

Grace Community Presbyterian Church

October 6, 2024



Thought for Meditation

“World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor...Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.”

www.presbyterianmission.org

— GATHERING —

Prelude "Improvisation on "Aberystwyth"" Huston

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

***Call To Worship** James 3:18; Matt. 5:7-10 Cathy Brady

L: Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

**P: Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.**

ALL: Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. Alleluia!

*** Hymn of Praise** "All Creatures of Our God and King" (V 1-2) #63

***Prayer of Confession:** Ephesians 4:3-5

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called: one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. Grace Church, let us draw near to God for our peace and the peace of the world.

Almighty God, we have not built a golden calf, but we have worshiped idols.

We have placed our trust in what we create with our own hands.

We find security in what we can hoard, neglecting to trust in Your provision.

We listen to lies that spread hatred and division instead of embracing the truth of Your word.

We celebrate war that brings destruction rather than seeking peace and unity. Forgive us.

Melt down our idols until we see only You and help us fix our sight on Your way alone. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession...

***Assurance of Forgiveness** John 12:34-36

L: When we lift our souls to God, He does not leave us in shame. Instead, He forgives us, guides us in truth, and shows us the path of righteousness. Friends, believe this good news of the gospel!

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

*** Passing of the Peace** 2 Thessalonians 3:16

L: Now may the Lord of peace himself always give you peace and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 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.

*** Gloria Patri** #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.

Anthem "Before the Throne of God Above" Chancel Choir

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Hebrews 7:1-3

Sermon "Jesus the New Melchizedek – Shalom!"

Sharing Joys and Concerns and the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation** "I Come with Joy" (insert)

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

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. Blessing and praise to you, O God...

Breaking the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Loving God, we thank You that You have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in Your eternal realm.

Send us out in the power of Your Spirit
to live and work to Your praise and glory,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 to the Lord." Romans 12:1

Offertory	"The Lord's My Shepherd"	Warner
* Doxology	Doxology	#814

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all Creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

* Prayer of Dedication

— SENDING —

* Hymn of Dedication	"They'll Know We are Christians" (v.1-3)	#429
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* Charge and Benediction *Hebrews 13:20*

Now may the God of peace—
who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great Shepherd of the sheep,
and ratified an eternal covenant with His blood—
may He equip you with all you need
for doing His will.
May He produce in you,
through the power of Jesus Christ,
every good thing that is pleasing to Him.
All glory to him forever and ever! **Amen.**

* Congregational Response	"They'll Know We are Christians" (v. 4)	# 429
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* Postlude	"Tocatta (Deo Gratias)"	R. Biggs
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*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 for Coffee Fellowship following the service.

TODAY'S MUSIC: John Huston composed today's prelude, an arrangement of the Welsh hymn tune *Aberystwyth*. Welsh composer Joseph Parry (1841-1903), wrote the tune which is frequently used for Charles Wesley's equally powerful hymn "**Jesus, Lover of My Soul**" (#710 in our hymnal). Wesley begins with the storm-tossed soul seeking shelter from the raging tempest of life. It describes Christ as the only refuge who can "cover my defenseless head," reminding us of Psalms 17 and 91. Once safe within the refuge the helpless soul is confronted with his own sin in light of the holiness of Christ – "just and holy is thy name...false and full of sin I am." And finally the answer: "plenteous grace with thee is found."

Today's anthem, "**Before the Throne of God Above**," is a beautiful blend of the old and the new. Irish hymn writer Charitie Lees Bancroft wrote this hymn in 1863. She was just 22 years old

and living in a rather obscure village called Brookeborough in a Northern Ireland county. And yet, Charitie knew that she was not forgotten, especially by the God whom she would encounter someday.

Her poem describes what it might be like to stand before God's throne. Pondering her own spiritual condition, she used "The Advocate" as her poem's title. Why "The Advocate"? Perhaps, being very aware of her shortcomings she saw a need for someone in a legal sense to defend her? Her vision of the heavenly courtroom is made more distinct with words like plea, plead, guilt and pardon.

"Before the Throne of God Above" was published in Charles Spurgeon's *Our Own Hymn Book* in 1866. In 1997, songwriter Vikki Cook gave the hymn a new musical setting. Before Cook wrote the tune, this rarely heard text was typically paired with hymn tunes that gave the words a mournful quality. Now, set free with the strong and joyous tune that Cook penned, the text expresses the confidence and joy of a person secure in the powerful grace of Christ.

Help fill shoeboxes all year long! The Operation Christmas Child items for the month of October are small toys (Matchbox cars, sewing kits, jump ropes, small balls). 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.



The **SPAGHETTI DINNER** is Saturday, 10/19 from 4-7 pm. Cost is \$15/adult and \$10/child. Take-out is available. Advance tickets with a \$1 discount will be sold Sundays after worship in Cana Hall on 10/9, and 10/16. They will also be available in the church office during daytime hours.

Also, we will be having a Silent Auction at October's Spaghetti Dinner. If you would like to donate an already-assembled gift basket or new items to include in a gift basket, these may be dropped off in the "OCC basket room" downstairs (look for signs on the door) by Sunday, October 13.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

October 4 Kellie Newcomb
October 14 Bill Renard
October 18 Brandon Daughtry
Zoe Householder
October 19 Cindy Daughtry
October 25 Paul Berggren

October 5 Carl & Kathy Dolan
October 8 Bill & Terri Ludwig
October 12 Steve & Valerie Lester

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.

Volunteers Needed!

The Finance Committee is looking for volunteers to be money counters on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please contact David Briscoe or the church office. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Week's Calendar
October 6- 12, 2024

Today	Worship	10:00am
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
	Adult Sunday School	11:00am
Monday	Boy Scout Committee Meeting	6:00pm
Tuesday	Bible Study	1:00pm
	Garden Club	6:00pm
Wednesday	Choir Practice	7:00pm
Thursday	Boy Scouts	6:00pm
Friday	Book Signing	6:00-8:00p

Looking Ahead
October 13 - 19, 2024

October 13	Worship	10:00am
	Coffee Fellowship	11:00am
	Adult Sunday School	11:00am
	Field House Restaurant gathering	1:30pm
	Autumn Cruise	4:00pm
October 15	Bible Study	1:00pm
October 16	Choir Practice	7:00pm
October 17	Boy Scouts	6:00pm
	Men's Group	6:00pm
	Ladies Group	6:30pm

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: secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Christian Ed: Bill Ludwig
Organist: Kenneth McGearry
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
LaVonne Pelisari
Debbie Roskey
Marcia Sackett
Rich Sackett
Dee Shaffer
Shirley Trinclisti
Shirley Wilson