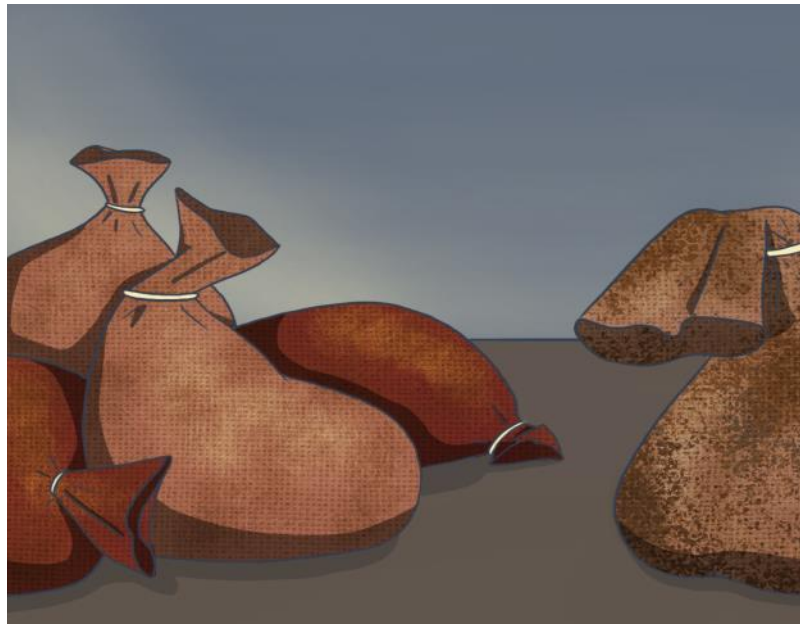


**PRAYER SERVICE  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15  
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

God loves you all the time  
**And all the time God loves you.**

**HYMN**

*I Choose to Worship*

**De Shazio/Sadler**

**Verse 1**

I could stand outside Your gates  
And never enter in  
I could let this moment pass  
And go my way again  
I could just keep silent  
And hold from You my praise  
Or I could give my heart away

**Chorus**

I choose to worship  
I choose to love You  
To reach out and touch Your heart  
I want to know You  
Here in this moment  
O I choose to worship You

**Verse 2**

I won't stand outside Your gates  
And never enter in  
I won't let this moment pass  
And go my way again  
How can I keep silent  
And hold from You my praise  
Lord I give my heart away

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.**  
**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**  
**We forget the least of our siblings.**  
**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**  
**We are infected by sin**  
**that divides your beloved community.**  
**Open our hearts to your coming,**  
**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**  
**open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**  
Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven,  
by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.  
**Amen.**

## OPENING DIALOGUE

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them

on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 90:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say,  
"Turn back, O children of earth."

<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night;**

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger;  
we are afraid because of your wrath.

<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup>**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and  
we are gone.**

<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your indignation?

<sup>12</sup>**So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

The holy gospel of Matthew beginning in the twenty-fifth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where

you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always  
**And also with you.**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world.

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature (*local places of natural beauty may be named*). Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin.

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses.

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing.

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors (*especially*). Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,  
Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always.

Amen.

## DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

### *Oh Happy Day When We Shall Stand*

ELW 441



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the  
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -  
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and  
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n-ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the  
self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which  
love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and  
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.  
Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.  
bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.  
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.



## Prayers of the Faithful for Week of November 15

### TODAY we pray for:

Allen Whitley  
Kathy Long  
Family & friends of Lou Ellen Machin as they mourn her death—mother of Karen Baumbach  
Louise Ench  
Christina  
Samantha; niece of Susan Porter  
Family and friends of Evelyn Pettit as they mourn her death  
Family & friends of Dick Johnson as they mourn his death  
Stacy Dambaugh, Tim Dambaugh & family  
Gener Ernst  
Sue, friend of JoAnne Deaton  
Roger Camp  
Krisida Alberto  
Diane Kiefer daughter of Margie Betley  
Barbara Hewlett, daughter-in-law of Kathy Long  
Russ & Joan Snyder  
The United States and all citizens as we vote on Tuesday, November 3.  
- all in our hearts and minds today.

### WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Scott, Chris, Denise, Clare Benz and Lynda Martinez, Barbara Lynn Grabher; daughter in law of Erika and Ed Burke, Kyle, Bill Smith; step-father of Rebecca Koreck, Lena, Leslie, friend of Diane Teig, Jack Baskow, Claudia and Geof Bromfield, Connie and family, Scott & Lia Wycoff, The Fenner family, John Worrell—brother in law of Bill Baur, Mike Goyda, Lis Verbeck, Lois Snyder

David & Angie Wasgatt, John Deaton, Joan Sandstorm, Delores Sipe, Doug Price, John Maurer, Bob Waller, Kent Hardel, Gretchen Platz, Ellen Hall, Nanci Hunsinger, Betty Magoon, Claire Schoening, Tyler, Bill Howerin, Marcia Burton, Gina Clay

For our bishops; Elizabeth Eaton, Bill Gohl

For the Dean of the Delmarva Conference; Barbara Melosh

For our staff; Pastor Tara, Susan Allen, Jordan Irazabal, Louis Jones

For leaders & congregations of the Delmarva Conference;

For all pastors and church leaders

For our country; the United States, leaders and citizens.

For all of our global neighbors, stricken by the covid-19 virus.

**To request or change prayers, please call the church office (302-239-6481) or email the office@gmail.com.**

*A Prayer for our nation from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Empower us to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in the love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable in our midst and respect for the common life we share, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

Read the Bishop's entire Election Message on [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org)

## Announcements for November 15

### News from Council

The Council has been keeping a close eye on your gracious offerings and the church's expenses during these challenging times. I am happy to report we are in good financial shape at the moment, so we thank you for your commitment and generosity.

The current fund income stood at \$125,710 at the end of October or 104 % of our year-to-date target of \$121,073.

This does put us at only 91 % compared to our 2019 year-to-date income of \$138,189.

Our expenses at the end of October have only totaled \$118,904, but there are some building and office maintenance items that will need to be addressed soon.

We are contributing the savings from the recent reduction in our mortgage payment to our Major Repairs Fund.

M&T Bank has approved the forgiveness of our PPP loan of \$44,200 and is waiting for confirmation from the Small Business Administration.

We will be holding a virtual Town Hall by Zoom meeting on January 24 to further update the congregation. If there are specific questions or areas that you would like us to address, please let us know. We only realize now that we are separated how much we depend on those face-to-face interactions in the narthex to keep our finger on the pulse of the congregation!

The Council would like to thank your Grace Gathering Task Force for their hard work in guiding the congregation back to in-person worship and limited facility usage, and establishing our current safe practices and procedures: Carol Johnson (Chair), Jerry Adams, Julie Auger, Jay Snyder, Jordan Irazabal, Tim Dambaugh, and Pastor Tara. The Worship and Music Team has now resumed the worship planning functions and you can contact the church office to arrange for limited use of the church facilities for the time being. The Task Force will now continue to monitor the state of the pandemic with the recommended CDC and government responses in case any changes will need to be made in the future.

Looking forward to the joyous Advent season to come!

Yours in Christ,  
Mark Teasley  
Council President

### **GRACE HOSTING FAMILY PROMISE NOVEMBER 22-29<sup>th</sup>**

Families are staying in a motel

Hosting the families during these times has a very different look. We will need cooks to supply dinners, donations toward ordering Thanksgiving dinners from Bachetti Brothers and lunch supplies, etc.

Anyone who can supply a meal, please contact me at 610-274-2135. I will, at that time, give you the needed details.

Mary Howle

## T.A.G. from the Pastor (Thoughts About Grace)

<sup>13</sup> Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

<sup>14</sup> "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. -1 Chronicles 29: 13-14

It is usually a good thing as we come into the season of thanksgiving and the following seasons of Advent and Christmas. It tends to be a season of peace and goodwill, and shopping and gifting, and generosity as we see one another and the needs that are around us and we want to be generous. If you have been listening, you know that some of the needs are bigger and some are smaller: feeding the hungry, providing shelter for those without any, visiting (calling/emailing) the sick or lonely, making sure people are treated with respect or have protection, even touching lives with the beauty of the season just to foster the attitude of gratitude and the peace of God. I have been reflecting on the many opportunities we can connect, use our gifts, and be generous networking through Grace.

What are your gifts? What would you like to share during this holiday season?

- \* Do you want to help provide for the needs in the community? The Alternative Gift Market allows you to make a donation to some of the outreach ministries supported by Grace to help with basic needs in the community and beyond. See contact person and more information in this enews.
- \* There are also opportunities to help with the Food Bank of Delaware to distribute food to those in need. Let Pastor Tara know so that she can add you to the Food Bank's volunteer email list.
- \* Is crafting more your thing? Color cards or angels that Grace would provide to be shared during the season to connect us with each other and our community. Let Pastor Tara know so that we can make sure that you have the basics for this project.
- \* Do you have time? We're looking for an opportunity to do a modified Live Nativity that would allow folks to participate or experience the story of the Christmas season in a safer, social distanced manner. You could be part of the story; all ages are welcome. You could help direct traffic or set up scenes or help with getting the word out. We are hoping to have families volunteer together. It may not have as many participants in the story, but it should still be beautiful. Let Pastor Tara know about where you might be interested, we are still looking for a partner to help coordinate this project.

Grace has always been a congregation that wants to connect and help out one another and reaches out when we know there are needs in our community. Right now, it can make us nervous to be part of projects, but we continue to touch lives in safe ways. Thank you for being you. You continue to touch my heart and make a difference. I am so blessed to be part of the family of Grace.

In Christ, Pastor Tara Magoon

# Thanksgiving Baskets



## God's Work Our Hands Thanksgiving Food for the families of Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center

Grace is collecting food to fill Thanksgiving Day food boxes for needy families in Wilmington that are served by the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center.

Last year we were able to provide complete Thanksgiving Day dinners for 24 families.

### Items needed:

Turkeys (frozen) ♦ Instant mashed potatoes ♦ stuffing mix ♦ canned green beans ♦ canned corn ♦ canned sweet potatoes ♦ canned cranberry sauce ♦ brown or white rice  
canned or jarred gravy ♦ dinner rolls ♦ pie crust/filling or non-perishable desserts ♦  
canned fruit ♦ seasoning (something that could be used for the holiday meal)

### Can't get out to shop??

If you are not able to go out and shop for items, but would like to contribute, we would gladly accept a monetary contribution and do the shopping for you.

**IMPORTANT: please make monetary contributions by Nov15th** (so we have time to shop) **please note clearly "Hilltop Thanksgiving"** on any contributions that it is for, and, if possible, contact Amy Zunino to let her know

**Non perishable items can be brought in anytime before or on November 22nd.**

Look for the boxes in the Narthex for food. **Turkeys must be brought in on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**ALL items should be at Grace by 10:00am on the 22nd.**

**The food is boxed up and taken directly to Hilltop that morning.**

Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Questions?? Amy Zunino at [aizunino@msn.com](mailto:aizunino@msn.com) or 302-234-2549

## TREAT THE TROOPS

We will be participating in the annual TREAT THE TROOPS collection! Lynne has a cookie packing for Treat the Troops scheduled for November 14th at her home. If you would like to bake cookies, provide fillers, get leftover Halloween candy out of your house, or provide postage, there will be a container at Grace in the Library area for you to drop off your donations. Lynne will pick up the contributions on Friday, November 13th at noon. If you want to bake sooner than that please let her know and she can pick them up and freeze them.

If you have any questions about the Treat the Troops project, please contact Lynne at (610) 345-0989 or [lcluetgen@aol.com](mailto:lcluetgen@aol.com). Thank you for your continued support of Grace's outreach ministries.