

Walk through

# NEW DOORS

with us this fall!



# Grace United Church of Christ

September 12, 2021

Rev. Joyce Wealand, Minister

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Live stream can be found at:**

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

**\* You are invited to stand in body and/or spirit**

**PRELUDE**                      Revive Us Again                      - Muller

## **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**

**Leader:**                      Jesus asks the disciples:  
"Who do people say I am?"

**People:**                      **They answer, "Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah; and others say one of the prophets." But Jesus presses them:**

**Leader:**                      "Who do *you* say I am?"

**People:**                      **Peter answers, "You are Christ—God's anointed one, God-with-us!" Now Jesus pushes us:**

**Leader:**                      "What about you? Here, in this moment, in this community, Who do you say I am?"

**People:**                      **Where do we find the wisdom to answer?**

**\* GATHERING PRAYER**

**People: Holy Wisdom of God**  
You call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and with one another. You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, Where human pain and possibility are most urgent. You call to us from our sacred stories, where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort. Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the ways which lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center.

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

**O Jesus, I Have Promised #493 TNCH**

**PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

**People: Christ calls on us to “lose our life in order to save it”; To “take up our cross and follow” in the ways of justice and peace. Like the disciples before us, we are often amazed and overwhelmed by this command. We close our ears to such challenge and our hearts to such risk.**

*(Moment of silence and reflection)*

**ASSURANCE OF BLESSING**

**COMMISSIONING and BLESSING OF TEACHERS AND GIFTS**

**A GIFT OF MUSIC**      And They Who Do Justice  
- Tom DeFrange

**SACRED TEXTS**

James 3:1-12

NRSV

**\*CENTERING HYMN**

**#42 TNCH**

**O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

**SACRED TEXT**

Mark 8:27-38

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**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

**\*DEDICATION OF GIFTS**

**People: All-knowing God, teach us to use  
these gifts to create greater  
access, insights, and wisdom  
for people within and outside of  
these walls. May it be so!**

**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 HYMN**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise #1 TNCH

**\*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** Only By the Blood of the Lamb - Foster

Wisdom Calls: Service Prayers for the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

Our acolyte for today is **Chase Thompson** and **Carey Bullock** is helping lead worship as our liturgist.

Altar flowers are presented by **Craig and Linda Kindy** in celebration of their anniversary.

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

**We are delighted to welcome** Carey Bullock, our new Office Administrator and Communications Coordinator, to worship this morning. Carey comes to us with a long background in church and non-profit work, especially in communications. With an undergrad degree in Ministry Management and a Master's in Higher Education Administration, she also has used these skills in volunteer public health education areas, specifically around child and maternal health. Outside of work, Carey stays busy with her 10-year-old son, Zane, and enjoys kayaking, biking, cooking, reading, connecting with friends, and working on social justice advocacy.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR (September 12-19)

Monday:	7pm	Catching Our Spiritual Breath on Zoom
Tuesday:	9am-noon	Tuesday Crew meets here to do work on our buildings and grounds.
Wednesday:	9am-noon 10am 7pm	Office Hours Yoga in the Family Activity Center Spiritual Council, E&C room
Thursday	2-7pm	American Red Cross Blood Drive in our multipurpose room
Friday	9am-noon	Office Hours
Sunday	9:15am 11:15am	Adult Sunday School begins Café Conversations with Pastor Joyce in HeBrews Café Zwingli Class with Michelle Hutcherson in E&C Room Annual meeting for discussion and voting on new flooring. Meeting follows worship and will also be streamed on Zoom