

Grace Church in the Mountains

April 28, 2024 | 8:00 am



Fifth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME! / ¡BIENVENIDOS!

We are honored by your presence as we gather as God's people to worship in the "beauty of holiness" through our ancient liturgy, contemporary prayers, and vibrant community.

Audio and visual aids, as well as "worship bags" for children, are available. Ask an usher for assistance.

Following the service, please join us in Thatcher Hall for Coffee Hour & Sunday Forum.

Celebrating that Christ is all and in all

by
Seeking Inviting

Belonging Serving

Reverencing God's Creation

THE WORD OF GOD

THE SERVICE BEGINS ON p. 355 OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40 (*please be seated*)

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 22:24-30 (*Verses will be spoken responsively by whole verse, starting with the lectern side*)

²⁴ My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who
worship him.

²⁵ The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn
to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before
him.

²⁷ For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.

²⁸ To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down
in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹ My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

³⁰ They shall come and make known to a people yet
unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

A reading from the first Epistle of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. *People:* **Thanks be to God.** *(please stand)*

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8 *(please stand)*

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to you, Lord Christ.** *(please be seated)*

THE SERMON

The Rev. Earle Pratt

THE NICENE CREED p.358 *(please stand)*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MARTHA COATS

The Deacon bids the prayers of the People

Leader: Dear God, our creator and sustainer,
Help us to pray, saying " Lord, hear our prayer."

Leader: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, José, our Bishop, Joslyn, our Rector, and Carter, our Deacon. For all clergy and congregations as they seek to come closer to you. Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For peace in the world, especially in Ukraine, Gaza, the Sudan, and between Israel and Iran, and in any other place of strife in our country or throughout the world. Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For Earth Day, for our natural surroundings, for time to sit in quiet to observe them, for the wisdom and will to conserve them. Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the children of our parish, for the new generations, for those who come after us, may we be attentive to their needs and responsive to their feelings, as we ask for your blessings upon them. Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who suffer or are hurting: the elderly, the weak, the sick, the agitated or afraid. May we be like a "still lake," a quiet presence for them. We pray especially for (insert names from the prayer list). Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the poor, the marginalized, the outcast, the reviled, the unemployed. For prisoners, refugees, and strangers. May we open our eyes and our hearts to them and those who serve them. Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who have died, for the acceptance of death, for the hope of redemption and resurrection. We remember especially (insert names from the prayer list of those who have died). Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For helping us to show compassion, to follow in the footsteps of your Son, to love one another, to look upon creation with child-like eyes, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, to seek you, to enjoy you, and to find peace in you. Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We invite additional intercessions and thanksgivings.

The Presider adds a concluding collect

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – Eucharistic Prayer A p.361

COMMUNION

A Note About Communion: All are welcome at God's table! You may receive the bread and sip from the cup or just receive the bread, which is considered a full communion. If you prefer intinction, that is the bread dipped in the wine, the clergy will be happy to do that for you. Please do not dip the bread yourself. If you only wish to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. Ushers will direct you forward. Gluten-free wafers are available.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(please stand)*

Presider: Holy, gracious, God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.

People: We have rested in the depth of your love;

We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;

We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.

Together, at this table, you have offered us life.

Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.

And we give you thanks as we are sent out into the world to do your work.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the people.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR & SUNDAY FORUM IN THATCHER HALL

SERVING TODAY

Altar Guild: Margaret Fite, Chris Smith, Elise Greenberg, & Kim Kranker

Counters: Clyde Austin & Natalie Bayless

8:00 | Lector: Barbara Rowe | EMs: Pat Robinson & Linda Miville

10:30 | Lectors: Susan Williams & Natalie Bayless | EMs: Jesse Nelson & Kim Kranker

Ushers: Jim Dohms & David May

Eucharistic Visitor: Blake Hadley visiting Kathy Wood

Vestry Members of the Day: Jesse Nelson & Suzy Leclair

Coffee Hour: Taizé

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members of Grace:	Barb Leach, Penny Armstrong, Betty Smith, Earle & Valerie Pratt, Carol Ploch, Paul Daniel, and our Home-Bound Members: Bill Edwards, Melissa Van Noppen, Gwen Breese, Gloria Moe, Becky Prevost, Elizabeth Weber, & Katherine Calhoun.
Friends of Grace:	Norma Dearman, mother of Chuck Dearman; Judy Booth, friend of Georgia McManus; Phyllis Stockfisch, friend of Michael & Deborah Boss; Mary, sister of Rina Steffel; Hezekiah, grandson of Sue Volgas; Jamie Justice, friend of Chris Smith.
Those Who Have Died:	Wayne Matthews, cousin of Carl Matthews;
In Our Cycle of Prayer:	The Church of Bangladesh St. Philip's in Brevard

HAPPENING TODAY

Sunday Forum: Join Grace Creation Care and friends to celebrate an all-ages Earth Day Sunday Forum featuring an inspiring fable, children’s ideas about helping our Earth, ways to stay connected to children as we age, forming a giant web of life, and creating together a nature mandala.

Grace Children’s Choir Rehearsal: Following the 10:30 service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Forum 5/5: Help the Vestry in hearing how God is drawing us into the future.

Family Fellowship at Grace: Join us on Cinco de Mayo from 3-5pm for a taco bar, games indoor & out, learning how to tend a raised bed in our Giving Garden, & a popsicle run across the street to our friends La Mexicanita!

Men’s Breakfast: Men of Grace will be having their monthly breakfast on Saturday May 4th at 9am.

Grace Children’s Choir: On May 19th we celebrate the birth of the church on Pentecost! We want to engage our kiddos in making music together and offer that as part of our Pentecost celebration. Ginny Moe will lead this children’s choir & they will rehearse on Sundays 4/28 & 5/12 after church and during our Family Fellowship time on May 5th from 3 - 5pm. This is for kids ages 3 - 5th grade. We also need at least one adult at each rehearsal. E-mail the rector to volunteer or with questions. We would love to have your kids participate!

Pentecost Happenings: May 19th - Potluck during Sunday Forum celebrating 55 years of ordained ministry for Frs. Earle & Orion. Also on 5/19: GraceFirst Family Day at Lake Logan from 3 - 6pm.

Annual Men’s Retreat: Join us at Living Waters Retreat Center in Maggie Valley June 28 - 30 to reflect on *Jesus: Our Healer & Guide*. Explore scriptural healing passages. Prayer for healing for one another, for peace in our world, and for Mother Earth. Humor, song, corporate prayer, mutual support, bonding, & Sunday Eucharist. \$215/person with a registration deadline of Tuesday June 18th.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

*indicates open to all

Mon April 29	10:00 12:15	Mindful Movement for Grief & Loss – Heartwood Room Yoga in Thatcher Hall*
Tues April 30	8:00 Noon 1:30 7:00	Lectionary Bible Study in the Library and on Zoom - link on website* Deadline for announcements* Environmental Action Committee - Library AA Meeting - Community Room
Wed May 1	9:00 Noon 3:00 7:00	Chime Choir Rehearsal* Eucharist & Healing Service* Executive Team Meeting - Library Choir Rehearsal*
Thurs May 2	10:00	Marthas Knitting Group*
Sat May 4	9:00	Men’s Breakfast
Sun May 5	9:15	Sunday Forum: Vestry Update

GRACE CHURCH IN THE MOUNTAINS, EPISCOPAL

394 N. Haywood Street, Waynesville, NC 28786

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Facebook.com/gracewaynesville • Instagram: [@GraceChurchIM](https://www.instagram.com/GraceChurchIM)

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, Rector

The Revs. Orion Davis, Earle Pratt, & Harriet Simmons, Priest Associates

The Rev. Carter A. Smith, Deacon

Sean Coughlin, Director of Music/Parish Administrator

Judy Dykes, Bookkeeper

Tony Caldwell, Sexton

Emma Thomas, Nursery Supervisor

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Tracy Bahm (2024)	Joyce Brooks (2025)	Betty Bradley (2026)
Barbara Rowe, Sr. Warden (2024)	Suzanne LeClaire (2025)	Jesse Nelson (2026)
John Turley (2024)	Mary Lockey, Jr. Warden (2025)	Georgia Raines (2026)

Gary Roberts & Michael Boss, Treasurers

David Ferguson, Clerk



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