

Grace Devotion

Week of July 7, 2024

Pastor Fred Young

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Mark 6:1-13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.

⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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I have always been facinated with this text from Mark. A prophet is never welcome among the people who know them. That which is familiar can't be from God. Right? But then, I think about our current situation here at Grace, and ponder, am I accepted by those who know me? Can I be their pastor? I am NOT claiming to be a prophet or like Jesus. However, I do wish to thank you for allowing me to come and visit you. These are the times when pastors get to know the people of the church on

a deeper level. There never seems to be enough time to do this at church on a Sunday morning.

When I read this text, I realize how difficult it is to truly follow Christ. Not only do we need to pick up our crosses, we carry them with extremely limited resources. Jesus told his disciples to take nothing with them except a walking staff. The point, when we walk with Jesus, all we need is to rest on him. As we journey through this Season after Pentecost, may we be willing to put aside all life's distractions, and follow lightly into the unknown. Jesus is waiting.

PRAYER: God, send your Spirit to journey with me, thy staff is light, but thy Way is heavy. Amen.

Blessings! Pastor Fred



July 7, 2024

Summer Series “BE THE CHURCH” Week #2

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes and Prelude “America the Beautiful”

~Scott Fredericks

**Song: “God Bless the USA” ~Lee Greenwood

** Call to Worship

Lector: We are called to be protectors of the Earth.

Congregation: We take responsibility for preserving and sustaining the environment for current and future generations.

Lector: Help us be aware of the situations that occur every day which impact our world.

Congregation: Help us to advocate for policies that promote environmental sustainability for all.

Lector: Help us to see how environmental justice issues affect some communities more than others and help us to see beyond our small perspective of where we live.

Congregation: Protecting the Earth is our responsibility and an important part of living our faith.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)
Amazing God, Thank you for the gift of this Earth, our home. As we gather together, help us to be wise stewards of creation—protecting and valuing the environment you’ve entrusted to us. Grant us the courage and understanding to advocate for sustainability, so that all may enjoy your creation! Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

** Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King #64

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others

Lord’s Prayer

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Special Music: “Holy Ground” ~Scott Fredericks

Thank you for sharing your tithes and offerings

** Doxology #625

** Prayer of Dedication

**New Creed*

Time for the Young at Heart

Hymn: “This Is My Father’s World” #58

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 2:8-15

Matthew 13:1-23

Message: “Protect the Environment”

**Hymn: “Battle Hymn of the Republic” #569

** Final Blessing

Please remain standing to sing “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude “God of Our Fathers” ~Wilson

*On the screen ** Please stand, if you are able.

Announcements

~Thanks to Scott Fredericks for sharing his special talent with Grace UCC.

~Sunday, July 14th, Pastor Fred will share his sermon from a remote location via that screen. We are excited for this opportunity.

Upcoming Events

“Be the Church” Week #3—Care for the Poor

August 11th: Hymn Sing at St. Matthews at 4pm

August 25th: Church picnic

September 7th (Rain Date Sept 14th): Car Show

Volunteer Opportunities—Sign ups in Gathering

Place

- Volunteer counters after church
- Lectors
- Snack providers
- Song Leaders

Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory: July 8th
- Worship and Music: July 22nd

If you want to buy a car magnet, you can purchase one here:

<https://www.uccresources.com/products/be-the-church-rainbow-magnet?variant=14136379844>



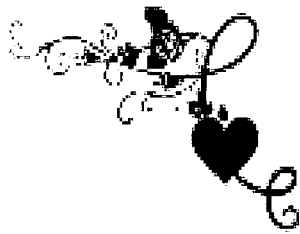
“Protect the Environment”

Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146



Psalm 48



K	B	O	Z	L	E	X	L	S	T	E	A	D	F	A	S	T	D	X	N
B	M	P	Z	V	A	S	S	E	M	B	L	E	D	O	E	R	R	M	V
S	A	J	R	S	P	O	K	P	E	F	S	Z	B	X	B	N	L	K	W
W	Q	L	A	T	M	C	B	L	E	A	M	X	F	Q	J	F	U	R	A
C	C	I	T	A	D	E	L	S	C	L	S	C	Z	L	W	P	U	E	J
R	S	F	H	O	B	O	I	R	H	V	E	T	P	Q	M	G	A	G	R
O	M	V	D	G	E	S	E	R	E	E	X	V	O	W	H	J	Y	C	B
E	T	X	Z	P	X	C	M	D	Y	M	I	J	A	U	F	D	A	H	B
S	S	F	V	Q	W	P	Z	Z	Q	Q	B	O	M	T	N	C	E	T	E
U	D	T	M	D	M	T	A	R	S	H	I	S	H	T	I	D	F	K	A
M	O	L	A	A	N	G	U	I	S	H	W	M	Q	R	U	O	E	Z	U
L	N	M	O	B	F	F	R	L	T	Y	L	O	O	E	S	O	N	D	T
H	M	X	M	B	L	M	Y	K	E	C	L	U	O	M	O	R	R	B	I
T	K	O	C	Q	C	I	O	A	O	U	L	N	Y	B	C	X	K	N	F
H	R	D	J	J	X	G	S	R	X	Q	T	T	O	L	I	Y	U	Y	U
V	F	A	W	R	J	A	H	H	C	K	X	A	A	I	G	W	V	O	L
B	J	R	V	Y	Z	J	L	O	E	J	L	I	X	N	G	Y	N	M	H
D	T	C	Y	A	N	T	K	M	Z	S	B	N	M	G	F	C	I	O	X
D	I	H	Y	H	I	T	Z	H	N	V	B	C	X	L	Z	W	V	W	P
V	Y	H	J	G	A	L	H	Q	O	R	C	M	P	T	C	S	V	F	Q

Establishes

Steadfast

Citadels

Beautiful

Assembled

Trembling

Tarshish

Elevation

Astounded

Mountain

Travail

Anguish

Fourth of July

WORD SEARCH

C A G F D P S J F R E E D O M
R E V O L U T I O N L W L S X
O V B I S T A T E S I V T J Y
E F U D N X Z Z B W B C G U W
F O L N H D Q I W A E I F L G
E I H A I P E Q V R R L N Y V
A C R N G T A P H A T F L A G
M C J E B O E T E N Y Z Y S J
E S X P W S D D R N K R M B V
R U U I E O T R S I D A Q N G
I M G C V E R A O T O E K U T
C M J N W M C K R T A T N P N
A E G I W I Y R S S M T I C A
C R H C K J P A R A D E E C E
E H D Q G A X U N B V C G S I

United States

Liberty

States

Parade

Independence

America

Stars

Flag

Revolution

Freedom

Flag

Summer

Fireworks

Picnic

Patriotic

July