

Grace United Church of Christ

July 18, 2021

Rev. Joyce Wealand, Minister

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Live stream can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/graceutown/live>

*** you are invited to stand in body and/or spirit**

PRELUDE Holy, Holy, Holy – Dykes

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATES

* WORDS OF WELCOME

Leader: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

People: In this safe space, may God grant us the vision to see the Holy in each other and the Holy in ourselves.

* CALL TO WORSHIP *(Psalm 23, adapted)*

Leader: As God is our shepherd, we need nothing else.

People: We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters, which renews and refreshes our spirits.

Leader: God guides us along paths of righteousness

People And walks with us through shadowed valleys so we are not afraid. The shepherd's staff comforts us.

Leader: God set the banquet table for us in the presence of our enemies. There, we're anointed with oil and our cup overflows.

People

Goodness and mercy shall never depart from us as long as we dwell in the house of God.

* GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: Caring and Gracious God, you are the shepherd who gathers us together today to celebrate with grateful thanksgiving the community in which we live. We are nourished by its diversity, brought about by the unique gifts each person contributes. Be with us in this time of worship and encourage us to never cease welcoming the strangers we meet and accepting the gifts they bring. Grant that they will enrich our lives and will be a reminder of the joy that comes when all will be one in you. Amen.

*GATHERING MUSIC

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us #252 TNCH

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

People: O God, we live in a diverse community. There are people of different colors and abilities. There are people with different sexual orientations. There are people on the left and the right, young and old, rich and poor. Yet, our church doesn't reflect this diversity. We would love others as you do, but we can't. We've erected walls built upon our biases, fears, and insecurities that keep us apart. Forgive us that we cannot love as unconditionally as you. Help us to take down those walls so we may welcome the stranger and truly be one community together. Amen

ASSURANCE OF BLESSING

SACRED TEXT

Psalm 23 NRSV

A GIFT OF MUSIC

I Am Here

– DeFrange

SACRED TEXT

Ephesians 2:11 NRSV

REFLECTION**SUNG RESPONSE**

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where
the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and
ever, now and ever,
Now and evermore.

INVITATION TO FAITHFUL SHARING***DOXOLOGY** - adapted by Tom DeFrance

Sing Praise to God and to the Son
And to the Spirit Three in One
Who in us all now does reside
to nourish, comfort, love, and guide.

***DEDICATION OF GIFTS**

People: Thank you, God, for the ministries of the
people of your church.
Thank you, God, for the bounty of your blessings
you have poured out upon us.
We have taken a portion of our abundance and
given it to you in grateful thanksgiving.
Bless this offering. May it help to support the
ministries of this church that will dismantle the
walls that divide us so all people will be one in the
new family gathered in Christ Jesus. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER**THE PRAYER OF JESUS**

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.

***CLOSING MUSIC**

#495 TNCH

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

WORDS OF SENDING AND PEACE**SENDING RESPONSE**

#76 v1 TNCH

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith
confessing, the people of God from this dwelling
take leave. The service is ended, O now be
extended the fruits of our worship in all who
believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive
hearts reaching, Shall blossom in action for God
and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love
shall unite us To work for God's realm and to
answer the call.

POSTLUDE

I Love Your Grace - Founds

WORSHIP LEADERS

Jerry Mohn is helping lead worship as liturgist today.

Altar flowers are presented by **Bob and Cathi Moffat** in celebration of **Bob and Drew's** birthdays.

Mike Pirogowicz, Dave Forman, and Jim Lynn are serving as our Livestream Technicians, **Paul Sodergren** as Sanctuary Technician and **Tom DeFrange** as musician and accompanist.

The Whole World our Neighborhood: Service Prayers for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Quentin Chin, member of Church on the Hill in Lenox, MA.



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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday:	7pm	Catching Our Spiritual Breath on Zoom.
Tuesday	9am	Tuesday Crew meets to do work around the buildings and grounds.
Wednesday:	7pm	Spiritual Council Meeting in Library

