

*Grace Community Presbyterian Church*  
*March 19 2023*

**And the peace of God,  
which passes all  
understanding, shall keep  
your hearts and minds  
through Christ Jesus.**

**—Philippians 4:7**

## Thought for Meditation:

Shalom is a “persistent vision of joy, well-being, harmony, and prosperity, [it has] many dimensions and subtle nuances: love, loyalty, grace, salvation, justice, blessing, righteousness. [It is] the freight of a dream of God that resists all our tendencies to division, hostility, fear, drivenness, and misery.” *Walter Brueggemann*

<b>Prelude</b>	Prelude on “Rhosymedre”	Vaughan Williams
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Doug Marshall
<b>Moment For Mission</b>	One Great Hour of Sharing	Stephanie Tutka
<b>Call To Worship</b>	Revelation 19:6-7	Terri Wilson
	L: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!	
	<b>P: The Lord God Almighty reigns.</b>	
	L: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!	
	<b>P: Jesus is the Prince of Peace.</b>	
	L: Let us rejoice and be glad.	
	<b>P: Let us give glory to Almighty God.</b>	
	L: We worship You, Almighty God!	
<b>* Hymn of Praise</b>	I Worship You, Almighty God	#146

## Prayer of Confession

L: Lord, you said, “If you love me, you will obey my commands.”

**P: Forgive us our lukewarm love and our disobedience.**

L: Lord, you said, “You may ask for anything in my name.”

**P: Forgive us when we think that we need to solve our own problems.**

L: Lord, you said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

**P: Forgive us when our lives are consumed by worry and anxiety.**

**ALL: We confess to you, Lord, that we have sinned.**

L: In silence, let us confess our own sins to Almighty God.

*Silent Prayer of Confession*

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Jeremiah 31:33-34

L: The LORD says, “This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel:”

**P: “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts;”**

L: “I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

**P: “I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.”**

L: Grace Church, believe the good news:

**P: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**ALL: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.**

## \* Passing of the Peace

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**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.*

**\* Glory Be To the Father**

#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.  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

**First Scripture Lesson**

Philippians 4:4-7 (Page 1024)

**Anthem**

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree (Patterson) Chancel Choir

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green: the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive: which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

**Second Scripture Lesson**

John 14:15-27 (page 938)

**Sermon**

Holy Spirit – Our Peace

**\* Hymn of Response**

Spirit of the Living God

#389

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended to heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (debts, debtors)**

**Call for Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

Childs

**\* Doxology**

Praise and Honor

Regent Square

Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son,  
Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One;  
One in might and one in glory while eternal ages run.

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

**\* Hymn of Dedication**

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

#390

**\* Charge and Benediction**

**\* Congregational Response**                      Peace Like a River                      (v1)                      #750

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul;  
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

**\* Postlude**

Almighty

Phillips

Praise to the Lord the

The Prayer of Confession is adapted and reprinted by permission *The Worship Sourcebook, Second edition*, ©2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

## Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for worship. Reitha Bieranoski will be your greeter today. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship after worship today. Reitha Bieranoski and Carole Compagnon will be your hosts.

### Announcing Staff Appreciation Day

The staff at Grace Church works hard to give us the very best spiritual life. Most of us never get to see how much they do for us. The music doesn't get selected and rehearsed, the phones answered, Bulletins and CrossCurrents printed, the youth activities set up, the building cleaned, and tables set up for our dinners without the day to day work behind the scenes.

The Staff Appreciation Social is our chance to recognize the work and thank the servants of God who are also our staff. To each of them, their job is much more than a job, it is a mission. None of them has received a raise over the past years. Bill Ludwig has taken a substantial pay cut this year. Our gratitude is a major part of their salaries.

As a part of this celebration/recognition, we are asking the congregation to write notes of thanks to our employees. Starting Sunday, March 12, there will be a basket in the narthex to deposit these thank-you notes. It will be there through Sunday, March 26. Also, if you feel inclined to include a gift with your note, we are sure it will be greatly appreciated.

Mark your calendar for the Grace Church Fellowship and Nurture Committee Staff Appreciation Social in Canna Hall. This will be held immediately after the regular Sunday worship service on Sunday March 26. This social is in place of Coffee Fellowship.

For over 70 years, **One Great Hour of Sharing** has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love



with our neighbors in need around the world. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial

disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance and hope. Today, Grace Church will begin the 2023 campaign. You may donate to One Great Hour of Sharing through the envelope in your offering envelope box, the envelope in the pew, or if you would like to take home a fish bank, they are located on the table in the Narthex. Please return your fish bank on Palm Sunday (April 2). Thank you!



Help fill shoeboxes all year long! The **Operation Christmas Child** item for the month of March is **Soap & Washcloths/Toothbrushes**. Donations may be placed in the OCC box in the Narthex. Thank you!

**TODAY'S PRELUDE** comes from 20th century composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, who wrote very little organ music. This prelude is based on the Welsh tune *Rhosymedre*. *Rhosymedre* means "lovely" and is also the name of the North Wales parish where the composer of the melody served as rector. It is often used for the hymn "**My Song Is Love Unknown.**" Interestingly, within Wales this tune is thought of as a jubilant hymn tune. Outside of Wales, however, it often receives a more devotional treatment.

Samuel Crossman (1623–1683) was a minister of the Church of England, ministering to both an Anglican congregation at All Saints, Sudbury, and to a Puritan congregation simultaneously. Crossman sympathized with the Puritan cause, but the 1662 Act of Uniformity expelled Crossman along with some 2,000 other Puritan-leaning ministers from the Church of England. During his exile from the Church of England, in 1664, he wrote "***My Song Is Love Unknown.***"

*My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown, That they might lovely be.  
O who am I, That for my sake  
My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?*

Today's anthem is based on the imagery found in the second chapter of the Song of Solomon. The first verse contains the well-known phrase "I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys," while in the third verse the Beloved is extolled with the comparisons found in our anthem: "*Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my beloved among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste.*" (Song of Solomon 2:3)

Like the apple tree, our Beloved, Jesus, offers shade, protection, and food. Having sought vainly for happiness elsewhere, the author comes to the realization that only under the shadow of "the apple tree" would she experience the ecstatic delight of His presence. Another hymn writer, Fanny Crosby, would convey a similar thought when she penned, "O the pure delight of a single hour that before Thy throne I spend, when I kneel in prayer and with Thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend."

## This Week's Calendar

March 19 - 25

Sunday	Sunday School (all ages)	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Deacons Meeting	11:00am
	Youth Group	6:00pm

### DEADLINE FOR ORDERING MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> DAY OF SPRING	
Tuesday	Bible Study	1:00pm
Wednesday	Cub Scouts Den Meeting	6:00pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
Thursday	Men's Club	6:30pm

### Looking Ahead

March 26 - April 1

March 26	Sunday School (all ages)	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Staff Appreciation	11:00am
	Youth Group	6:00pm
March 27	Session Meeting	6:30pm
March 28	Bible Study	1:00pm
March 29	Cub Scouts Den Meeting	6:00pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm

CrossCurrents will be mailed out. If you would like to put anything in CrossCurrents, please get it to the office by Monday morning. You can leave a copy on Wendy's desk or send it to her by email: [secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org).

April 1

APRIL FOOLS DAY

**CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Grace Community Presbyterian Church  
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068  
(724) 339-9661  
Website: [www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](http://www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)

Worship Service is at 10:00am

**Church Staff:**

Pastor: Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor  
[doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)

Secretary: Wendy Stein Clark  
[secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)

Christian Ed.: Bill Ludwig

Organist: Kenneth McGeary

Treasurer: Ray Zerjav

Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zunich

**Elders**

Reitha Bieranoski  
Cathy Brady  
Cathy Christoforetti  
Ben Edwards  
David Highfield  
Dan Howard  
Henry Kedzierski  
Val Lester  
John Napierski  
Sharon Rupert  
Stephanie Tutka  
Cathy Vitari (clerk)

**Deacons**

Darlene Artman  
Rich Artman  
Gary Barbiaux  
Judy Barbiaux  
Elsie Deem  
Margie Bistline  
Beulah Brown  
Jackie Chickerella  
Cindy Irvin (moderator)  
Terri Ludwig  
Lavonne Pelisari  
Debbie Roskey  
Mary Ann Walter  
Lou Walter  
Shirley Wilson