

**October 10, 2021**  
**Order of Worship**  
**Grinnell United Church of Christ**

*As a safety precaution during COVID, please remain silent during the worship service (as in no congregant singing nor praying aloud). Thank you for helping to keep each other safe.*

**PRELUDE** *Prelude in G minor, Nicholas Lebegue (1631 - 1702)*

**INVOCATION**

We come to worship this morning from different places.

O God, do not be far from us.

We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

O God, do not be far from us.

We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

O God, do not be far from us.

We hear Jesus' words with different ears.

O God, do not be far from us.

"Deny yourselves."

O God, do not be far from us.

"Take up your cross."

O God, do not be far from us.

"Follow me."

O God,

we thank you for drawing near to us

in this place,

in our lives.

Amen.

**WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

The Peace of Christ be with you.... *(silently)* And also with you.

**SCRIPTURE**     *Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16*

**HYMN** NCH 510 *Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You*

Words: Based on a prayer by St. Benedict, c. 529     Music: 14th century German carol

1) Grant us wisdom to perceive you, hearts awakened to receive you,  
Minds alert to thoughts that grieve you, God of mercy, hear us.

2) Grant us faithfulness in praying, strength to keep our souls from straying,  
Sense to cease from disobeying, God of mercy, hear us.

3) Grant us diligence in doing, patience when your truth pursuing,  
Eager to receive renewing, God of mercy, hear us.

4) Grant us courage to proclaim you; Savior of our lives we name you!  
May our actions never shame you; God of mercy, hear us.

**SERMON**      *Job 23:1-17*

## **SILENT REFLECTION**

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**We pray for peace and comfort** for Gayle Strickler and family and friends. Lois passed away on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The flowers on the chancel are from Gayle in honor of his beloved wife.

**We pray for health and strength for** Pasha Buck, George Drake, Betty Anne Francis, Verlene Mitchell, Emily Pfitsch, and Gayle Strickler.

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Living God,  
we come to you now, in wonder.  
We have heard of your works - as Creator, Upholder, In-dweller, Lover of all –  
and we have known you in our own times, in our own lives, in the lives of our neighbors.  
Before the mystery of your presence all around and within,  
it is right for us to be silent, and to offer thanks and praise.

But, living God,  
we also come to you in anger and despair.  
We look out and see a pandemic raging on,  
We see children dying of hunger, nations torn apart by war,  
We see greed and corruption blighting the lives of millions.  
And we look within and see our complicity in much of this,  
see our compromised lives, see our broken hearts, our broken promises;  
and before the mystery of evil rampant and injustice unpunished,  
we ask, “Where were you, God, when all this went so wrong?”  
Hear us as we lift our voices to you  
and cry “O God, why have you abandoned us?”  
In silence, then,  
before the mystery both of your presence and of your absence,  
we wait upon you now.

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *(Inclusive Version) (Please pray silently)*

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother

Holy is your name.

May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For all that we do in your love,

and all that your love brings to birth,

and the fullness of love that will be

are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## **GRATITUDE FOR OFFERING / DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

## **HYMN** NCH 450 *O For a Closer Bond with God*

Words: William Cowper, 1769, alt.

Music: John B. Dykes, 1875

1) O for a closer bond with God, a calm and heavenly frame,  
A light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!

2) Where is the blessedness we knew when first our hearts were stirred?  
Where is the soul refreshing view of Jesus Christ, the Word?

3) Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of peace!  
Forgive our sins and help us learn in Christ to find release.

4) The dearest idols we have known, as we our ways pursue;  
Help us to tear them from your throne, and worship only you.

5) So shall our bond be close with God, calm and serene our frame;  
So purer light shall mark the road that leads us to the Lamb.

## **BENEDICTION**

Now, go forth from this place with renewed inspiration to do the work of God.

Seek good, not evil, love goodness, and establish justice.

This the greatest offering we can make; letting justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Go in peace, with love for our neighbors. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE** *Voluntary in G Major, John Stanley (1712 - 1786)*

*ATTENTION: For everyone's safety, please exit the building quietly and in a timely manner and reserve socializing for outside the church building.*

### **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**Liturgist:** Judy Scheer

**Vocalist:** Conner Stanfield

**Organist:** Kenneth Davis

**Pastor:** Rev. Jessica Margrave Schirm

*And throughout the month...*

**Worship Hosts:** JoAnn Britton, Jeananne Schild

**Chancel Flowers & Paraments:** Sue Ramsey, Glenyce Conway, Sarah White, Oliva Wright, Karen Edwards

**Mayflower Drivers:** Rick Ramsey, Denny Conway, George Britton, Shane Estes, Jay Hansen

### **WORSHIP RESOURCES**

Invocation ~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith.

<http://spaciousfaith.com/>

Pastoral Prayer ~ written by Rev. John Harvey, and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Lord's Prayer ~ Copyright © 2003 Richard D. McCall, Posted on the Worship Well website.

Benediction ~ written by Phyllis Tenney, a former BVS volunteer. Posted on the Church of the Brethren website. <http://www.brethren.org/resources/>