

Grace Devotion

Week of January 19, 2025

Pastor Fred Young

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John 9b-11

the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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A wedding feast in Ancient Israel lasted for days. Guests enjoyed accommodation that included food, drink, a place to rest as well as a place for washing up. This is in fact the purpose of those off to the side water jugs. They were for cleansing and purification, moving from a state of uncleanness to clean. Perhaps, when the water was changed to wine, these jugs also became the vessels of baptism, preparing the disciples to receive Christ in all his glory.

The wedding at Cana presents the only opportunity I am aware of for Mary to be Jesus’ proud parent! They were both present as I am sure Jesus other siblings were there too. Perhaps they were family of either the bride or the groom. Maybe they were close family friends. We can only speculate. What I do know is that Mary knew her son’s identity and was fully aware of his Divine capabilities. When she saw the hosts were about to be socially embarrassed by

running out of supplies, Mary pushed her son to show them what he could do. In so doing, what God can do through this beloved wedding guest.

The steward in this story hits the core of Christ's message, Jesus is not inferior. However, the Teacher will face opposition from the religious elite in every town he enters. Those who feel that his teachings are inferior to their tradition. The Wedding at Cana was Jesus' ministry debut. Like many mothers, Mary is pushed her son to share his talents with the wedding guests. All parents have proud moments when their children shine. What is one of yours?

PRAYER: God of many gifts, give us moments when we can shine our light. Amen.



January 19, 2025
2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes

Prelude ~Erica Messinger

**** Song: “Soul on Fire”** #4

**** Call to Worship**

Lector: God’s love is big—bigger than we can imagine—and always with us.

**Congregation: We are here to rest in that love
and be filled with God’s goodness.**

Lector: God’s light shines in the darkest places, offering us hope and joy.

**Congregation: We come ready to share in the
joy of God’s presence.**

Lector: Jesus shows us God’s abundance, turning water into wine and ordinary moments into miracles.

**Congregation: Let’s worship the God who
blesses our lives!**

**** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)**

Ever-giving God, In the ordinary, everyday moments of our lives, open our eyes to the miracles You place before us. Help us to recognize and share these glimpses of Your glory with others, so that together we may celebrate the joy and love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**** Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**** Hymn: “Take My Life and Let It Be”**

#379

Celebration of Our Gifts

**** Doxology**

#625

**** Prayer of Dedication**

**** Apostle’s Creed**

Special Music: Erica Messinger

Joys and Concerns

Praying for Others/Lord’s Prayer

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Hymn: “Ye Servants of God”

#17

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 36:5-10

John 2:1-11

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “God Provides”

**** Song: “This is Amazing Grace”**

#21

**** Final Blessing**

**** Please form a circle, standing to sing “A Choral Benediction”**

Postlude

***On the screen**

**** Please stand, if you are able.**

Announcements

~Annual Meeting will be held on Jan 26th immediately following worship. Annual Reports available in the Gathering Place

~Thanks to Erica Messinger for her special music today.

Upcoming Events

~Employee Staff Meeting, January 20th @ 4:30 pm

~ Bible Study Group, January 22nd @ 12:30 pm
Movie @ 2:00 pm

~Transitional Committee Meeting, January 27th @ 5 pm

~Worship & Music Meeting, January 27th @ 6:30 pm
~ Red Cross Blood Drive, January 29th

Financial Information

General pledge: Month of January 2025 \$2,181.00

General pledge: *Month of January 2024* \$2,535.01

YTD income: \$2,706.00

YTD expenses: \$7,120.98

YTD deficit: \$4,414.98



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:

Associate Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector - TBD

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Fay Emler and Joleen Fennell

Use the following to find the words for in the following word search.

Words are provided under the word search

- And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of _____; and the mother of Jesus was there:
- And _____ Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.
- And when _____ wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.
- Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do _____ thee? mine hour is not yet come.
- His mother saith _____ the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.
- And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the _____ of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.
- _____ saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.
- And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the _____ of the feast. And they bare it.
- When the ruler of the feast had _____ the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,
- And saith unto him, _____ man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.
- This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and _____ forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.
- After _____ he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.
- And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus _____ up to Jerusalem.
- And found in the temple those that sold oxen and _____ and doves, and the changers of money sitting:
- And when he had made a scourge of small _____, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;
- And said unto them that sold _____, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.
- And his disciples _____ that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.
- Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign _____ thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?
- Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three _____ I will raise it up.
- Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and _____ thou rear it up in three days?
- But he spake of the _____ of his body.
- When therefore he was _____ from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.
- Now when he was in Jerusalem at the _____, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.
- But Jesus did not _____ himself unto them, because he knew all men,
- And needed not that any should _____ of man: for he knew what was in man.

John 2

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

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| • GALILEE | • EVERY | • SHEWEST |
| • BOTH | • MANIFESTED | • DAYS |
| • THEY | • THIS | • WILT |
| • WITH | • WENT | • TEMPLE |
| • UNTO | • SHEEP | • RISEN |
| • MANNER | • CORDS | • PASSOVER |
| • JESUS | • DOVES | • COMMIT |
| • GOVERNOR | • REMEMBERED | • TESTIFY |
| • TASTED | | |