

Grace Devotion

Week of September 27, 2026

¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."^[b] (Matthew 20:16 NRSVUE)

Dear friends,

This Sunday, we continue our *Come to the Table* worship series with The Table of Grace. Grace is one of those words we hear often in church. We talk about God's grace, receiving grace, and offering grace to others. But what does grace really look like?

Jesus gives us a parable of the workers in the vineyard. Some workers arrive early in the morning and work all day. Others arrive much later, some near the end of the day. Yet when it is time to receive their pay, they all receive the same amount. That doesn't seem fair. The workers who had worked all day understandably wonder why someone who worked only a short time should receive the same. But Jesus uses this story to show us something about God's grace: God's generosity is not limited by our ideas of who deserves what. God gives generously. God gives abundantly. God gives to the person who has been faithful for years and to the person who is just beginning to find their way. God gives to the person who feels close to God and to the person who wonders whether there is still a place for them. There is more than enough grace at God's table.

Sometimes we have trouble receiving that kind of grace for ourselves. We may carry regrets about things we have done or words we wish we could take back. We may wonder whether we have done enough, been good enough, or lived faithfully enough. But grace reminds us that God's love is not a reward we earn. It is a gift. Once we begin to understand how generously God has loved us, we are invited to become generous with one another. We can offer a little more patience. We can give someone another chance. We can welcome someone who feels like they don't belong. We can let go of keeping score. At God's table, we don't have to worry about whether there will be enough. There is enough grace. Enough love. Enough mercy. Enough room.

This week, I invite you to notice the grace you have received. Perhaps it came through a person who offered you kindness when you needed it. Perhaps someone gave you another chance. Perhaps you experienced God's presence in a difficult moment. Then, ask yourself: Where can I offer that same grace to someone else? God's table is a table of abundance. May we receive God's grace with grateful hearts and share it as generously as we have received it.

Prayer:

Generous God,

Thank You for the gift of Your grace—a gift we cannot earn and do not have to deserve. When we are tempted to keep score, remind us of Your abundance. When we are hard on ourselves, help us receive Your grace. When we are tempted to decide who deserves our kindness, open our hearts to Your generosity. Help us to offer others the same patience, forgiveness, and love You have so freely given to us. May there always be room at our tables for grace. Amen.

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy



September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Westminster Chimes and Prelude
Welcome/Announcements

**+“Holy Forever”

#75

** Call to Worship **Taking Our Place, Opening to Others**

Lector: We often invoke the idea of “grace” when we say a blessing over our meals.

Congregation: We know that grace is an essential need for our survival.

Lector: We say grace,” but do we always share grace with others?

Congregation: We need reminders that we are all human.

Lector: We thank God for another opportunity to make room at the table for others.

Congregation: We give thanks for such a large table!

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)
Welcoming God, You invite us to Your table just as we are. Open our hearts to receive Your grace and make room for those who may feel left out or forgotten. Teach us to see one another as you see us—as beloved children, welcomed and loved. May we carry Your welcome with us as we leave this place. Amen.

**° Hymn: “Come to the Table”

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

see insert

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response: “Doxology”

** Prayer of Dedication

#625

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

**° Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

#202

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “The Table of Grace”

**+“ What an Awesome God”

#61

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

° Blue hymnal

Come to the Table is a five-week worship series based on resources by Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio. Used with permission.

Announcements

- Please consider sharing your talents by hosting snacks in the Gathering Place on Sunday mornings or acting as Lector. Both sign-up sheets can be found in the Gathering Place on the bulletin board.
- Neighbors in Need Offering will be collected on October 4th
- Confirmation Sunday will be October 4th
- World Communion Sunday will be October 4th
- Bible Study Group has been canceled for October 14th

Upcoming Events

Monthly Movie – October 9th @ 3:00 PM
 Grace UCC Helpers – October 17th @ 9:00 AM
 Women's Ministry – October 21st - IN PERSON @ 7:30 PM
 Trick or Treat – October 27th @ 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory Meeting – October 12th @ 6:00 PM
- Worship & Music Committee Meeting – October 26th @ 3:30 PM
- Faith Formation Committee Meeting – October 26th @ 5:00 PM



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Prayer Line: 717-632-1146 LINE 3

Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor - Amy Fawks

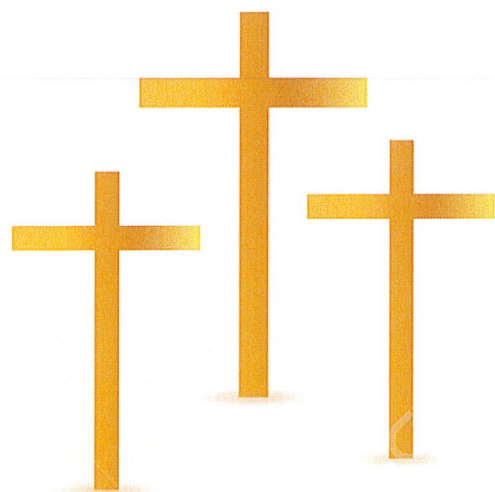
Lector – Chris O'Donnell

Music Director – Grace Neilson

Head Usher – Jenn Weaver & Joleen Fennell

Philippians 1:21-30

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



Philippians	Difficulty	Good News	Believe
Benefit	Living	Suffer	Prison
Chains	Christ	Serve	Glory
Honor	Death	Paul	

Matthew 20:1-16

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



MONEY
LANDOWNER
WAGES

HOURLY
HEAVEN
HIRED

EQUAL
GRUMBLE
UNFAIR

WORKERS
KINGDOM
RIGHT

VINEYARD
GENEROUS
RECEIVED