

Grace Devotion

Week of May 5, 2024

Pastor Fred Young

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*He said: The Lord is my rock, my fortress,
and my deliverer, my God, my rock,
in whom I take refuge, my shield and
the horn of my salvation,
my stronghold and my refuge,
my savior; you save me from violence.*

2 Samuel 22:2-3

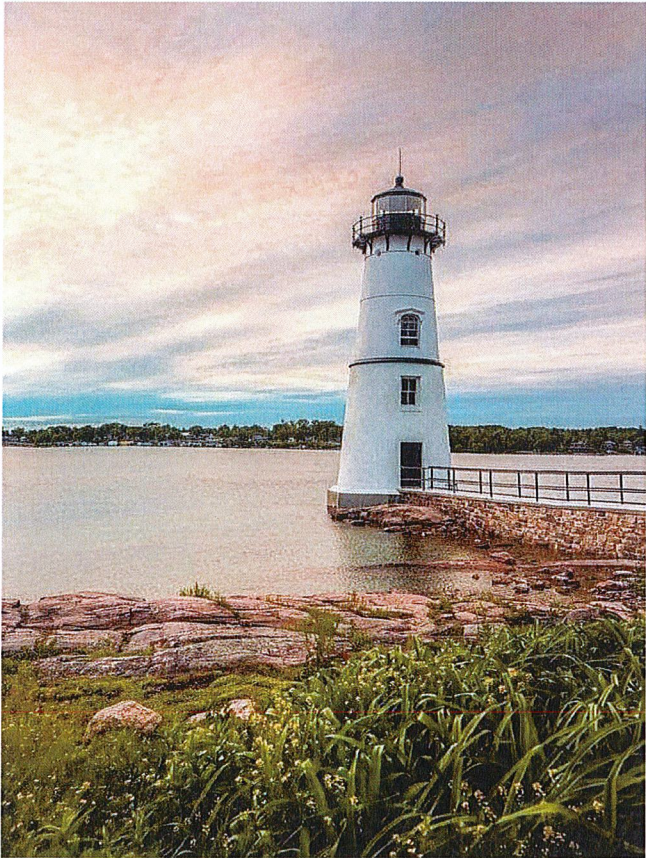
God's love is like an island
In life's ocean vast and wide.
A peaceful, quiet shelter
From the restless, rising tide.

God's love is like an anchor
When the angry billows roll.
A mooring in the storms of life,
A stronghold for the soul.

God's love is like a harbor
Where our souls can find sweet rest
From the struggle and the tension
Of life's fast and futile quest.

God's love is like a beacon
Burning bright with faith and prayer.
And through the changing scenes of life
We can find a haven there!

Helen Steiner Rice



We have heard a lot about love this Easter Season. God's love for Jesus, Jesus' love for us, and the love we are to share with each other. We've learned that most of the Gospel of John is spent describing the abiding love of Jesus and how much love we put into our lives when we walk with Christ. We have also heard that love is at the heart of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Christ has shared a commandment which exceeds the others before: "*Love your neighbor as Christ has loved you!*" In this poem, Helen Steiner Rice reminds us of what God's love is like, not that we might recognize such love but in hopes that we will emulate that love.

- **In a world where hate is expressed in just as many ways as love, how do you share the love of Christ with another?**

PRAYER

Dear God, You are my anchor in the storms of everyday living. Keep me afloat and prevent me from drifting away from you. Amen.

Blessings!

Pastor Fred

Helen Steiner Rice, *Daily Bouquets*. Fleming H. Revell. Grand Rapids. 1990.

May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes
Prelude “All Things Bright and Beautiful” ~David Paxton

**Song: “Greater” ~Mercy Me

** Call to Worship

Lector: Jesus extends a remarkable invitation – to make ourselves at home in His love. As we dwell in this love, Jesus shares that our joy may be complete, overflowing with the fullness of His love.

Congregation: A joy beyond measure.

Lector: But Jesus doesn't stop there. He lays down the ultimate commandment – to love one another, not just with words, but with actions that reflect His sacrificial love.

Congregation: A call to embody His love in everything we do.

Lector: As we embrace this call to love, Jesus reveals a beautiful truth – that we are not mere servants, but friends, chosen by Him to bear fruit that endures.

Congregation: May our lives be a living testament to His love, shining brightly in a world in need.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)
Gracious God, as we come together today, we remember Your simple but powerful command: to love one another just as You love us. Please help us embrace this and show that love to everyone we meet. Let our actions and words be filled with Your love, bringing healing, understanding, and hope wherever we go. Amen.

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

** Hymn: “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”
#284

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer
Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Thank you for sharing your tithes and offerings
** Doxology #625

** Prayer of Dedication

**Nicene Creed*

Time for the Young at Heart

Hymn: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” #286

Scripture Readings: Psalm 98 (NIV)
John 15:9-17 (The Message)

Message: “Wholehearted Love”

**Song: “Same Power” ~Jeremy Camp

** Final Blessing
Please remain standing to sing “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude “I Love Thy Kingdom Lord” ~ David Lowe

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

Announcements

Church Financials

General pledge March 2024: \$7,960
YTD income: \$36,244.78
YTD expenses: \$52,459.98
YTD deficit: \$16,215.20

Upcoming Events

- MAY: Koins for Kinny (collection during the entire month of May)
- Monthly Movie @3pm: Friday, May 10th
- P-A-L May 18th
- Bible Study Movie @1pm: Wednesday, May 22nd
- Town Hall Meeting: June 23rd during worship
- Potluck and Crooners: June 23rd immediately following worship

Volunteer Opportunities—Sign ups in Gathering Place

- Volunteer counters after church
- Lectors
- Snack providers

Guided by Grace



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

In case of inclement weather, please check Facebook or call the Prayer Line 717-634-8865

How to handle disagreements among the Body

Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.— 1 Peter 3:8

Veteran American League baseball umpire Bill Guthrie was working behind the plate one afternoon, and the catcher for the visiting team was repeatedly protesting his calls. Guthrie endured this for a number of innings, and then he spoke up.

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“Son,” he said softly, “you’ve been a big help to me in calling balls and strikes today, and I appreciate it. But I think I’ve got the hang of it now, so I’m going to ask you to go to the clubhouse and show whoever’s there how to take a shower.”

Among believers today, some of the most bitter arguments are those that don’t have to be so divisive if only we’d address them in a loving way. When we think about nonessential issues such as worship style, what the pastor wears, and how our churches are arranged, we can disagree on these things without being disagreeable.

The truth is, we simply can’t allow the all-important work of expanding God’s Kingdom to be thwarted by arguments of little to no eternal value. So don’t be divided by arguments that are ultimately insignificant. **Push through your minor disagreements with one another and work together for the Kingdom of God!**

Prayer Challenge

Pray that God would give you the patience and understanding you need to stay unified with other believers – even when you disagree.

Questions for thought

What’s one issue you have a strong opinion about on which other Christians may disagree with you?

When it comes to being unified in faith and reaching the world for Christ, what can you do to put aside petty differences and move forward together with other believers?

<https://www.seniorlivingministries.org/2024/04/how-to-handle-disagreements-among-the-body-5/>



John 15:9-17

JUST AS THE
FATHER HAS
LOVED ME, I
HAVE ALSO
LOVED YOU;
ABIDE IN
MY LOVE.
JOHN 15:9



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

- ABIDE
- APPOINTED
- CHOOSE
- COMMANDMENTS
- DISCIPLES
- FATHER
- FRIENDS
- FRUIT
- GREATER
- JOY
- LOVE
- MASTER
- PERSECUTED
- SERVANTS
- SPOKEN
- WHATEVER
- WORLD

Psalm 98

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

- EARTH
- FAITHFULNESS
- ISRAEL
- JOYFUL
- LYRE
- MARVELOUS
- MELODY
- NATIONS
- NOISE
- REMEMBERED
- REVEALED
- STEADFAST
- THINGS
- VICTORY
- VINDICATION