



Our Mission: To serve and unite those we touch with the Grace of God.

Our Vision: Transforming lives to become the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

June 13, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 a.m. Service

Prelude "Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling" - Stults

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Come Followers of Christ" - Butler

Call to Worship

One: This is a time for worship. Gather your stories and remember your songs.

All: This is a time for worship and praise.

One: Make room for others, don't keep them away!

All: This is a time for worship and hope!

One: Remember Jesus and follow the call!

All: This is a time to follow Christ, with God's steadfast love for all.

Hymn #451 "Be Thou My Vision"

Prayer for Guidance *Unison*

Your spirit is guiding us, Holy God. Guide us to faith, hope and love. Guide us to courage and care. Now guide us to trust you with this hour, as we follow Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Message

Anthem "Blessing" - Bart

Scripture Mark 4:1-12, 33, 34 The Message

He went back to teaching by the sea. A crowd built up to such a great size that he had to get into an offshore boat, using the boat as a pulpit as the people pushed to the water's edge. He taught by using stories, many stories.

"Listen. What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled among the weeds and nothing came of it. Some fell on good earth and came up with a flourish, producing a harvest exceeding his wildest dreams.

"Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

When they were off by themselves, those who were close to him, along with the twelve, asked about the stories. He told them, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom—you know how it works. But to those who can't see it yet, everything comes in stories, creating readiness, nudging them toward a welcome awakening.

With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity. He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots.

Message Your Story Pastor Rory Swenson

Hymn #384 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer *Unison*

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass



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against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering Invitation

Offertory Music

“Morning Hymn”

- Young

Doxology – Hymn #94 *Projected*

Offertory Prayer *Unison*

With these gifts we share our hope for the future and our gifts of today. Use these gifts, God of promise, to help us live the story of new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Order of Farewell for Pastor Rory Swenson *Projected*

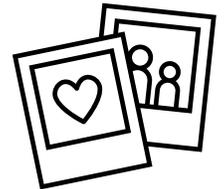
Pastor Rory: I thank you, the members and friends of Grace United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

Congregation: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to retire. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.

Pastor Rory: I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for your new pastor, Rev. Amanda Lunemann.

Let us pray together: (unison)

Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Benediction

Song of Peace

Go in peace, my friend, till we meet again.
May God’s blessing be on you, may you be a blessing too.
May God’s Spirit burning bright, be your ever-guiding light.
God go with you, making all things new.

Postlude

“Fantasia on ‘Austrian Hymn’”

- Rinck

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Pastor: Rory Swenson

Sooner or later, we will have to recognize that the Earth has rights, too, to live without pollution. What mankind must know is that human beings cannot live without Mother Earth, but the planet can live without humans.

Evo Morales



Pastor Amanda Lunemann’s first service with Grace will take place on Sunday, June 27, 2021. The choir will sing, and following the service a welcome reception with coffee, juice and a light snack will be served in Fellowship Hall.