



Grace Presbyterian Church

Seeking to equip people to live as Christian disciples wherever God has placed them.

February 13, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Voluntary on Genevan 98

Robert Buckley Farlee

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Creator God, we seek you.

People: Risen Christ, we rely on you.

Leader: Holy Spirit, you are our life and our breath.

People: We thank you for always being with us.

Leader: When we are lonely you comfort us, when we are poor you enrich us, when we are lost you guide us.

All: You are always with us. We worship you in gratitude, with open hearts.

Hymn Red 66*

“The God of Abraham Praise”

The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM,
by earth and heaven confessed:
we bow and bless the sacred name
forever blest.

He by himself has sworn,
we on his oath depend,
we shall, on eagles' wings upborne,
to heaven ascend;
we shall behold his face,
we shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace
forevermore.

The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing,
and “Holy, holy, holy!” cry,
“Almighty King!
Who was and is the same,
and evermore shall be:
eternal Father, great I AM,
we worship thee.”

The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”
they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham's God, and mine!
With heaven our songs we raise;
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise.

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, we confess our sins to you, for we have denied your light in us; we have betrayed your Holy Spirit in us. We have sought happiness and security instead of faithfulness and trust. For those sins which weigh upon us, and those we do not even know

we ask your forgiveness. Heal our hearts, renew your Spirit within us, and restore in us the image of Christ, that by your grace we may be light for the world. Amen. *Time for silent prayer and reflection.*

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination in Unison Based on Ephesians 1:17-19

Holy and gracious God, may your Holy Spirit give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know the hope to which Christ has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance among us, and the greatness of his power for those who believe. Amen.

First Scripture Reading (Unison) Genesis 18:16-33

Then the men set out from there, and they looked toward Sodom; and Abraham went with them to set them on their way. The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? No, for I have chosen[e] him, that he may charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice; so that the Lord may bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Second Scripture Reading Genesis 22:1-8

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

Sermon

A Study In Contrasts

Norma Prescott

Hymn Green 187*

"In God Alone"

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,
in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest,
find its rest and peace.

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,
in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest,
find its rest and peace.

Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, one in being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory

Voluntary on Castlewood

Robert Buckley Farlee

Doxology

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn Green 172*

"Faith Begins by Letting Go"

Faith begins by letting go,
giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd,
trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on,
keeping mem'ry's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit;

promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess
but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out,
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace
ripe with witness to God's grace.

Benediction

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84531485041?pwd=UXRMUGJIOFVOWUh4cFFRK3BoenVsQT09>

Meeting ID: 845 3148 5041

Passcode: 391303

Phone In 19292056099,,84531485041# US (New York)

<https://gracemontclair.org/covid-19/worship>

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of a SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION of Grace Presbyterian Church to be held at the Church, 153 Grove Street, Montclair, New Jersey, on Sunday, February 13, 2022 immediately after the 10:00 a.m. service for the purpose stated below:

To elect Norma Prescott as Elder