



WELCOME

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

CHIMING THE HOUR/TIME OF CENTERING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Avelina Fenstermacher

Dr. King once wrote, “We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

O God, we pray, transform our silence into action, our fear into courage.

President Kennedy once said, “The heart of the question is whether all of us will be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities; whether we are going to treat each other as we, ourselves, want to be treated.”

O God, we pray, help us to love you and to love others as ourselves.

Rosa Parks once said, “You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right. I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, it diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.”

O God, we pray, remind us that you did not give us a spirit of fear.

Ann Braden, a white southern activist and ally of the Civil Rights movement once wrote, “In every age, no matter how cruel the oppression carried on by those in power, there have been those who struggled for a different world. I believe this is the genius of humankind, the thing that makes us half divine: the fact that some human beings can envision a world that has never existed.”

O God, we pray, help us to envision and struggle for a world where justice will roll down like waters, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

\*OPENING HYMN

*There Is a Balm in Gilead* | No. 792

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

***Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.***

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

***Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
and if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend.***

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

*If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
**you can tell the love of Jesus and say, “He died for all.”***

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*  
TEXT: African American spiritual  
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen  
ONE License No. A-740435

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of justice, we confess that in the pursuit of our own dreams and desires, we have not always been civil, not always humane, not always right. Guided by your Spirit, what we would like to do is change the world - make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as you intended them to do. Help us to be your witnesses, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute, the rights of the worthy and the unworthy, for the poor, so that we can, with your help, change the world.

Enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, and to love our enemy as our friend.

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

Siblings in Christ, happy are those who put their trust in God, for God makes our footing sure upon the rock of Christ. 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.

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Glory to God* | No. 585

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!*

*To God be glory forever! To God be glory forever!*

*Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!*

*Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!*

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus! Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!*

*To God be glory forever! To God be glory forever!*

*Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!*

*Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!*

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit! Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!*

*To God be glory forever! To God be glory forever!*

*Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!*

*Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Up to the Mountain* | Brittney Williams (solo)

By Patty Griffin

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 49:1-7

### \*HYMN

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand* | No. 834

*Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand;*

*I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.*

*Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;*

*take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;*

*when my life is almost gone,*

*Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;*

*Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
TEXT: Thomas A. Dorsey  
MUSIC: George N. Allen  
ONE License No. A-740435

### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:29-42

### SERMON

*"Inescapable"* | Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever **affects one directly affects all indirectly...**

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.

**For years now we have heard the word “wait.” This “wait” has almost always meant “never.” We must come to see with the distinguished jurist of yesterday that “justice too long delayed is justice denied”...**

Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The urge for freedom will eventually come.

As we continued to think about the matter, we gradually gained a bit of satisfaction from being considered extremists. Was not Jesus an extremist in love? Was not Amos an extremist for justice? Was not Paul an extremist for the gospel of Jesus Christ?

So the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate, or will we be extremists for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice, or will we be extremists for the cause of justice?

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Glory to God* | pg. 35

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* | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*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

God, we thank you for the inspiration of Jesus. Grant that we will love you with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as we love ourselves, even our enemy neighbors. And we ask you, God, in these days of emotional tension, when the problems of the world are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail, to be with us in our going out and our coming in, in our rising up and in our lying down, in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow, until the days when there shall be no sunset and no dawn. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Come! Live in the Light! | No. 749*

*Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God.*

*We are called to act with justice;  
we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.*

*Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
so hatred and violence will be no more.*

*We are called to act with justice;  
we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.*

*Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
**God will reign, and we'll walk with each other**  
as sisters and brothers united in love.*

*We are called to act with justice;  
we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.*

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

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

# JAN 18 - 25

## Events & Celebrations

SUN   18	MON   19	TUE   20	WED   21
Worship, 10:00AM Fellowship, 11:15AM B&G, 11:30AM GRACE OUTING EP Holocaust Museum NA of EP, 3:00PM	Yoga, 2:00PM	GraceB4Work, 7:00AM	Finance, 6:30PM Scouts, 6:30PM  BIRTHDAY Liliana Gonzalez
THU   22	FRI   23	SAT   24	SUN   25
Embroidery Group, 6:00PM  BIRTHDAY—Brian Rose		Session Retreat  BIRTHDAYS Michelle Malone Bob Jones	Worship, 10:00AM Fellowship, 11:15AM NA of EP, 3:00PM  BIRTHDAYS Hilda Gutierrez Hope Jackson

## Prayers & Concerns

Mary & Mark Dunn	Zoomer Roberts	Pat Bryant	Bob Hedicke
Corey Elson	Mary Province	Pete McMillan	Mildred Helm

### 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—Avelina Fenstermacher  
Accompanist/Pianist—Patricia Ann Provencio  
Technology—Angel Martinez,  
Bob Jones & Jim Collins

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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