

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
April 14, 2024



Thought for Meditation

"Prayer catapults us onto the frontier of spiritual life. Of all the spiritual Disciplines prayer is the most central because it ushers us into perpetual communion with the Father. Meditation introduces us to inner life, fasting is an accompanying means, study transforms our minds, but it is the discipline of prayer that brings us into the deepest and highest work of the human spirit. Real prayer is life creating and life changing." Dr. Richard Booker

— GATHERING —

Prelude All Creatures of our God and King Rogers
Welcome and Announcements Owar Ojulu

Opening Prayer

Call To Worship Psalm 133 Paul Milz
L: How good and pleasant it is when God's people gather in unity!
P: **It is like precious oil poured on the head of Aaron,
running down on his beard, running down on the collar of his robe.**
L: Put your trust in the Lord, and offer him pleasing sacrifices.
P: **Let us offer the sacrifices of praises and trust in the LORD.**
All: **Let us worship the Lord. Alleluia!**

* Hymn of Praise Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks #359

Prayer of Confession Romans 8:26
The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin to God and one another.
What love you have given us, O God, that we should be called your children.
What love you have given us, O Christ, that we should share a table with you.
Forgive us when we act as if we were your only children:
when we do not recognize your image in the faces of strangers, enemies, or friends; when we
do not share our own tables, forgetting that we need each other.
Forgive us, O Christ, maker of peace, and teach us to follow in your way. Amen.
Silent Prayer of Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness 1 John 1:9
L: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
All: **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

* **Passing of the Peace**
L: We have been united with him in his death and resurrection and gave us peace. So, may the peace of the Lord Jesus 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 Praise God the Lord Chancel Choir

Praise God the Lord, ye people all, within his sanctuary's wall; praise him within his holy tower, the firmament of all his power.

Praise him for all his mighty deeds and for his greatness, which exceeds all earthly greatness which we know and all our glory here below.

Praise him with brilliant trumpet sound, with harp and psaltery all around; praise him with timbrel and with string, while all the people dance and sing.

Praise him with pipe and cymbals loud, with clashing cymbals bright and proud; let all that breathes now sound the chord and glorify him. Praise the Lord!
(words: Ps 150, paraphrased by C. Becker; music: H. Schütz, arr. R. LeBlanc)

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading Philippians 3:1-12 (page 1023)

Sermon Why and How I became a Christian?
A reflection on my FAITH journey

***Responding Hymn** I Love to Tell the Story #444

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

Call for Tithes and Offerings Malachi 3:10

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Offertory My God, How Wonderful Thou Art 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**

All: Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world—giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

— SENDING —

* **Hymn of Dedication** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (v. 1-2) #648

* **Charge and Benediction**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. **Amen**

*Benediction Response I Love to Tell the Story (Refrain) #444

*Postlude Fugue in C Buxtehude

*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. Lisa Edwards will be your greeter today. There will be no Coffee Fellowship today.



April 02 Jackie Chickerella
April 04 Rich Artman
April 05 BeenyJwok Ojulu
April 08 Grant Claypoll
April 09 Joe Bieranoski
April 22 Michele Claypoll
April 25 Terri Ludwig

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 April are games/puzzles. Donations may be placed in the OCC box in the Narthex. Thank you.



We are collecting items for the next spring rummage sale (Date TBD). Please by bringing in your unwanted items for the next sale. Your items can be placed inside the upper-level door by the old sanctuary.

NO ELECTRONICS OR LARGE FURNITRE

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.

TODAY'S MUSIC: My God, How Wonderful Thou Art (today's offertory) was written by Frederick W. Faber. He had an interesting spiritual journey. He came from a Huguenot and strict Calvinistic family background, was raised and eventually ordained in the Church of England, and influenced by the teaching of John Henry Newman. Faber followed Newman into the Roman Catholic Church six years after his ordination. With his background in hymn-singing churches, he believed that Roman Catholics should sing hymns like those written by John Newton, Charles Wesley, and William Cowper, writing 150 hymns himself. In his first published hymnal he clearly points to the *Olney Hymns* and those of the Wesleys as being the models which for simplicity and intense fervor he would endeavor to emulate.

*My God, how wonderful Thou art,
Thy majesty how bright,
How beautiful Thy mercy seat,
in depths of burning light!*

*How wonderful, how beautiful,
the sight of Thee must be,
Thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r,
and awful* purity.*

*No earthly father loves like Thee,
no mother e'er so mild,
bears and forbears, as Thou hast done
with me, Thy sinful child.*

* in past usage, "awful" was also used in the sense of "inspiring awe or fear."

This Week's Calendar

April 14 -20

Today	Sunday School	9:00am
	Reach Out Meeting	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Pastor Owar Installation	4:00pm
	Chicken Pie Dinner	5:00pm
Monday	TAX DAY	
	Cub Scouts Committee Meeting	6:00pm
Tuesday	Bible Study	1:00pm
Wednesday	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
Thursday	Cub Scouts Pack Meeting	7:00pm
	Men's Club	6:00pm
	Ladies Club	6:30pm

Looking Ahead

April 21 -27

April 21	Sunday School	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Deacons Meeting	11:00am
	Youth Group	6:00pm
April 23	Bible Study	1:00pm
April 24	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
April 25	Cub Scouts Den Meeting	7:00pm

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 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