

# Grace United Church of Christ

May 24, 2020  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Online Worship

## INVOCATION

FIRST LESSON John 17:1-11

## A TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN

CENTERING SONG Draw the Circle Wide

**Draw the circle wide.  
Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song,  
No one stands alone,  
Standing side by side.  
Draw the circle wide.**

SECOND LESSON Acts 1:6-14

MESSAGE *Looking Up*

## OFFERING

Invitation  
Dedication

## MORNING PRAYERS

Pastoral Prayer  
Prayers of the People  
The Lord's Prayer

SENDING HYMN Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Ps 68, The Inclusive Bible translation)

Leader: We shout for joy  
to God who rides upon the clouds!

**People: We sing praises to our awe-  
inspiring God, before whom the  
earth quakes, and whose abundant  
blessings provide for all in need!**

Leader: God is Sovereign over the earth,  
Defender of the defenseless, and  
Parent to orphans;  
God creates families for those who are  
alone.

**People: God leads captives to freedom  
and breaks the yoke of oppression.**

Leader: God goes forth before the people,  
marching through the wilderness of  
their lives, bringing forth restoration  
and justice.

**People: Sing praise to God,  
Rider of the ancient skies,  
who dwells in holiness.**

Leader: Proclaim the power of God!

**People: O God, how awesome you are in  
your sanctuary!  
You give power and strength to  
your people.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

GATHERING HYMN We Are Gathered

## John 17:1-11

17 When Jesus finished saying these things, he looked up to heaven and said, “God, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son can glorify you. <sup>2</sup> You gave him authority over everyone so that he could give eternal life to everyone you gave him. <sup>3</sup> This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent. <sup>4</sup> I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> Now, God, glorify me in your presence with the glory I shared with you before the world was created.

<sup>6</sup> “I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

<sup>9</sup> “I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to you. Holy God, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one.

## Acts 1:6-14

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of <sup>[a]</sup> James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## **We Are Gathered**

We are gathered in the Spirit though our bodies are apart,  
Filled with joy and touched with wonder, separate hands but  
mingled hearts  
Giving thanks and singing praises for the love that calls us on.  
From our many different places we are gathered into one.

We are gathered in our sorrow. We are gathered in our fear,  
In our pain and in our worry, in our anger and our tears.  
As we tend to one another with our gifts and with our care,  
Our community is strengthened through the faith and hope we  
share.

We are gathered in commitment to a planet that is whole.  
Works of justice, acts of kindness bless the world and heal our  
souls.  
As our voices join together, may our song of peace resound.  
May we offer in abundance all the grace that we have found.

(Amanda Udis-Kessler, c. 2020)

## **Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!**

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the scepter, yours the throne.  
Alleluia! Yours the triumph, yours the victory alone!  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus, out of every nation you've redeemed us by your word.

Alleluia! Christ eternal, nothing can disrupt your reign;  
Alleluia! Born of Mary, heaven and earth are your domain.  
Human life you fully entered, tending those we count the least,  
Serving both as Light and Leader in our dance and daily feast.