

Welcome To Grace United Methodist Church
We Are Glad You Are Here!

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. Sunday School

October 4, 2009

The Gathering

Music, fellowship time, sharing with family and friends, announcements

Call to Worship (Psalm 26)

"In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge is in God"
(Ps. 62:7). Lord, in this hour of worship, let the broken body and shed blood of our Savior bring us to renewed commitment and greater appreciation of that grace that knows no bounds and saves to the uttermost them that believe. Amen.

*Opening Hymn UMH 368
 UMH 99

My Hope Is Built
My Tribute

The Renewal

Morning Prayer

Eternal God, long ago you spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets; but in these last days, you have spoken to us by a Son. May we become again like children and receive your kingdom in our midst, that we may walk in your ways without faltering, and trust in your Spirit without wavering. Amen.

The Word

Children's Moment

Scripture Lesson

Mark 10:13-16

Witness to the Word

Pastor Mike Fender

The Response

* Prayer of Confession (Job 1-2, Psalm 26)

Holy God, it is easy to boast of our faithfulness when life is easy and your blessings cascade over us like ever-flowing streams. Stop our mouths when we brag of our integrity and deride others for their wayward feet. Help us be more like Jesus, who taught his disciples to pray that they may be spared from the time of trial, than like the psalmist, who challenged: "Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and mind." May our faithfulness speak louder than our words, that others may see in our example the joys of upright living, whether we are receiving the good from your hand, or the bad. Amen.

Words of Assurance (Hebrews 2:11-12)

Hear these words from the book of Hebrews: "The one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' "

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering and Offertory

Mr. Andrew Salyer

Invitation to Communion (World Communion Sunday)

Come to the table, you who are scattered and torn.

Here we find hope.

Come to the table, you who are scared and lonely.

Here we find love.

Come to the table, you who are tired and tense.

Here we find rest for our souls,

and food for our journey.

Come to the table, you who are lost and are searching.

Here we discover guidance,

and light for our darkness.

Come to the table, you who are happy or sad.

Here our lives are embraced by God's grace.

Great Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, our creator and liberator, for by your word you have called forth creation, you have created us in your image. You led us from slavery to freedom, going ever before us with cloud and fiery pillar. With burning coals you gave utterance to the prophets, demanding that justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

In the fullness of time, your Spirit descended like a dove upon Jesus, anointing him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who were oppressed, and to declare the reign of God in our midst.

When Jesus gathered together with his beloved disciples, he was known to them in the breaking of bread. Before feeding the multitudes, he broke bread and gave thanks.

When two or three were gathered together, he broke bread and gave thanks. He sought the outcasts and broke bread with them, witnessing the fullness of your grace.

Words of Institution

On the night of his greatest trial, he gathered his friends together in an upper room, and said to them: "Tonight I am going to create a sustaining community among you. It will not require you to always be faithful or perfect or good or right or powerful or unblemished or pure.

This community we are creating together tonight requires two things: your willingness to share with one another and your remembrance of me. These two are enough to bind you to one another and to your work on behalf of the world.

Take this bread, the bread of life. It represents my physical presence, which has been with you on many adventures. It also represents the bodies of all who have tried to love mercy, create justice, and build the kingdom of God on earth.

Whenever you eat bread, remember this evening. Think on what we have tried to do for the poor and those who are marginalized.

Take this cup, the cup of salvation. It represents the covenant we make with each other to always be there for one another. It also represents my promise to be with you always. This cup and your thoughts of me will sustain you and restore your spirits."

As we break bread and drink this cup, we do so remembering a life lived in thanksgiving— a life of uncompromising commitment to justice and equality; a life that led to an unjust death on a cross. And in the darkness of night, when evil and betrayal seemed victorious, your creative power burst upon us in the glory of the resurrection.

In remembering all he did and taught, we actively await with hope for the coming of God's reign to bring peace and justice. God of love, send your Holy Spirit upon us. Bless what we do here this morning, that we and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other and to all the world. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Take and eat. May you never cease to hunger for justice.

Take and drink. May you never cease to thirst for mercy.

The Sending Forth

*Benediction

Ever-loving and ever-present God, you have refreshed us at your table, by granting us the presence of Jesus.

May the sharing of this sacred meal together remain always in our hearts, and weave us together as one body, one people.

Strengthen our faith, that we might accomplish great things through our love for one another.

Send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Choral Benediction UMH 191

Jesus Loves Me