.

The **Grace Church YouTube** has anthems from our church services and other music.

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
(724) 339-9661
Website: 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 McGeary
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zunich

Elders

Reitha Bieranoski
Dave Briscoe
Michael Cochenour
Dan Howard
Cheryl Landis
Glenn Nordmark
Sharon Rupert
Todd Taylor
Jack Trinclisti
Steph Tutka
Cathy Vitari

Deacons

Sheri Cieslinski
Kerri Colaianni
Elsie Deem
Lisa Edwards
Heidi Hacker
Linda Johnson
Terri Ludwig
LaVonne Pelisari
Debbie Roskey
Marcia Sackett
Rich Sackett
Dee Shaffer
Shirley Trinclisti
Shirley Wilson