

# Grace United Church of Christ

May 17, 2020  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Online Worship

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.**

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We long for community  
and the Presence of God.  
**People: In whom we live and move and have  
our being.**  
Leader: This day Christ tells us that we will  
never be alone. An Advocate—spirit  
of Truth--will share our journey.  
**People: With whom we will live and create  
community and celebrate being.**  
Leader: May the love of God be with you.  
**People: And the joy of Christ surround you.**  
Leader: May we know the presence of the  
Advocate as we gather in this  
community of peace,  
May your Truth lead us to the path of  
discipleship with deeds of bold mercy  
and courageous justice.  
**People: As an Easter People following a  
Risen Lord, may the life of Jesus  
live on in us and through us. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON Acts 17:22-31

MESSAGE      *The Rabbi's Gift*

### OFFERING

Invitation  
Dedication

### MORNING PRAYERS

Pastoral Prayer  
Prayers of the People  
The Lord's Prayer

SENDING HYMN      In Christ There is No East or West

### COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

GATHERING HYMN      Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

### INVOCATION

FIRST LESSON      John 14:15-21

### A TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN

## Scriptures for May 17, 2020

*John 14:15-21*

<sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Creator, and God will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This Advocate is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because the world neither sees it nor knows it. You know it, because the Spirit abides with you, and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Creator, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Creator, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

**Acts 17:22-31** (Adapted from The Message)

<sup>22-23</sup> So Paul took his stand in the open space at the Areopagus and laid it out for them. “It is plain to see that you Athenians take your religion seriously. When I arrived here the other day, I was fascinated with all the shrines I came across. And then I found one inscribed, TO THE GOD NOBODY KNOWS. I’m here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you’re dealing with.

<sup>24-29</sup> “The God who made the world and everything in it, this Master of sky and land, doesn’t live in custom-made shrines. God doesn’t need the human race to run God’s errands, as God couldn’t take care of that. God makes the creatures; the creatures don’t make God. Starting from scratch, God made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually *find* God. There’s no playing hide-and-seek with us. God’s not remote; but *near*. We live and move in God; we can’t get away! One of your poets said it well: ‘We’re the God-created.’ Well, if we are the God-created, it doesn’t make a lot of sense to think we could hire a sculptor to chisel a god out of stone for *us*, does it?

<sup>30-31</sup> “God overlooks it as long as you don’t know any better—but that time is past. The unknown is now known, and God is calling for a radical life-change. The day has been set when the entire human race will be judged, and everything set right. And God has already appointed the judge, confirming him before everyone by raising him from the dead.”

**Gathering Hymn: Lord, I Want to Be a Christian**

Lord, I want to be a Christian  
In my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian  
In my heart.  
In my heart, In my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian  
In my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving  
In my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving  
In my heart.  
In my heart, In my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving  
In my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
In my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
In my heart.  
In my heart, In my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
In my heart.

**Sending Hymn: In Christ There Is No East or West**

In Christ there is no East or West,  
In Christ no South or North;  
But one community of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find;  
God's service is the golden cord  
Close-binding humankind.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
In Christ meet South and North;  
One joyous, true community  
Throughout the whole wide earth.