

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
April 7, 2024



Thought for Meditation

"At the heart of God is the desire to give and to forgive. Because of this, he set into motion the entire redemptive process that culminated in the cross and was confirmed in the resurrection... Nothing could be further from the truth. Love, not anger, brought Jesus to the cross. Golgotha came as a result of God's great desire to forgive, not his reluctance. Jesus knew that by his victorious suffering he could actually absorb all the evil of humanity and so heal it, forgive it, redeem it." Richard J. Foster

— GATHERING —

Prelude

Abide with Me

Haan

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Owar Ojulu

Opening Prayer

Call To Worship

Psalm 116:12-19

Stephanie Tutka

L: What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

P: **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord, in the presence of all his people.

L: I will sacrifice a thank offering to God, and call on the name of the Lord.

P: **I will fulfill my vows of worship to the Lord, in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord**

L: Christ is risen!

All: Alleluia! Let us worship the Lord our God!

* Hymn of Praise

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

#225

Prayer of Confession

adopted: CTW 57-digital 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.

O Christ,

You rose from the depths of suffering,

From death itself, to breathe peace upon your disciples.

Still, O Lord, we cannot trust your promise of peace.

Still, O Lord, we do not follow in the way of your love.

Forgive us when we fail to be people of resurrection.

Forgive us when we fail to recognize your grace. Amen

Silent Prayer of Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 5:8

L: God demonstrates his own love for us, *in that while* we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Friends, believe the Good News of Christ.

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

* Passing of the Peace

L: We have been united with him in his death and resurrection and he 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.

* Doxology

#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.

First Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23 (page 1058)

Anthem Hallelujah, What a Savior Chancel Choir

Man of Sorrows!" what a name For the Son of God, who came Ruined sinners to
reclaim. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we; Spotless Lamb of God was He; Full atonement! Can
it be? Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die; "It is finished!" was His cry; Now in Heav'n exalted high.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King, All His ransomed home to bring, Then anew
His song we'll sing: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

(words by Philip Bliss; music by Keith Christopher)

— THE WORD —

Second Reading Luke 24:13-35 (page 920)

Sermon NOW WHAT...?

Responding Hymn: Be Thou My Vision (v1-3) #562

Call for Tithes and Offerings 1 John 3:16–17

If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but
turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you
made it disappear. Remembering God's great love for the world, let us offer our lives and
our tithes to the Lord.

Offertory That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright Rogers

*** Offertory Response** 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

***Hymn of Preparation** I Come with Joy (v1-3, 5)

Litany of Preparation "Forgiveness" #523

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

— SENDING —

*** Hymn of Dedication** Crown Him With Many Crowns (v 1-3) #45

*** Charge and Benediction**

1 John 4:13–16

May the love of the Holy God—
Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
And the peace sourcing from the Holy Spirit—
abide with you now and forever. **Alleluia!**

*** Congregational Response**

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” (v. 1)

#575

*** Postlude**

Allegro Vivace

Mendelssohn

*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. Elsie Deem will be your greeter today. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship in Cana Hall right after worship today. Dan & Teresa Howard will be your hosts.



April 02 Jackie Chickerella

April 04 Rich Artman

April 08 Joe Bieranoski

April 08 Grant Claypool

April 22 Michele Claypool

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.



Please join us as we celebrate our Pastoral Installation Service of Rev. Dr. Owar Ojulu on Sunday, April 14 @ 4:00pm.



Join us after the Installation Service for our annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sunday, April 14 @ 5:00pm in Cana Hall. See attached insert.

TODAY'S MUSIC: Our prelude has its roots in Luke 24:13-35, the story of two disciples on the road to Emmaus. **Abide with Me, Fast Falls the Eventide** was written by Henry F. Lyte, an Anglican pastor. Though he battled tuberculosis most of his life, he was known as a man who was strong in spirit and faith. During his later years, his health progressively worsened to the point where he was forced to move to Italy with its warmer climate. Shortly before his final sermon he was reading from Luke 24 when he got the inspiration for this hymn. Though the disciples traveling to Emmaus were mystified by the stories they had heard, Rev. Lyte had no such confusion. He could state with total confidence in the risen Christ:

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

Philip Bliss was one of the greatest hymn writers of the nineteenth century. He possessed a remarkable versatility -he was poet, musician, and singer. Yet, in his youth his musical talent was limited to whistling and singing tunes by ear. His marriage to Lucy Young had a profound influence on his life. As she was both a musician and a poet, she taught him how to sing and play, and urged him to study how to wed words to music. And better still, she was the agent in his conversion. Bliss was a modest, sincere and humble man; singularly hopeful and joyful in spirit. He lived in an ever-present realization of his blessedness as a child of God. In his hymn writing, he had a gift for presenting the soul-searching and profound truths of Scripture with such clarity that the plainest and youngest listener could not fail to see the Gospel message.

Hallelujah, What a Savior was one of the last hymns Bliss wrote, shortly before his tragic death in the Ashtabula train wreck of 1876. The opening line comes from Isaiah 53:3, which describes the Savior as "a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." In stanza 2, not in our anthem, Bliss makes a personal confession: "In my place condemned he stood, sealed my pardon with his blood." Hallelujah! What a Savior!

This Week's Calendar

April 7 -13

Today	Sunday School	9:00am
	Worship/Communion	10:00am
	Youth Group	6:00pm
Monday	Mission Meeting	6:30pm
Tuesday	Bible Study	1:00pm
	Garden Club	6:30pm
Wednesday	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
Thursday	CE Meeting	3:00pm
	Cub Scouts Den Meeting	6:00pm

Looking Ahead

April 14 -20

April 14	Sunday School	9:00am
	Reach Out Meeting	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Pastor Owar Installation	4:00pm
	Chicken Pie Dinner	5:00pm
April 15	TAX DAY	
	Cub Scouts Committee Meeting	6:00pm
April 16	Bible Study	1:00pm
April 17	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
April 18	Cub Scouts Pack Meeting	7:00pm
	Men's Club	6:00pm
	Ladies Club	6:30pm

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 McGeary
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