

# Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

Asheville, North Carolina

[www.gcpcusa.org](http://www.gcpcusa.org)

November 19, 2017 – 10:30 am



*Everyone has been made for some particular work,  
and the desire for that work has been put in every heart.  
~ Rumi*

## Prelude

Nun danket alle Gott

G. F. Kaufmann

## Introit

Be Joyful in the Lord

Hal Hopson

## \* Call to Worship *(adapted from Psalm 99)*

The Lord is ruler of all; let the people rejoice.

**We praise Your awesome name.**

The Lord is a lover of justice, who has established equity for all.

**We praise You who executes justice and righteousness.**

The Lord is who we worship; may we gather at the foot of God's holy mountain.

**Lord our God, You are holy! Praise be to God!**

## \* Hymn 37

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

## \* Call to Reconciliation

## \* Prayer of Confession

**Loving Creator,**

**There are times when we fail to see you at work in our daily lives. Sometimes guilt clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak of your powerful grace.**

**Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we don't trust our faith. Forgive us and free us. Help us to recognize you in every moment and serve you and your children with joyful hearts. Amen.**

\* Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Response

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer’s praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God’s grace!

\* Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

Faith Sharing with Children

Our Life Together *(Please sign the pad located in your pew)*

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Psalm 90:1-12

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God!

Anthem Be Still and Know that I Am God Michael Bedford

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:14-30

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Toil and Trouble” Samantha Gonzalez-Block

\* Hymn 716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending BEACH SPRING

\* Affirmation of Faith *(adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith)*  
In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.  
  
We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God’s image.  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Offering *(Please place prayer cards in the offering plate for the Prayers of the People)*

Offertory Anthem    Soon I Will Be Done

William Dawson

### \* Doxology

God, we hon - or you. God, we trust in you.

God, we wor - ship and a - dore you.

Take what we bring, of - fered to you.

Teach us to show your a - bun - dant bless - ings.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, a - men.

### \* Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, may these gifts offered to you help move our faith forward, so that we can continue to share your love with this community and world. Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

*Each section of the prayer will conclude: "God, in your grace"*

*Please respond: "Hear our prayer"*

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

\* **Hymn 765**

May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

\* **Charge & Benediction**

\* **Postlude**

Presto from Concerto No. 1

J. S. Bach

*(For some, the Postlude serves as festive music to accompany their going back out into the world. Others prefer to remain seated and listen. Please be mindful of these different needs as you depart. Thank you!)*

***\* Please Stand in Body or Spirit.***

*We gather to worship God who is larger than all our imaginations!*

*We encourage all persons to sing the gender nouns and pronouns they prefer in referring to God.*



## *Our Life Together...*

**Thank You!**

**Head Usher:** Bill Wolcott | **Liturgist:** Amy Fowler

**Deacon of the Week:** Caroline Wyrosdick-Webb, **email:** wyrosdick@gmail.com

Thank you to Jeannette Williams for the flowers that decorate the sanctuary this morning given to the glory of God with Thanksgiving blessings for the GCPC family.

**2018 Flower Chart (on bulletin board next to elevators)**

Please consider signing up to give flowers one Sunday. After signing up, email your bulletin dedication to Anna Louise at [almurchison@gpcusa.org](mailto:almurchison@gpcusa.org) and send in your check to GCPC for \$45.

**Creating Sanctuary Team Mtg. | TODAY!, Nov. 19 | 11:45 AM | Garden Room**

This will be a good opportunity to discuss developments in the wake of the recent affirmative vote by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville to become a sanctuary congregation, and to learn about how we can respond to requests, and to share ideas. All are welcome. (Garden Room – formerly known as Marcia's office.)

**Earth Team Meeting | Today, Nov. 19 | 11:45 AM | Indie Room**

Join the Earth Team today after church in the Indie Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor in Education Wing) as we meet to plan out winter Sunday School classes, "How to Save the Planet," that begin in January. We are eager for your input!

## *Grow*

**The Racial Justice Book Club | Thursday, Dec. 14 | 12:15 PM | Jerusalem Room**

This year, GCPC is committing to reading a book every month by an author of color who examines issues of race and justice. In the fall, we will be looking at racial justice from a systemic perspective. The book club will be meeting the second Thursday of every month. **For December**, we are reading *Ebony and Ivy: Slavery and the Troubled History of America's Universities* by Craig Steven Wilder. Please contact Richard or Marcia with any questions.

## **Our Life Together | Sunday, Nov. 19 | 5:00-6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**

"The leader's main job, through her or his way of being in the system, is to create an emotional atmosphere in which greater calmness exists - to be a less anxious presence. 'Knowing everything' is not necessary to be a healthy, competent leader. When you can be a less anxious presence, there is often enough experience and wisdom in the group for the group itself to figure out its own solutions to the challenges it faces." - Ronald Richardson, *Creating a Healthier Church*, p. 173. Are you a non-anxious leader in your systems? How can you become one? These are the questions we will tackle in our final session.

## *Serve*

**Room In The Inn** would like to thank all the overnight hosts, drivers, breakfast & dinner preparers and activity leaders, set up & take down teams and all who helped Room In The Inn in your many generous ways. **Grace Covenant Volunteers, you are the best!**

## *Care*

**GCPC 20s/30s Gathering: "Living Liberation" Discussion | Thursday, Nov. 30 | 7 – 8:30 PM | White Duck Taco on Biltmore Ave.**

If you are in your twenties or thirties, join Richard and Samantha downtown for a good discussion over dinner (appetizers on us!). Together we will be discussing Carter Heyward's article, "Is a Self-Respecting Christian Woman an Oxymoron?" and what feminist Christianity means to our lives. *Article is available in the newsletter announcement.* **Contact Sherrie by Wednesday, Nov. 22 if you need childcare.**

**Sisters at the Sea | February 1-4, 2018 | Bodies Alive! | Folly Beach, SC**

Are you a women age 25ish-50ish who would like a weekend of connecting and rejuvenating? Mark your calendars for our 9th annual SOS ("save our sanity"/"sisters at the sea") retreat! Marcia will lead us in spiritual practices, energy work and movement to help revitalize our bodies. **Early Bird Registration begins now!** If you reserve your spot by Dec. 10 with a \$40 non-refundable deposit, you will receive the early bird rate (\$160). Registration ends on January 14th. Forms available at Info Station or online. *Scholarships available upon request.*

## **Dine With Nine Update**

Grace Covenant's 'Dine With Nine' program provides opportunities for small dinner gatherings of nine people to meet and get to know each other over a one year period. Everyone is invited to participate. The current 2017 Dine With Nine groups will continue meeting until February 14th. Don't forget to schedule final gatherings before your groups change. We look forward to finishing the year strong and forming new groups and relationships. ***New and existing members may sign up for 2018 groups in January.*** The Dine with Nine year begins on Ash Wednesday, which in 2018 falls on Valentine's Day. If you have any questions, please email Nancy Kramer at nancykramer1981@gmail.com.

**Christmas at the Biltmore | GCPC Chancel Choir | December 22 | 5:30 – 9 PM**

The Chancel Choir will be singing a 30-minute concert of traditional holiday favorites on the half hour. Tickets sell out fast so make your reservations today!

## Youth News

**There will be no Middle School youth group today.**

**Senior High & Youth Group Alumni "Football Watch Party" | TODAY, Sunday, November 19 | (after church) 12 - 3 PM | Molly de Mattos' house | Meet/pick up at GCPC parking lot**

If you are a Senior High or a Youth Group Alum, come out for a super fun afternoon of watching the big game, playing pinball and Pac-man, and spending time with some awesome people. We will meet after church and travel there together. Sodas, pizza and snacks will be provided. See you there!

**Last call to register for: Charleston Youth Mission Education Trip | January 12-15 (MLK Jr. Weekend)**

Register for an adventure to remember! Once a main port for slaves being brought to America, Charleston is a fascinating place that is still wrestling with its past and with current environmental and social concerns. We will engage in meaningful service and learning opportunities around the city and by the sea, as well as worship at "Mother Emanuel" church (where tragedy struck just a few years ago). The cost is \$150 (full & partial scholarships are available). Register TODAY online or pick up a hard copy in the Information Station.

## *No Education Hour next week!*

**GCPC "Office Building" Open House | Sunday, November 26 | 9:15 AM**

Between services on Sunday, November 26, the staff is hosting our Office Building Open House. Come check out all the new office and meeting spaces, have a treat, and give thanks with the staff for all the construction progress.

**Adult Education | Advent Term | December 3 - 17 | 9:15 AM**

**Pressure Points: Theology through the Lens of Disability | Choir Room**

How does the experience of disability affect one's understanding of God, and what can the church learn from the perspective of disability theology? This class will touch on three groundbreaking works: *The Disabled God: Toward Liberatory Theology of Disability* by Nancy Eiesland; by Kathy Black; and Julia Watts-Belser's lecture on "Violence, Disability, and the Politics of Healing." Disability theology will be explored within the context of Traumatic Brain injury, which is receiving growing national attention. Both Tamara and Michael sustained brain injuries in a car accident several years ago, and Tamara has just completed a book with Joyce Hollyday about brain injury, vulnerability, and faith. Optional readings will be offered electronically through the church newsletter and by email.

**Facilitators:** Tamara Puffer, Joyce Hollyday, Michael Galovic

**Digging In: The Christology of John | Fellowship Hall**

The Gospel According to John distinguishes itself from the three synoptic gospels for many reasons, not the least of which is that it tells the story of Jesus with a unique Christological slant. This gospel has helped to shape both the development of Christian doctrine and the dynamic that put some on the outside of Christian orthodoxy because of their beliefs about who Jesus was. The highs and lows of who Christ is in John’s gospel are worthy of attention during our season of Advent waiting. **Facilitator:** Marcia Mount Shoop

**The Improv: Spiritual Pathways | Jerusalem Room**

The Improv class this Advent Season offers three class sessions exploring *Listening* as a spiritual practice. We hope to discuss how any spiritual pathway inherently involves attention to listening: listening to oneself, to other people in our lives, and to God. Listening is a spiritual path when someone listens for the sacred Spirit that breathes in us and in our lives. How we listen to each other forms the bonds between us. Our class will be guided by *Reflections for Cultivating a Spiritual Practice: The Sacred Art of Listening*, a book of forty reflections by Kay Lindahl. We will take examples of these reflections to determine how they address listening to ourselves, to others, and to God; and we will explore how we might apply these reflections of listening to our own habits and spiritual practice. No text required.

**Facilitator:** Dean Presson

**CHILDREN & YOUTH EDUCATION** [Contact Samantha]

**Preschool/Kindergarten (ages 3-5)** | anytime from 8:30–11:30 AM | Preschool Sunday School Room (downstairs, Children’s Center)  
**Elementary (grades 1-5)** | 9:10–10:10 AM | Temple Room (upstairs, Promise Zone)

**Middle School (grades 6-8)** | 9:15-10:10 AM | Middle School Classroom, PZ  
**Senior Highs (grades 9-12)** | 9:15-10:10 AM | Senior High Classroom, PZ

CALENDAR

Sunday	19		<i>RITI (12-19)</i>
		8:30 AM	Worship
		9:15 AM	Education Hour
		10:30 AM	Worship
		11:30 AM	Deacons
		11:45 AM	Creating Sanctuary Team Mtg.
		11:45 AM	Earth Team Mtg.
		12:00 PM	Youth Group (off site)
		12:00 PM	Biltmore Choir Rehearsal
		4:00 PM	PW Coordinating Team
		5:00 PM	Children’s Choirs
		5:00 PM	<i>Our Life Together</i> Class
		9:00 AM	Prayer Group
Tuesday	21	6:00 PM	Finance Mtg.
		6:00 PM	Serve Mtg.
Wednesday	22	11:00 AM	Bible Study
		11:45 AM	Sanctuary open for prayer
		5:30 PM	Stewardship Mtg.
Thurs. – Fri.			OFFICE CLOSED
Sunday	26	8:30 AM	Worship
		9:15 AM	Office Building Open House
		10:30 AM	Worship

## Prayer List

*[Concerns will stay on this list for a month unless we hear otherwise. Please keep us updated.]*

Jerusalem Church congregation; Linda Parker (Anna Jarvis' sister-in-law); JoAnne Hewett and family (Allison McLamb's co-worker); Betsy Needle (Robin Gaiser's friend); Sherry Harcke (Les and Susan Stradley's friend); Nikita Norris, Regina Hunter & family (Habitat for Humanity partner family); Denise, Betty and David Whitt (Mary Ellen Horne's partner & her family); Glen Russell (Robin Gaiser's brother); Ronda Latrella (Susie Churchfield's friend); Betty Weller (sister of Lucy Reiley and Margaret Peery); Rindy Moore (Richard Coble's friend); John Harvey (Penny Harvey's son); Art Brown (Bob Walther's friend); Pat Cocke (Les and Susan Stradley's friend); Ben Johnston-Krase (Nancy Gaskin's friend and pastor of the Farm Church); Virginia Bradley; Hettie Lou Garland; Dot Holladay; Jerry Bleckley; Teresa Stern; Cindy Egerer; Florence Riedesel; Gerry Simons; Pat Cheffins; Jana Watts; Serge Kavalhuna; Bob Busey

**Next Sunday, November 26, 2017**

**Worship services at 8:30 & 10:30 AM**

**NO Education Hour | GCPC "Office Building" Open House @ 9:15 AM**

**Sermon: "Now Why?" by Marcia Mount Shoop**

**Scriptures: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:31-46**

### SESSION

**Pastors:** Marcia Mount Shoop

Samantha Gonzalez-Block

Richard Coble

**Clerk:** Kern Parker

### CLASS OF 2017

Mark Clevenger

Keaton Hill

Tiffany Kinnaird

Susan Meade

Jordan Stokes

### CLASS OF 2018

Joe Brumit

George deWalder

Al Root

Kate Shem

Denise Snodgrass

### CLASS OF 2019

Omar Bolivar

Scott Engels

Bonnie Parker

Peggy Rada

Amy Wiesner

Scan this code for

fast, secure

online giving.

Thank you!



### BOARD OF DEACONS

#### CLASS OF 2017

John Curry

#### CLASS OF 2018

Sally Booher

Penny Harvey

Dean Presson

Alice Schmitz

Melissa Shook

#### CLASS OF 2019

Sergio Fernandez

Walt Justice

John Mount Shoop

Richard Sales

Anne Sayers

Matt Stradley

Caroline Wyrosdick-Webb

### WELCOME STATEMENT

*Trusting that God's grace embraces and desires covenant with all people, Grace Covenant seeks to be an inclusive and hospitable place of spiritual growth. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, ethnic, racial, or gender identity, economic position, residency status, or political affiliation. We trust that God is always at work transforming each life and our life together, helping us to better follow Christ's example of love and courageous welcome.*



### **GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

789 Merrimon Avenue

Asheville, NC 28804

### STAFF

Ministers: All the Members

Pastor/Head of Staff: Marcia Mount Shoop—[mmshoop@gcpcusa.org](mailto:mmshoop@gcpcusa.org)

Associate Pastor: Samantha Gonzalez-Block—[sgblock@gcpcusa.org](mailto:sgblock@gcpcusa.org)

Associate Pastor: Richard Coble—[rcoble@gcpcusa.org](mailto:rcoble@gcpcusa.org)

Music Ministries: Jeff Jones—[jjones@gcpcusa.org](mailto:jjones@gcpcusa.org)

Operations Administrator: Sherrie Meehan—[smeehan@gcpcusa.org](mailto:smeehan@gcpcusa.org)

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Treasurer: Leonard Hollifield—[lhollifield@gcpcusa.org](mailto:lhollifield@gcpcusa.org)

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