

*Grace Community Presbyterian Church*  
*April 16 2023*



**Thought for Meditation:**

The unfathomable mystery of God is that God is a Lover who wants to be loved. The one who created us is waiting for our response to the love that gave us our being. God not only says: "You are my Beloved." God also asks: "Do you love me?" and offers us countless chances to say "Yes." That is the spiritual life: the chance to say "yes" to our inner truth. *Henri Nouwen*

<b>Prelude</b>	O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing	Guilmant
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Doug Marshall
<b>Moment For Mission</b>	Pine Springs Camp	Mike Hurley
<b>Call To Worship</b>	1 Corinthians 15:1-7 (CEV)	Cathy Vitari
<b>* Hymn of Praise</b>	Alleluia! Alleluia!	#365

### **Prayer of Confession**

God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us find our voice. When we are afraid to forgive and to love again, forgive us and give us the power to forgive. When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, join with the weak to make us all strong. When we are confined by our hurts, touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace. *Silent Prayer of Confession*

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**                      Zephaniah 3:14-15

L: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

**P: Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!**

L: The LORD has taken away your punishment and turned away all your enemies.

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

L: Christ is risen!

**P: He is risen, indeed!**

### **\* 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.

### **Anthem**

A Little Easter Carol (Schurr)

Chancel Choir

Now listen, now listen, now listen to hear the reason that we are singing, the reason that we are here; the story is simple, its message is clear, the reason that we are singing, the reason that we are here: Christ is risen. Christ is risen.

The whisper is spreading that Christ is alive; the reason that we are singing, the reason that we are here; He breathed on his Son, all mankind to revive; the reason that we are singing, the reason that we are here: Christ is risen. Christ is risen.

Now listen, now listen, now listen to hear the reason that we are singing, the reason that we are here; He's risen, yes risen, and thus shall stand clear, the reason that we are singing, the reason that we are here: Christ is risen. Christ is risen.

<b>Scripture</b>	John 21:15-22 (page 946)	
<b>Sermon</b>	Why Peter?	
<b>* Hymn of Response</b>	Christ Arose	#357
<b>*Affirmation of Faith</b>	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.	
<b>Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer</b> (debts, debtors)		
<b>Call for Tithes and Offerings</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	The Strife Is O'er	Johnson
<b>* Doxology</b>		#815
<b>* Prayer of Dedication</b>		
<b>* Hymn of Dedication</b>	Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks	#359
<b>* Charge and Benediction</b>		
<b>* Congregational Response</b>	Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks (refrain)	#359
	Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord;	
	Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.	
<b>* Postlude</b>	Toccata on "Easter Hymn"	Corl

The Prayer of Confession is adapted and reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012

**\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

## Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for worship. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship after worship today. Stephanie Tutka will be your host.



Help fill shoeboxes all year long! The **Operation Christmas Child** item for the month of April is **Stuffed Animals (after Easter deals are at Dollar General)**. Donations may be placed in the OCC box in the Narthex. Thank you!

In a fund-raising effort, the deacons are hosting a bake sale in conjunction with Christian Ed's rummage sale, Saturday, April 29, 2023. To make this sale a success we need the support of the congregation by way of donating baked goods. We ask that the baked goods be placed on or in disposable containers; such as paper plates, or aluminum pans. Fudge, cookies or brownies may fit into small plastic sandwich bags. Deacons will be at the church Friday, April 28 from 3pm – 6pm to receive baked goods as well as Saturday morning April 29 at 7:00am. If you have any questions, you may ask any deacon listed on the back of the bulletin. The sign-up sheet for your contribution is on the bulletin board outside the office.



While Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor is on his pilgrimage (4/17-30) here are pastors who can do pastoral care for an emergency (death, hospital)



- Pete Goetschius: Pastor @ Poke Run PC – 724-327-5563 (office), 724-454-2278 (cell)
- Skip Noftzer (if Pete isn't available): Executive Presbyter, Redstone Pby – 724-837-6737 (office)

**TODAY'S PRELUDE** is based on the Latin hymn "**O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing.**" The prelude is a set of variations by 19<sup>th</sup> century French organist and composer Alexandre Guilmant. The hymn was written by 15<sup>th</sup> century Franciscan monk Jean Tisserand and translated by John Neale for *Medieval Hymns* (1851). The hymn tells the Easter story, beginning with the women going to the tomb at daybreak and ending with Thomas's doubting and subsequent confession. In liturgical churches the story of Thomas is frequently used on the second Sunday of Easter.

*O sons and daughters, let us sing!  
The King of Heaven, the glorious King,  
Over death today rose triumphing. Alleluia!!*

*When Thomas first the tidings heard,  
How they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia!!*

*"My pierced side, O Thomas, see;  
My hands, my feet, I show to thee;  
Not faithless, but believing be." Alleluia!!*

*No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"Thou art my lord and god," he cried. Alleluia!!*

*How blest are they who have not seen,  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia!!*

Originally a Latin hymn by an anonymous Jesuit, "**The Strife Is O'er**" pictures the death of Christ as the final battle with the powers of evil. Christ's resurrection marks the decisive account of this battle: Christ is the victor! This powerful hymn is the basis for today's offertory.

**This Week's Calendar  
April 16 - 22**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday School (all ages)</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Fellowship &amp; Nurture Meeting</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tax Day</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ladies Club</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Earth Day</b>	

**Looking Ahead  
April 23 - 29**

<b>April 23</b>	<b>Sunday School (all ages)</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>April 26</b>	<b>Cub Scouts Den Meeting</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>

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).

<b>April 27</b>	<b>Men's Club</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>April 28</b>	<b>Arbor Day</b>	

**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