



Grace Presbyterian Church
El Paso, Texas

17th Sunday After Pentecost
September 20, 2026
10:00AM

WELCOME

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

CHIMING THE HOUR/TIME OF CENTERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mariana Rivera

O give thanks to the Lord, who hears the cries of the people. **Give thanks to God!**
The works of the Lord are great. Remember what God has done.
God has done miracles, and the Lord always remembers God's covenant.

*PRAYER FOR THE DAY

O God, you know every need before we even ask. You provide for every need. You listen to every want. You bless us all. Make us all truly thankful and empower us to bless others from the gifts you have given us to the glory of your name. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord | No. 390

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!
Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!
Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!
Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord
TEXT and MUSIC: Cameroon song
ONE License No. A-740435

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown it. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our whole selves so that we can run after you. Amen. (A time for silent confession)

POURING OF THE WATER

Because of the grace we receive in baptism, we have nothing to fear.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved siblings, God has called us to love one another with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips. Believe the good news of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me
TEXT: Trad. Liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile
MUSIC: Paul M. Vasile
ONE License No. A-740435

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me | No. 582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Words and Music by v

*HYMN

Spirit, Open My Heart | No. 692

*There's Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
 As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.
 God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
 All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.
 Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
 As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.*

Spirit, Open My Heart
 TEXT: Ruth Duck
 MUSIC: Irish melody
 ONE License No. A-740435

*Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
 In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.
 Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
 As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.*

*May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother.
 In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.
 Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
 As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16

SERMON

"Kingdom of Heaven" | Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

from *The Confession of Belhar*

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. We believe that unity, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; together we know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ; that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

**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**

CALL TO GIVE, OFFERING & OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (OLD HUNDREDTH) | No. 606

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Giver of all good gifts, thank you for everything we have gathered here. Use these gifts and our whole lives for the advancement of your kingdom. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

We Are One in the Spirit | No. 300

***We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

***We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

***We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

***All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

We Are One in the Spirit
TEXT and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes
ONE License No. A-740435

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**Remember you are a child of God:
And God loves God's children.**

SEP 20 - 27

Events & Celebrations

SUN 20	MON 21	TUE 22	WED 23
Worship, 10:00AM Fellowship, 11:15AM B&G, 11:15AM NA of EP, 3:00PM	Yoga, 2:00PM	GraceB4Work, 7:00AM	Session, 6:00PM Scouts, 6:30PM
THU 24	FRI 25	SAT 26	SUN 27
Embroidery Group, 6:00PM			Church Worship & Picnic, 11:00AM <i>(1050 Calle Milagro)</i> NA of EP, 3:00PM

Prayers & Concerns

Mildred Helm	Pete McMillan	Jerry Malone	Pat Bryant
Zoomer Roberts	Susan Carr	Mary Province	Mike McMinn
Bob Hedicke	Judy Ruiz	Jackie Franco	Mary Dunn

GIVING ONLINE

Offerings can be made online with no fee using Zelle© Find us using our phone number **(915) 755-8206** or email address **office@epgrace.com**.

For all offerings given in any form, thank you!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor—Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith
Music Director—Brittney Williams
Additional Accompaniment—Bill Rose

Liturgist—Marianan Rivera
Collaborative Pianist—Patricia Ann Provencio
Technology—Angel Martinez, Bob Jones & Jim Collins

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.epgrace.com