

Sunday, February 16, 2025 - 10:00 am

6th Sunday after Epiphany

* Please stand in body or spirit.



Prelude

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

arr. M. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

“Spirit of the Living God (#288)”

* Call to Worship (from Psalm 96)

One: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

One: We desire to live in God’s house and to seek God in God’s holy temple.

All: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

* Hymn #401

“Here in This Place (Gather Us In)”

Here in this place new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of building confining, not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives.
Like all who follow you, we confess our limits and faults: The fear that stifles us. The
prejudice that blinds us. The ignorance that hobbles us. The doubt that plagues us.**

**Help us, we pray, to find courage in unlikely places and to see the world with
new and gracious eyes. By your Spirit, move us to those places where love is needed,
and grant us the faith and assurance that you are with us always. This we pray in
Jesus’ name...**

(Time for silent confession)

Amen.

Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

The Offering

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory

"Morning Has Broken"

arr. C McMichael

Kathryn Hoffer & Lauren West, violin

* Doxology #606

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

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn #806

"I'll Praise My Maker (Psalm 146)"

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death,
praise shall employ my nobler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past
while life and thought and being last, or immortality endures.

How happy they whose hopes rely on Israel's God, who made the sky
and earth and seas with all their train; whose truth forever stands secure,
who saves the oppressed and feeds the poor, and none shall find God's promise vain.

The Lord pours eyesight on the blind; the Lord supports the fainting mind
and sends the laboring conscience peace. God helps the stranger in distress,
the widowed and the parentless, and grants the prisoner sweet release.

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death,
praise shall employ my nobler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past
while life and thought and being last, or immortality endures.

* Benediction

(Worship is complete after the Benediction. You are free to exit, or stay and enjoy the Postlude music.)

* Postlude

"Sicilienne"

G. Faure, arr. McLean

Kathryn Hoffer & Lauren West, violin

Permission to reprint the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-735800. All rights reserved.

Thanks to: Liturgist - Steve McLaughlin; Music Director - Jumi Kim; Piano - Joe Lim; Sound and Livestream Operators - Wendy Watkins / Gail Peterson; Greeter - Mary Kay Zieminski; Ushers - Karen Haus, Mark Werner.

Special thanks to Kathryn Hoffer & Lauren West, violin

Join friends in the Fireside Room for fellowship and refreshments.

Announcements

Join Mark in the Library for Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10:00 am
(In Person and via Zoom)

If you need the Zoom link, please contact the church office.



Grace
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

John Zorn Clarinet Recital



John Zorn, clarinet

Sonatas for Clarinet and Piano
by F. Poulenc & by L. Bernstein

"Der Hirt auf dem Felsen"
by F. Schubert

Suite for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano
by D. Milhaud



Daniel Lockert, piano



Kathryn Hoffer, violin



Jumi Kim, soprano



(Sun) Feb 23
3:00 PM

Ushers, Liturgists, & Greeters Needed



USHERS & GREETERS

If you are interested in serving as an usher, liturgist, or greeter on Sunday morning, please sign up on the chart in the Narthex!

Thank you for serving.

2100 Tice Valley Blvd.
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

WELCOME STATEMENT

We welcome and celebrate all who join with us — the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the gay and the straight, the strong and the weak, the meek and the brave — and though we are different one from another, we are united in loving and praising God and in loving each other.

Fellowship Time 2025 -

We are looking for more volunteers to help us with our Sunday Fellowship Time that immediately follows our worship services. If you



would like to volunteer or have any questions, please see Sharon Lyons.

Ash
Wednesday
Service
March 5, 2025
4:00 pm



Welcome Grace Visitors

Visitors who want to learn more about the church and membership are invited to let Rev. Mark know of your interest *at anytime*. We'll set up a meeting with a small group of elders and the pastor to answer your questions about being a Presbyterian and/or a member of Grace.

Main phone: 925-935-2100
www.GraceWC.org

Email:
Info@GraceWC.org

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@GracePresWC

Pastor Mark Burnham
925-433-5459
Mark@GraceWC.org

Debora Chew
Office Administrator
925-433-5454
Debora@GraceWC.org

Office Hours
Tue.-Fri. 8:30 am -2:00 pm
Sat.-Mon. - Closed

NEW Grief Support Session

Starts Wednesday, **March 12, 2025** (10-week session)

2:00 to 3:30 pm - Fireside Room

Our discussion will be guided by the book, **"The Spirituality of Grief: Ten Practices for Those Who Remain"** by Fran Tilton Shelton.

Contact the office 925-935-2100 for more information.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Luke 7:18-23

The disciples of John the Baptist told him about all these things. John called two of his followers and sent them to the Lord with this message: "Are you the Coming One, or should we expect someone else?"

The men arrived where Jesus was and said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to say, 'Are you the Coming One, or should we expect someone else?'"

Then and there Jesus healed several people of diseases, afflictions, and possession by unclean spirits. He restored the sight of several blind people. Then he answered them: "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind see, the lame walk, people with skin diseases are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor hear the gospel. And a blessing on anyone who isn't shocked by me!"

Luke 7:24-35

After John's messengers had left, Jesus began to speak about him to the crowds: "When you went out to John in the desert, what did you expect to see? A reed blowing in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in fancy clothes? People who dress like that and live in luxury are found in palaces!

Tell me, what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes indeed, but you saw much more than a prophet. For John is the one of whom the scripture says: *'I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.'*

I tell you," Jesus added, "John is greater than anyone who has ever lived. But the one who is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than John."

All the people heard him. The crowd, and especially the tax collectors, were the ones who had obeyed God's righteous demands and had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law rejected God's purpose for themselves and refused to be baptized by John.

Jesus continued, "Now to what can I compare the people of this day? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace. One group shouts to the other, 'We played wedding music for you, but you wouldn't dance! We sang funeral songs, but you wouldn't cry!'

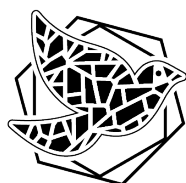
John the Baptist came, and he fasted and drank no wine, and you said, 'He has a demon in him!' The Son of Man came, and he ate and drank, and you said, 'Look at this man! He is a glutton and wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and other outcasts!' God's wisdom is shown to be true by all who accept it."

Outline of "The Sermon on the Plain" Luke 6:17-49

- **Introduction (Luke 6:17-19):** Jesus descends to a plain and gathers a large crowd, setting the stage for his teachings.
- **Beatitudes and Woes (Luke 6:20-26):** Jesus blesses the poor, hungry, weeping, hated, and persecuted, while denouncing the rich, full, laughing, and well-spoken of.
- **Love Your Enemies (Luke 6:27-31):** Jesus calls us to actively love and do good to those who hate you, including turning the other cheek and praying for your enemies.
- **Do Not Judge (Luke 6:37-38):** Jesus' proclaims the principle of reciprocity, where judging others will result in being judged, and forgiveness is key.
- **The Blind Leading the Blind (Luke 6:39-42):** Jesus tells a parable warning against hypocrisy, urging people to remove their own flaws before criticizing others. He calls for integrity.
- **Fruit of a Good Tree (Luke 6:43-45):** A story teaching that actions speak louder than words; a good person naturally produces good deeds.
- **The Importance of Hearing and Doing (Luke 6:46-49):** Jesus concludes by emphasizing the need to not just listen to Jesus' teachings but actively put them into practice, comparing a life following Jesus to building on a solid foundation.

Key themes to consider:

- **Radical compassion:** The Sermon on the Plain challenges traditional ideas of justice by emphasizing love for enemies and generosity towards those who may not deserve it.
- **Social responsibility:** The teachings encourage actively working for justice and caring for the marginalized, even at the risk of personal sacrifice.



Grace
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH