

August 30, 2020 Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colorado Rooted in Grace + Reaching out in Christ's Love

Welcome to Grace!

We are glad you are joining us online for this worship service. Our liturgy is printed in this worship folder so that you can follow along on <u>Zoom with the live Worship Service</u> or afterward on <u>the Grace</u> <u>Boulder website</u>.

In response to Christ's boundless love for all, members of Grace share that love by inviting all – regardless of ethnicity or race, educational or religious background, economic, physical, mental or social condition, gender identity or sexual orientation – to come and participate in the life of Grace.

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

PARTICIPATING MINISTERS IN THE WORK OF GRACE	
Presiding Minister	Pastor Matthew Weber
Assisting Minister	Katherine Alexander
Lector	Carol Codrescu
Organist	Boyd Hamilton
Choir Director	Michael Hoffman
Pandemic Worship Cantor	Ekaterina Kotcherguina
Special Music	Kutandara's Takapenga
Office Administrator	Amy Stewart McIntosh

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1001 13th Street, Boulder C0 80302 Phone 303.442.1883 Fax 303.442.4403 A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

> www.graceboulder.org | office@graceboulder.org Pastor: matthew@graceboulder.org

GATHERING

MUSICAL INVITATION TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Reconciling God,

we confess that we do not trust your abundance,

and we deny your presence in our lives.

We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through + Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

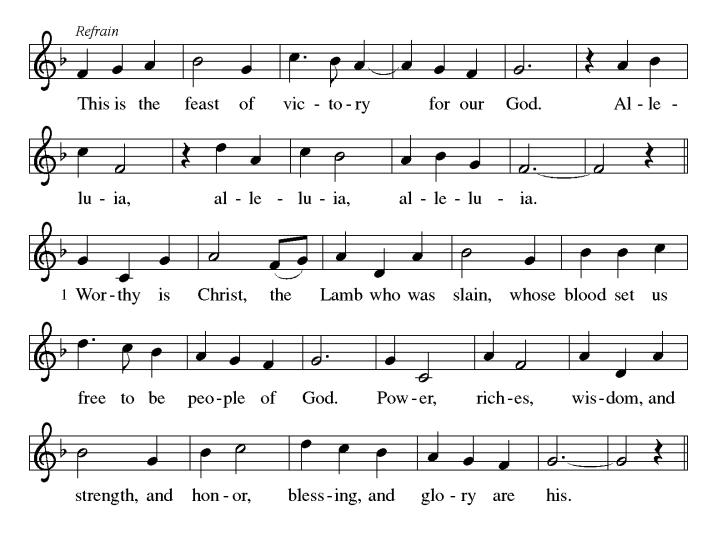


GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

THIS IS THE FEAST





PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord. God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze: they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

¹Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

²Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful. ⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar,

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

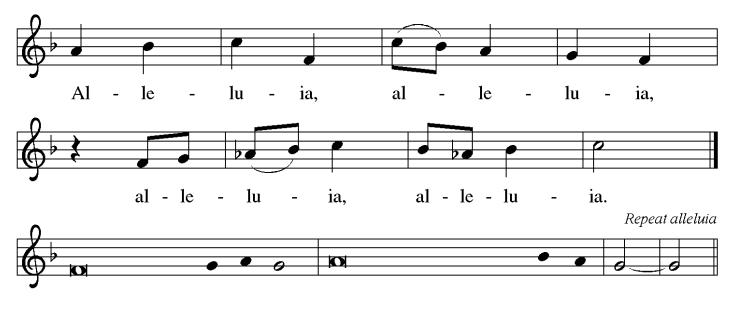
⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Do not be over - come by evil | but overcome e - vil with | good

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

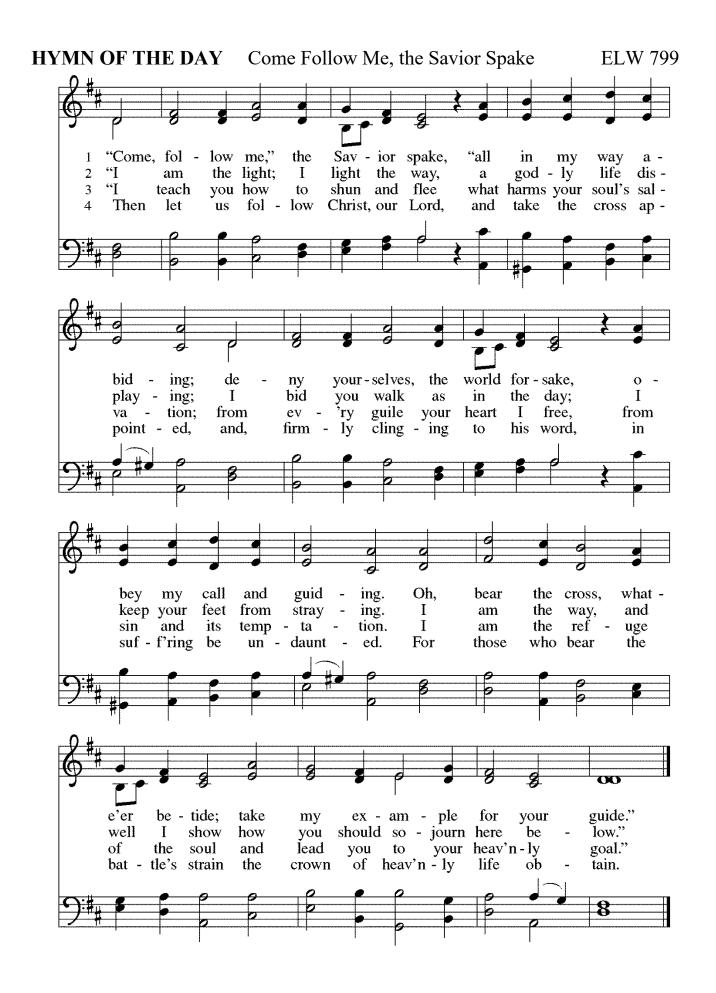
²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Matthew Weber



APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident in your care, O God, and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of faithfulness, you bid your people to follow Jesus. Set the mind of your church on divine things. Grant us trust in you, that we lose our lives for the sake of Christ and thereby discover joy in life through him. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of wonder, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Heal your creation and give us eyes to see the world as you do. Send your comfort and healing especially to those places that are affected by wildfires in the west, and by hurricane along the Gulf coast. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all nations, you call us to live peaceably with all. Give us ears to hear one another, even those we name as enemies. Fill all leaders with mercy and understanding, that they advocate and genuinely care for those who are poor and most vulnerable in their communities. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of salvation, you promise to deliver us. Give those who suffer a strong sense of your presence and love. Accompany those who are uncertain, raise the spirits of those who are despairing, and heal those who are sick or who suffer in any way. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all grace, you give us everlasting life. In love we recall your holy ones who now live in your undying light. In our remembering, give us a foretaste of the feast to come. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

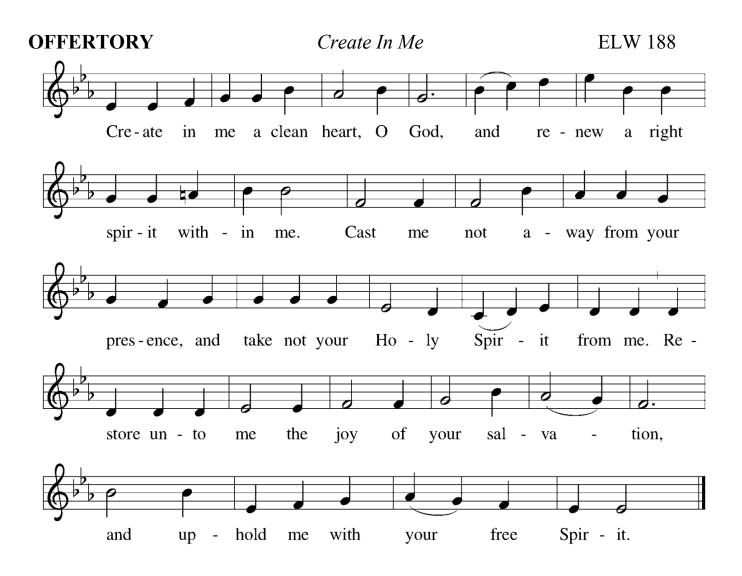
PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Your stewardship at Grace is more important now than ever. Without in-person Worship Services where offerings are collected, we hope that you will take the extra time to fulfill your pledges. Please visit the <u>Grace Boulder Stewardship page</u> to learn more.

SPECIAL MUSICYendei TakapengaAbel MafuleniKutandara's Teen Performance Group Takapenga



OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread one bread, one cup: these are signs of your abundant grace uniting us as one in You. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

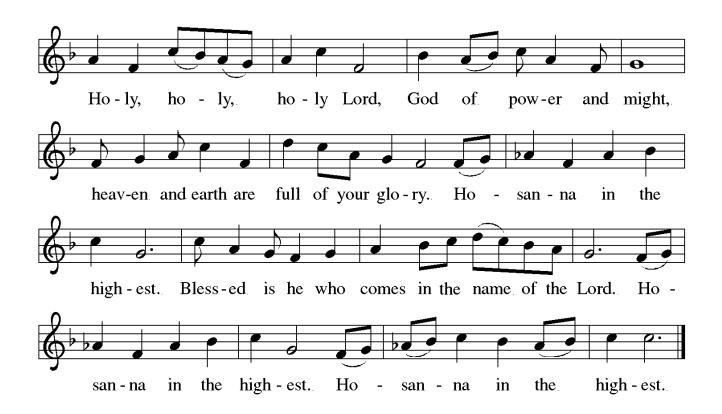
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



To you indeed be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; gave thanks, he gave it to them saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

With this bread and this cup we proclaim the mystery or our faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness. To you O God be all honor and glory today and always.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your mercy and teach us to pray:

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 and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

This is the table of God. We invite all who are hungry for God's presence in their lives to receive this gift of mercy and forgiveness at the table.

Those of you who are with others in your home, please serve one another saying, "The body of Christ, given for you" and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Those of you who are watching by yourself, I invite you to wait until I say those words to you before you eat the bread and drink the wine.

If you don't have bread, or you don't have wine or grape juice, Martin Luther reminds us that God is fully present in each element – that receiving only the bread or only the wine is entire forgiveness.

Further, those of you who might not receive communion for whatever reason, please recognize and understand that God's forgiveness and mercy and love are fully and completely provided to you in ways additional to Holy Communion.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace. **Amen.**

SENDING

PRAYER

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your unifying love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 796



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

When the Saints Go Marching In

James M. Black

Kutandara's Teen Performance Group Takapenga Directed by Amy Stewart McIntosh and Randy McIntosh

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday, September 6

Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20



GRACE NOTES a guide to parish life at Grace

We pray for those who are ill: Carol Painter, Bob Stec (former co-worker of Tom Lawson fighting COVID19), Allan Wolfe, Jacquie Poe (friend of Sandi Stahl); those undergoing treatment: Tom Graziano (friend of Tom Lawson), Ron Lundal (family friend of the Lawsons), John Gamble, Patrick Fallin (friend of Hiroko Akima), Coral Fay MosbØ (sister of Karen O'Loughlin), Paul Herzegh (friend of the Zabels), Elizabeth Farr, Deena Steward (daughter-in-law of the Stewards), Cheryl Fenske Prudic (niece of the Stewards), Mary Dorsett (former member of Grace); hope and healing: Leon Fjestad (Anne Peterson's brother admitted to a memory care nursing home), Fran Dzilvelis (Ashley (neé Stahl) Dzilvelis' motherin-law) who was hospitalized, friends and family of Jan Adams grieving her death, friends and family of Dave Linder grieving his death July 25, friends and family of Richard Raedeke grieving his death July 12, Blaine Gorrell (great-grand nephew of Donna Rohde preparing for surgery in September), John and Nelda Gamble (grieving the death of their friend Arline Fernandez), Tom Kresler (friend of Tom Lawson recovery from surgery), Christian Mueller (grandson of Anne and Stan Peterson working on the COVID19 ward at St. Joseph's hospital), Diana Anderson (former Grace member), Barry Miller (friend of the Gambles now in Hospice Care), Rodney McLenon (friend of the Zabels), Beaudin Larabee (friend of the Zabels), Ray Haux (former Grace member now in Hospice care), Mieko Akima, Myrna Montgomery (grandmother of LCM student Arin Moriarty), Mark Woods (friend of Deb Valerio), Ruth VanderMinden, Pamela Kast (sister-in-law of Patty's sister), Rick Beckman (brother of Kim); in celebration of: Anne and Stan Peterson's grandson Liam Mueller married to Tressa Rudd on August 17 in Hawaii. (Liam is a Marine stationed at Honolulu.), and Shelby and Nick Vanderborgh's 60th wedding anniversary in August.

The designated offering for August is: **<u>Boulder Shelter for the Homeless</u>**.

The Boulder Shelter for the Homeless provides opportunities for housing solutions, safe shelter, food, and support services for up to 160 individuals year around. Founded in 1982, the Boulder Shelter is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Boulder, Colorado.

Their Mission is to create avenues to stable housing for our community's homeless adults, from a foundation of supportive and safe shelter. Their Core Values are to: treat all with dignity, offer support and opportunity, practice responsible stewardship, and achieve results through competence and creativity.

Thanks to the **Grace Foundation**, all gifts through our designated offerings will be matched dollar for dollar in 2020, up to \$2,000/month. Please make your check to "Grace Lutheran Church" and add "PiM: Boulder Shelter for the Homeless" to the memo line.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Services Added

We've added an evening prayer liturgy to our schedule at Grace. Every other Wednesday evening we'll meet at 5:30 pm in the courtyard for a service of instrumental music, prayer, scripture, and silence. The next of these services will happen on Wednesday, September 9.

Because there's only so much space in the courtyard, and because we have to make sure there's enough room for households to remain at least six feet apart from each other, you'll have to <u>sign up here</u> ahead of time. You can also use the <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship Services</u> Zoom link to participate remotely from home.

Bring your lawn chairs/water/bug spray/sunscreen, wear a mask, and come for a Wednesday Evening Prayer liturgy. (<u>But sign up first!</u>)

A Note from Pastor Matthew

Back in March, as the pandemic was getting started, Bishop Gonia recommended that congregations refrain from gathering in person. It was a simple recommendation at the time. Then, in May, Bishop Gonia wrote up, and the Synod Council approved, more detailed and thorough recommendations.

Bishop Gonia has recently updated the recommendations for congregational life during the pandemic that were published back in May. A couple weeks ago the Synod Council reviewed and approved these updated recommendations.

This updated document is organized into four main sections:

The first, related to our gathering for worship, reminds us that our worship life should focus on being safe, accessible, invitational, meaningful, and sustainable. Further, recognizing that indoor in-person gatherings provide the highest potential for virus transmission, the recommendation is that any in-person worship experiences be small groups wearing face coverings gathering outdoors but keeping appropriate physical distance from each other. Any other worship services would be most appropriately curated via online and digital means.

The second, related to non-worship gatherings, encourages congregations to gather in safe ways (e.g. physically distanced outdoor gatherings where folks wear masks), keeping in mind the particularities of the congregation.

The third, related to the world all around us, encourages congregations to keep in mind populations that are particularly vulnerable in these days. Congregations are also encouraged to give priority to anti-racism work that has come to the fore with the Black Lives Matter movement.

The fourth, related to the future, invites us to wonder and pay close attention to how God is inviting the church to change in order to better embody the Gospel in the future.

These are my summaries of the recommendations. <u>Here is the link</u> to the document I'm referring to - you're welcome and encouraged to read it yourself. And I'd be happy to talk through this with anyone who wants to.

You might notice as you read through this that Bishop Gonia makes reference to Dr. Michael Osterholm's prediction we should plan to treat the next 12 months as a COVID Year. This is significant for congregations because it means that Christmas Eve worship in 2020 won't be like Christmas Eve worship was last year. This is significant because it's entirely likely that health considerations will keep us from worshipping together in the sanctuary at Grace before sometime in 2021.

I'm not excited about that possibility. At the same time, I trust that God's faithfulness will carry us through this strange time in the same way that God's faithfulness carried our spiritual ancestors through the strange time of exile in Babylon.

As we fumble our way through, remember to stay well, wash your hands, and keep on trusting in Jesus.

~ pr. m

Rooted in Grace

Lectionary Bible Study continues on Wednesday, September 2 at 10:30 am <u>via</u> <u>Zoom</u>. The study focuses on the lectionary texts for the next Sunday's worship, taking a deeper dive than is possible within the constraints of the service. Join us for spirited discussion and fellowship time!

The readings for Sunday, September 6, 2020 are:

- Ezekiel 33:7-11 The prophet's responsibility to warn the people
- Psalm 119:33-40 I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)
- Romans 13:8-14 Live honorably as in the day
- Matthew 18:15-20 Reconciliation in the community of faith

If you would like to be placed on the distribution list, <u>please contact Amy</u> in the Grace office.

Our **Special Music and Postlude Music** today comes from the 'other life' of our Office Administrator, Amy Stewart McIntosh. Since 1999, Amy, with her husband Randy, have taught and performed Zimbabwean marimba music all over Boulder, up and down Colorado's Front Range, throughout the western US in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and around the globe in Sweden and Zimbabwe. Today's selections were performed by their top teen performance group, Takapenga. If you look closely, you can see their daughter, Eliza! Learn more at <u>kutandara.org</u>.

Reaching Out in Christ's Love

Thank you for your donations* of blank greeting cards for the inmates of <u>New</u> <u>Beginnings</u>. Your cards allow the women to communicate with loved ones.

New Beginnings also invites us to attend the virtual Chow Hall Gala. Mark your calendar for Friday, October 9 from 6:00-7:30 pm.

Their baseball themed event will feature musical entertainment, guest speakers from both inside and outside the prison, and—new this year—paddle raiser games. You'll hear from bestselling author Nadia Bolz-Weber who preaches and teaches inside Denver Women's as a New Beginnings volunteer. You will also hear from Dean Williams, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections, who will speak about changing the prison culture in Colorado. Help them hit a home run!

Information on tickets and other opportunities to support New Beginnings during the gala can be found at: https://handbid.app.link/chowhall

Remember <u>Harvest of Hope</u> food pantry when you shop for groceries this week. Our donations* make a difference for those who struggle to find food each week.

* If you have access to the church building (through a key or door code), you can drop off donations in the regular locations in the narthex. Pastor Matthew will make sure they get to where they're supposed to get to.

If you don't have access to the church building or if you don't feel comfortable entering the church building, please <u>contact Pastor Matthew</u> to arrange a pick up.

This Week at Grace

Sunday, August 30 9:15-11:45 am Office Administrator Hours, Remotely 10 am Worship Service via Zoom

Monday, August 31 Nothing Scheduled

Tuesday, September 1 11 am-2 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

<u>Wednesday, September 2</u> **10:30-11:30 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom**11 am-2 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely
12-1 pm Staff Meeting via Zoom

<u>Thursday, September 3</u> 2-5 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

<u>Friday, September 4</u> 11 am-2 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

Saturday, September 5 Worship Packet Deliveries

<u>Sunday, September 6</u>
9:15-11:45 am Office Administrator Hours, Remotely **10 am Worship Service via Zoom**