



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.

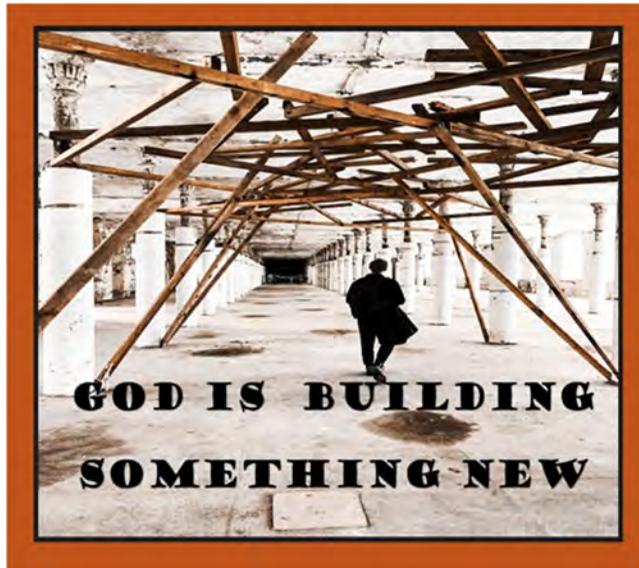
*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit

November 14, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 a.m. Service

For everyone's safety, please wear a mask for today's service.



Prelude "Oh Fairest Church of Christ" - Sachs/Schreiner

Welcome and Announcements

*Choir Introit "Bless Us, O Lord" - Macklin

*Call to Worship

One: God of Vision, we continue to celebrate our return home to you and one another.

All: **We continue to tell the story of your servant Nehemiah who returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.**

One: Like Nehemiah, we share in his broken heartedness at being an exile people where little feels familiar and much has been broken down.

Continued on the next page

**All: We thank you - O God - for holding space for our broken and disoriented hearts.
For knowing intimately our grief and offering a new way forward.**

One: Just like Nehemiah, we have much to do...

All: As you build something new out of the cracks of love in our spirits.

One: Enfold us in your promise that all we need for building this church anew is already here. Within us and around us. We just need to trust it.

All: Instill within us the courage - O Divine Source - to seize the new call to BE Church, for a new era, for a new time, for new neighbors and for the new journey awaiting us.

***Opening Hymn #662** “Stand Up and Bless the Lord” verses 1-3 and 5

Opening Prayer - unison

How hard we make things, O God, how heavy the yoke we place on ourselves, through our insecurity and pride; through our fear and unbelief; through our denial and stagnation. How threatening our world becomes when we make life and joy depend on our own ability. But, you have invited us to a different life, a deeper joy, you have offered us a lighter yoke if we will just stop for a moment and follow you. Thank you for your gently urgent whisper, your softly persistent touch, calling us to come, to rest, and to lay down our self-imposed burdens; with relief and hope we respond to your invitation, gladly taking up your yoke, joyfully lifting your burden, and freely giving ourselves to you in love, in praise and in service. Amen.

Anthem

“Everytime I Feel the Spirit”



- aar. Snyder

Stewardship Moment

Scripture

Nehemiah 5 MSG trans.

A great protest was mounted by the people, including the wives, against their fellow Jews. Some said, “We have big families, and we need food just to survive.” Others said, “We’re having to mortgage our fields and vineyards and homes to get enough grain to keep from starving.” And others said, “We’re having to borrow money to pay the royal tax on our fields and vineyards. Look: We’re the same flesh and blood as our brothers here; our children are just as good as theirs. Yet here we are having to sell our children off as slaves—some of our daughters have already been sold—and we can’t do anything about it because our fields and vineyards are owned by somebody else.”

I got really angry when I heard their protest and complaints. After thinking it over, I called the nobles and officials on the carpet. I said, “Each one of you is gouging his brother.”

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Then I called a big meeting to deal with them. I told them, “We did everything we could to buy back our Jewish brothers who had to sell themselves as slaves to foreigners. And now you’re selling these same brothers back into debt slavery! Does that mean that we have to buy them back again?” They said nothing. What could they say?

What you’re doing is wrong. Is there no fear of God left in you? Don’t you care what the nations around here, our enemies, think of you? “I and my brothers and the people working for me have also loaned them money. But this gouging them with interest has to stop. Give them back their foreclosed fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes right now. And forgive your claims on their money, grain, new wine, and olive oil.” They said, “We’ll give it all back. We won’t make any more demands on them. We’ll do everything you say.”

Then I called the priests together and made them promise to keep their word. Then I emptied my pockets, turning them inside out, and said, “So may God empty the pockets and house of everyone who doesn’t keep this promise—turned inside out and emptied.” Everyone gave a wholehearted “Yes, we’ll do it!” and praised God. And the people did what they promised.

Message

Rev. Amanda Lunemann

Pastoral Prayer

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 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.

*Hymn #451

“Be Thou My Vision”

Offertory

“An Offertory for Jesus” *piano, Mark Anderson*

*Doxology – Hymn #94 *Projected*

Offertory Prayer *Unison*

Generous God; Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, at your table we present this money; a symbol of the work you have given us to do. Use it. Use us. Make us be for the service of your world and for the glory of your name. Amen.

Blessing and 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.



- ◆ An All–Church Conference will follow TODAY’S service in the Sanctuary. The agenda will be pastoral compensation and leadership going forward. All are encouraged to attend and childcare will be provided in the nursery.
- ◆ Coffee, treats and fellowship will take place TODAY and moving forward following the 10:00 a.m. service.
- ◆ This year November is the month of Stewardship here at Grace. A letter and pledge cards were mailed on Friday, November 12th. Many of you may have already received them, and others may still be waiting. Kindly take the time to complete and return them as these cards are a necessary tool in preparing our budget for 2022. If you have not received a mailing by the middle of this week, please contact the office.

REMEMBER OUR TROOPS: We once again have the opportunity to send a holiday card to service persons at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and Ramstein AFB in Germany. You may use your own cards or some are provided on the table in the Narthex. There is no way to know if your card will go to a male or female, so please be generic with your writing. *Deadline is early December.* **DO NOT SEAL the envelopes.** Kindly place your cards in the basket. Our efforts provide comfort and encouragement to the troops and their family members.



to all those who helped and participated with our Coming Together Sunday service. A special thanks to Rhonda Brown and Suanne Turner who headed up the meal, and to Cara Kennedy, Laura Morrow and Addie Benjamin who assisted them as well.

WORSHIP HELPERS: Serving us on Sunday, November 21st ~ 10:00 a.m. service:
Greeter: Nancy Fossum; **Usher:** Bill Macklin; **Sound:** Ed Sanders; **Liturgist:** Laurie Sanders; **Acolyte:** Claire Conaway

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