



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide
Anglican Communion.

The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost Celebrant: The Rev. Anna Taylor-McCants *July 19, 2026 – **LARGE-PRINT EDITION***

*Before the Service — Speak quietly to God
During the Service — Let God speak to you
After the Service — Speak to one another*

LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

The Season after Pentecost is not actually a liturgical season with a common focus, rather, it is just the weeks between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This period is often referred to as “Ordinary Time” and the liturgical color is **green**. These are the ordinary days in which we live our Christian faith in the regular routine of daily life. This seems simple enough, but the way the Sundays are counted on the calendar gets a bit confusing. It begins with the First Sunday after Pentecost and then counts sequentially until the 24th Sunday after Pentecost which is Christ the King, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. If it stopped here that would be clear, but each Sunday during this time is also given another title: Proper 7-29 where the numbers do not coincide with the numbered Sundays after Pentecost. This proper numbering system is based on the moveable date of Easter. Honestly, there is no need to be concerned about this numbering framework, just focus on the ordinary daily life of Jesus as he goes about teaching, healing, and loving people as you live your ordinary life each day!

TO JOIN SERVICES ONLINE OR BY PHONE

To join the 8:30 service online, visit our website at gracechurchmtclemens.org and follow the links.

To join the 8:30 service by phone, call 312-626-6799

8:30 AM Service: Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300 Password: 246040

Follow the link on our website to watch the 10:30 service on YouTube.

Rector: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik
Cell: 203-641-2068

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan
Mr. Josh Dulin, Minister of Music
115 South Main Street, Mt Clemens, MI 48043
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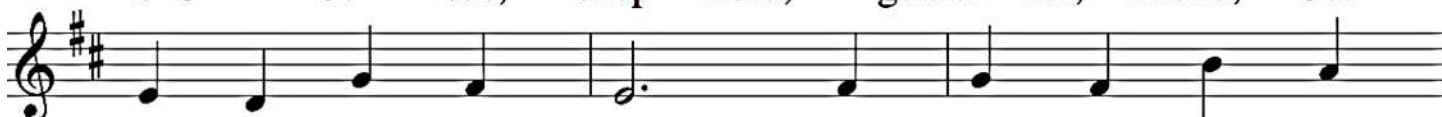
Visit us on the web at
www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

OPENING HYMN: How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds

Please stand as you are able



1. How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds To
2. It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
3. Blest Name! The rock on which we build, Our
4. O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, Our



all be - liev - ing ears! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart dis - tressed: 'Tis man - na for the
shield and rest - ing place, Our nev - er - fail - ing
proph - et, priest, and king, Our Lord, our life, our



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fears.
hun - gry soul, And for the wea - ry, rest.
store - house, filled With count - less gifts of grace!
way, our end, Ac - cept the praise we bring.

ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.
AMEN.**

Celebrant continues:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

GLORIA



Celebrant The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*This Week's Readers: **Ann & Dave Farrell***

*Next Week's Readers: **Neville Thompson & Selia Tuten***

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING Isaiah 44:6-8

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE Psalm 86:11-17 – *Inclina, Domine*

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;*
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.

¹²I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,*
and glorify your Name for evermore.

¹³For great is your love toward me;*
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

¹⁴The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life;*
they have not set you before their eyes.

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,*
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶Turn to me and have mercy upon me;*
**give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed;*
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING Romans 8:12-25

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN: Mixed Like Weeds In Wheatfields

Please stand as you are able



1. Mixed like weeds in wheat-fields, What fears and greed we learn
2. Then a wan-d'ring teach - er Ar - rives from Gal - i - lee
3. World - ly pow'r, un - daunt - ed, Con - tin - ues to ap - plaud
4. Faith that roots in seed-time, En - dures the doubts of growth,



Min - gled with the wis - dom Of pru - dence and con - cern:
Sow - ing words that pierce us Yet some-how set us free:
Self - ish - ness, op - pres - sion, Re - venge, in - jus - tice, fraud.
Blos - soms when en - cour - aged, Bears pain and pleas - ure both:



“Hoard the bet - ter vin - tage And serve a cheap - er wine”;
“Be not cruel or venge - ful, But turn the oth - er cheek”;
Though such e - vils flour - ish And grounds for hope de - crease,
Find in us, great Sow - er, A fruit - ful plant - ing place,



“Pearls that go un - hid - den Get tram - pled by the swine.”
“God will bless the hum - ble, The mer - ci - ful, the meek.”
Deep and well are plant - ed God's seeds of love and peace.
Yield - ing in time's full - ness The har - vest of your grace.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Rev. Anna Taylor-McCants

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when

the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY The Rev. Anna Taylor-McCants

Please be seated

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand as you are able

This is an ancient baptismal creed, but using the words "I give my heart," a truer translation of the Latin word "credo" than "I believe."

I give my heart to God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I give my heart to 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, and descended to the dead. 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 give my heart to the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Holy and gracious God, you created us in your image. Help us to recognize and honor your image in ourselves and in one another, especially those whom we are at odds with. God our Creator,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Holy and life-giving God, look with compassion on all those in this world suffering from violence and broken relationships. We especially pray for women and children living in poverty and those living in fear of abuse. God of Hope,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Holy and faithful God, hear our prayers for all your people who are silent because of oppression, and for those who feel that their voices are not heard. God who speaks,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Holy and magnificent God, you have filled the earth with beauty and diversity. Look graciously upon all of us with our varied gifts, characteristics, and qualities and give us all a respect for the dignity of others that we may treat all people with love and care. God of Grace,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader All-knowing God, you see the pain of your people who suffer and fear because of war, especially those in Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, and Sudan; may you comfort them and keep them safe. Open the eyes of all those who advocate for and promote war that they may see their atrocities and pursue peaceful resolutions. God of Peace,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for the blessings and wisdom we have received from those who have died. Receive them into eternal life and comfort those who mourn. God of Abundant Life,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Healing God, we pray for all those who have asked for our prayers, especially those on our prayer list. Are there others?

May you bless, comfort and heal those who are struggling with physical, emotional, social, and relational pain, especially those affected by the ongoing Ebola outbreak. God of Healing,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Nurturing God, we pray for the children in our lives and in our world. Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good. God of Caring,

People Hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Celebrant:

In the name of the true and living Holy One, who made us for love, who saved us by love, and who loves us still. **AMEN.**



THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

OFFERTORY HYMN: Jesus Is A Rock In A Weary Land

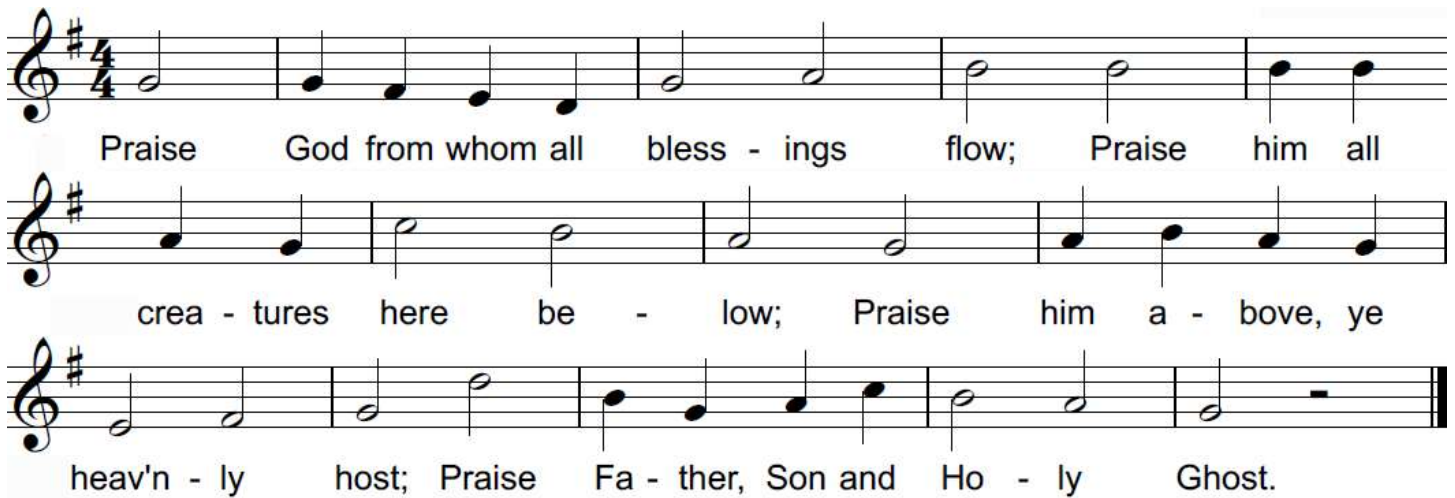


The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in G minor (three flats). The tempo and mood are indicated by a quarter note followed by a half note. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with some words hyphenated across lines. The hymn consists of eight lines of music. The first four lines form the main body of the hymn, and the last four lines form a two-part setting. The lyrics are as follows:

Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.
1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a
2 When Je - sus was on earth, the . .
mum-bling word he said; he went walk-ing down to Laz-
flesh was ver - y weak; .. he took a towel and gird-
- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.
ed him - self and he washed his dis-ci - ples' feet.

DOXOLOGY

Please stand as you are able



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People* It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues:

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your Word and all things have come into being. You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion, you would not abandon your own. Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace. You gave your people the Law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice and mercy. In our unending joy we echo on earth the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you as we sing:

SANCTUS

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, the Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

2. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord God of hosts. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant continues:

Lord, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendor and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ, who suffered for the salvation of the world, you reveal the glory and power of your love.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Embracing our humanity, he taught us the way of salvation. Loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us. Dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

On the night you gave up your Son for us all, he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is

my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, and we long for his coming in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit, let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit!

Look with favor on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, free the oppressed, and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen. Alleluia!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant says:

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Father in heaven, holy is 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.

FRACTION



Celebrant Taste and see that our God is good; come to the banquet table with joy and thanksgiving!

COMMUNION

Please be seated

Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.



COMMUNION HYMN: In Simple Signs



1. In sim - ple signs we find God's grace: a
 2. In hu - man flesh, born weak and poor, Christ
 3. In hum - ble form, not grasp - ing might, not
 4. In dy - ing things, God breathes new life so



heal - ing hand, a gen - tle face, the
 shows the way through heav - en's door, to
 gird - ed for an ep - ic fight, but
 peace can grow from times of strife and



love - less loved, the hun - gry fed, a
 realms not lost in clouds a - bove, but
 as a ser - vant, free from pride, the
 hope en - dure through pain and loss, as



cup of wine, a piece of bread.
 found where peo - ple live in love.
 Son of God is glo - ri - fied.
 love pre - vails be - yond the cross.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant Let us pray together our post-Communion prayer.

Celebrant and People say together:

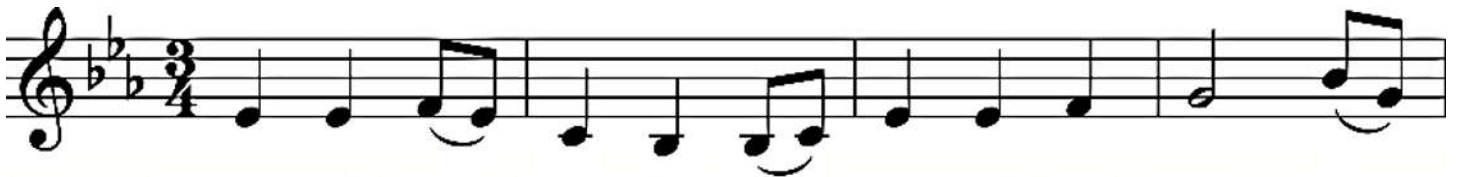
Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

BLESSING

May God lead you in marvelous ways and stir your inmost being to be light and love to those around you, and may the blessing of God—God our Creator, God our Redeemer, and God our Sanctifier—be upon you this day and remain with you always.

AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN: Lord Of All Hopefulness



- | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|--------|-------|
| 1. Lord of all— | hope-ful - ness, | Lord of all | joy, | Whose |
| 2. Lord of all— | ea - ger - ness, | Lord of all | faith, | Whose |
| 3. Lord of all— | kind - li - ness, | Lord of all | grace, | Your |
| 4. Lord of all— | gen - tle - ness, | Lord of all | calm, | Whose |



- | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|--------|----|
| 1. trust, ev - er | child-like, | no | cares could | de - stroy: | Be | |
| 2. strong hands were | skilled at | the | plane and | the | lathe: | Be |
| 3. hands swift to | wel-come, | your | arms to | em - brace: | Be | |
| 4. voice is | con - tent-ment, | whose | pres - ence | is | balm: | Be |



- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|------------|-----|----------|----|-------|------|
| 1. there at— | our— | wak - ing, | and | give us, | we | pray, | Your |
| 2. there at— | our— | la - bors, | and | give us, | we | pray, | Your |
| 3. there at— | our— | hom - ing, | and | give us, | we | pray, | Your |
| 4. there at— | our— | sleep-ing, | and | give us, | we | pray, | Your |



1. bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. *strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*
3. love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Our time of worship has now ended. Go in peace to love God and to love your neighbor! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***People* Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**



The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Martha Wehba; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Gheresi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Betty Brogan; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Beverly Wolff; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Steve Burns; Betty Moore; Sandy Krell; Bobby Coutts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffey; Frank Davis; Shelly Volpe; Bud Denham; John Schober; Tish Mastro-Burns; Gary Cynowa; Linda Hurley; Fran Merlo; Betty Gillis; David Schihl; Martha Houser; Stacy Wagenknecht; Matthew Smith; Robert Tuten; the Stotz family; Daniel Ranger; Gary Keranen.

Do you know someone who can use our prayers?

Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.

The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, in person & online 8:30 & 10:30 AM. Visit our website for more information.
Bible Study: Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Guild Room

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Community Suppers:

Wednesdays at 4:00

Sunday Suppers: Sundays at 4:00, November-March

Food Pantry:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 AM-12 noon, curbside pickup
Serving from 250-500 people every month

Fueling Kids' Futures:

Tuesdays at 11:30 AM at Oakley Industries, Inc. Plant 4
35088 Automation Drive, Clinton Township, MI 48035
Packing for the 2026-27 school year begins in October

**All outreach ministries welcome volunteers,
financial donations, or food and clothing donations.**

***Call the office to learn about helping or giving:
586-465-4573***

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Please send all bulletin submissions to
bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org***

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

GARDENS OF GRACE

Please see the *Amazing Grace* newsletter (available at both entrances and online) for monthly updates and ways you can help out. Need service hours? This is a great way to earn them!

COOKIES NEEDED

Calling all bakers! We need cookies for Pride this year: any variety without nuts, peanut butter, or frosting (or any allergen-free unfrosted baked good) that can fit into a sandwich-size Ziploc bag. Please bring them to the church any time before **6 PM** on **Friday, August 7**. Thank you!

BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet at Grace on **Thursday, September 10** at **6 PM** to discuss *The Shadow Box* by Luanne Rice. Reviews of this book describe it as a thriller mystery with multiple and seamless twists and turns. If you have any questions, please call Ann Strevel. Looking forward to seeing you!

For Justice Beyond Vengeance

God of justice, whose **mercy** provides the foundation for our righteousness, **we pray** that this nation may be a beacon of humble and **wise justice**. Fifty years after the reinstatement of the **death penalty** in the United States, we ask that you **give us the grace to turn away from vengeance** without turning away from the cries of every victim of violence and their families. **Send your Holy Spirit** and surround them with communities of loving care. **Look also with mercy**, O Lord, upon all who are on death row, especially those who were **wrongly convicted**. Where human error has brought an unjust sentence, **we pray** that you bring the **truth** to light before an execution makes injustice irreversible. **Guide** all judges, juries, lawmakers, corrections officers, and chaplains that they may **uphold the dignity** of the souls in their charge. Grant all these things through Christ, our judge and our redeemer. Amen.