

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Katy Manck, Worship Leader

PRELUDE *We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder* JACOB'S LADDER

*UNITY HYMN (**stand as we are able*) AURELIA

In Unity, we gather to worship and rejoice.

From our own faith traditions, we pray with one strong voice:

**Lord, help us love each other and serve all those in need,
and live as your disciples – in heart and word and deed.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today, we gather to join our voices with winds and seas, sunshine and rain,
mountains and grassy plains to worship God, our Creator.

We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

We gather to join our hearts with creatures who creep and crawl,
slither and squirm, swim and soar, to worship God, our Creator.

We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

We gather as witnesses of the harm that has been done to God's creation,
to the groanings of the earth and all the earth's inhabitants
who long for peace and flourishing.

We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

Come, let us worship God who strengthens and equips us,
guiding us to live out our faith as good stewards of God's good creation.

**Come, let us worship God who inspires and empowers us to be stewards
of hope and redemption in a wounded and hurting world! Amen.**

*HYMN – No. 731 UMH *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken* AUSTRIAN HYMN

*PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God of grace and love, we rely on Your love extended to us in all ways and
at all times, extravagantly and with generosity. We live day by day knowing
that Your care and concern is poured out for us in Your provision for our
needs and beyond our imagining. You entrust us with the gift of the good
news of the Gospel and invite us to be partners in the sharing of the message
of grace. Day by day, we realize the many gifts lavished upon us. We come
to You to acknowledge and praise You for all Your goodness to us. **Amen.**

*HYMN – No. 70 UMH *Gloria Patri* GLORIA PATRI

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you!

(Let us offer each other signs of peace and reconciliation.)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Kate Estes, Reader

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN – No. 723 UMH *Shall We Gather at the River* HANSON PLACE

*SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Pastor Stanley Larson
This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand,
and by which we are saved.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

*HYMN – No. 528 UMH *Nearer My God to Thee*

HYMN – No. 694 UMH *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

***POSTLUDE** *Improvisation on “I’ll Fly Away”*

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The Reverend Stanley Larson, Interim Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome friends! May the welcome you feel here be worthy of the gracious God that we serve. In this service, an asterisk (*) invites you to stand as health allows. Material printed in **bold** is for the congregation to sing or say. Let us worship God!

The **Wednesday Night Live** menu on July 22 features Lasagna, a side salad, dessert, and a beverage. The cost is \$10 for adults, with reduced prices for children. Please RSVP by 11:30 p.m. Monday on the website, sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex on Sunday, email the office, or call the office Monday before 4:00 p.m.

Grace Presbytery's second seminar is July 23rd, 6:00-7:30 p.m. via Zoom. This is our presbytery at work, engaging congregations and informing them of issues impacting our neighbors. Please sign up here:
<https://gracepresbytery.org/event/housing-webinar-caring-for-and-housing-our-unsheltered-neighbors/>

Secure by Habit: a free two-part cybersecurity training class. Learn how to be safe online by protecting your passwords. The first session was on Saturday, July 18, and the second will be on Saturday, July 23. These are free classes, so please give them a call and get signed up. The sessions are being held at First United Methodist Church, Longview. Please see the flyers around the Narthex for more information or speak with Steve Crane.