

Grace United Church of Christ

August 1, 2021

Rev. Joyce Wealand, Minister

Tenth 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 To God Be the Glory - Doane

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: You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways.
This day, bring us together just as you called the people of Israel
to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life.

People: **God of unity, give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you.
As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures—
faith, hope, and love.

People: **God of grace, give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: All life is created and nourished by you!
May we grow into new circles of understanding and being,
reflecting the ways in which we have been touched by your holy manna.

People: **Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.**

* GATHERING PRAYER

People: **Life Sustainer, we receive the things you desire to offer us today and each new day! Grant us wisdom and openness to your Word and use its teachings to energize our bodies and spirits.
Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN** The Church's One Foundation #386 TNCH

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

People: God, we confess that we often spoon-feed ourselves items and ideas that do not provide us the energy we need to do your work. This creates space between you and us, between ourselves and each other, as members of Christ's one body. Oftentimes, we are willing to risk our sustained health and well-being for immediate satisfaction.

(Moment of silence and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF BLESSING

A GIFT OF MUSIC Lord, I'm Thankful – written and sung by Fran Izo

SACRED TEXT Ephesians 4:1-16 NRSV

***CENTERING HYMN** There's a Spirit In the Air (vs 1, 3, 6, & 7) #294 TNCH

SACRED TEXT John 6:24-35 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.**

SHARE IN THE BLESSING AT THE TABLE

INVITATION All Belong Here – The Many

THE PEACE

Leader: No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at this table with its symbols of God's Creative Presence.

People: In company with all who seek nourishment at this table, we come to celebrate community, and to share these life-giving symbols.

Leader: The peace and presence of God is here, now and always.

People: Thanks be to God.

TELLING THE STORY

Leader: It is right and our joy to give thanks to God, our cherisher. We celebrate the nourishment given to us – in the form of food, in the form of our families and friends, in the form of our relationship with God.

We give thanks, O Holy One.

People: We give thanks.

Leader: We who hold all such good things in trust, in the company of each other, and in company with people throughout the world declare as generations before us have declared:

People: Holy, holy, holy, hope-breathing God, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
People: Hosanna in the highest.

BREAD AND CUP

(When invited, please come down the center aisle, receive your elements, eat the Bread, and return to your seat by the side aisle. We will all drink the cup together. If you prefer to remain in your seat, an elder will bring the elements to you.)

THANKSGIVING

People: We give thanks that we have gathered together in this sacred place and been refreshed at this table. We rejoice in the giftedness of each person here. We are grateful for who we are for each other. We are grateful for who we are with God's steady, guiding presence. May we go forth into the world in courage and in peace. Amen.

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: O God, we share these gifts in the spirit of those who shared their loaves and fishes: we ask that you take these gifts and use them to feed all of creation—to produce seed and grain, filling humans and animals alike, and to restore wholeness in the places where malnourishment exists. 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 HYMN Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer #18 TNCH**

***WORDS OF SENDING AND PEACE**

***SENDING RESPONSE Sent Forth by God's Blessing #76 v1 TNCH**
**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 Sing a Joyful Song - Founds

The Bread of Life: Service Prayers for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff Theological Seminary, Denver, CO.



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WORSHIP LEADERS

Reese Melvin is serving as our acolyte today and **Jerry Bixler** is helping lead worship as liturgist.

Altar flowers are presented by **Karen Lynn in celebration of Jim's birthday tomorrow.**

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

We are delighted to have Fran Izo back with us once again to share one of her original compositions. She has taught elementary, middle, and high school Spanish for over 20 years but identifies music as her true passion and the vehicle through which her love for the Lord has been shared with countless people in area churches and online venues. Over the years she has lent her talents as a performer in area Gospel choirs and you can find her music posted on the "Catacomb Composers" website.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday:	5:00 pm	All Church / All Ages VBS
Monday:	7:00 pm	Catching Our Spiritual Breath on Zoom
Tuesday	9:00 am	Tuesday Crew
Wednesday:	10:00 am	Yoga in the FAC
	7:00 pm	Consistory, E & C room
Sunday (8/8)	5:00 pm	All Church / All Ages VBS

Pastor Joyce will be on vacation August 8 through August 14. Please contact Jim Lynn or Linda Skeggs if needed.