



# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide  
Anglican Communion.

## The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

**Celebrant: The Rev. Ben Adams**

*July 26, 2026*

*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](http://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  
Office 586-465-4573

Email: [gracemtclemens@yahoo.com](mailto:gracemtclemens@yahoo.com)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.gracechurchmtclemens.org](http://www.gracechurchmtclemens.org)

## OPENING HYMN: Holy Wisdom, Lamp Of Learning

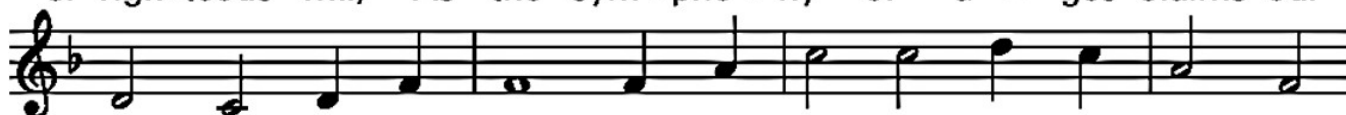
*Please stand as you are able*



1. Ho - ly Wis-dom, lamp of learn - ing, Bless the light that
2. Vine of truth, in you we flour - ish; By your grace we
3. Ho - ly God, the hope of na - tions, Tune us toward your



1. rea - son lends. Teach us judg - ment as we kin - dle Sparks of
2. learn and grow. May the word of Christ a - mong us Shape our
3. righ - teous will, As the sym - pho - ny of a - ges Claims our



1. thought your Spir - it sends. Sanc - ti - fy our search for knowl - edge
2. life, our search to know. Joined to Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing,
3. best, our fin - est skill. Shape our search for peace and jus - tice



1. And the truth that sets us free. Come, il - lu - mine
2. May we help the church con - vey Wit - ness to the
3. Through pro - phet - ic deed and word. Christ, con - duct us,



1. mind and spir - it Joined in deep - est u - ni - ty.
2. sav - ing gos - pel, Bear - ing fruit of faith to - day.
3. set our rhy - thm, That God's praise be ev - er heard.

## 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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

*Next Week's Readers: **Nora & Dash Heath***

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Please be seated*

### FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

*Reader* A reading from the first book of Kings.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give

your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE** Psalm 119:129-136 – *Mirabilia*

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;\*  
**therefore I obey them with all my heart.**

<sup>130</sup>When your word goes forth it gives light;\*  
**it gives understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant;\*  
**I long for your commandments.**

<sup>132</sup>Turn to me in mercy,\*  
**as you always do to those who love your Name.**

<sup>133</sup>Steady my footsteps in your word;\*  
**let no iniquity have dominion over me.**

<sup>134</sup>Rescue me from those who oppress me,\*  
**and I will keep your commandments.**

<sup>135</sup>Let your countenance shine upon your servant\*  
**and teach me your statutes.**

<sup>136</sup>My eyes shed streams of tears,\*  
**because people do not keep your law.**

**SECOND READING** Romans 8:26-39

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

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn

within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL HYMN: God Is Working All Around You

*Please stand as you are able*



1. Lift your eyes, Re - al - ize God is work-ing all a - round you.  
2. Joy and pain, Loss and gain, See His good-ness all a - round you.  
3. Life or death, Ev - 'ry breath God is ev - er all a - round you.

Near or far, Where you are, God is work-ing all a - round you.  
You can know As you go All His mer - cy will sur - round you.  
Love un - seen Stands be - tween. Know His pow - er will sur - round you.

Know His love, Gen - tle love, Wise and nev - er sleep - ing.  
Steps of faith, Child-like faith, Hand in hand for - ev - er.  
Fear - ful heart, Bold - ly start Trust - ing and o - bey - ing.

Stay a - ware. He is there. God is work-ing all a - round you.  
In the light, Thro' the night God is work-ing all a - round you.  
Faith will grow, Life will show God is work-ing all a - round you.

**GOSPEL** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Rev. Ben Adams

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

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**HOMILY** The Rev. Ben Adams

*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 and the earthquake in Venezuela. 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,

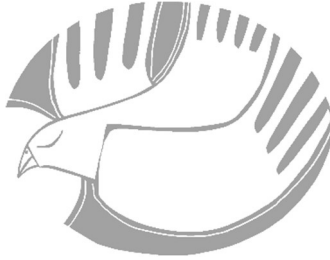
**People** **Hear our prayer.**



## 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: Nothing Can Keep Us From Jesus



1. Noth - ing can keep us from Je - sus, who loves us;  
2. Noth - ing can sep - a - rate Christ from his peo - ple,



noth - ing we suf - fer and noth - ing we do.  
guid - ing us, heal - ing us, help - ing us stand.



God's love sur - rounds us in glad - ness and hard - ship,  
Not life or death, nor the pres - ent or fu - ture



call - ing for jus - tice, that all may be new.  
keeps God from lov - ing the work of her hands.



Deep - er than o - ceans, high - er than moun-tains,  
 strong - er than e - vil and wid - er than space,  
 Christ in com - pas-sion knows all that we suf - fer,  
 holds us in trou-ble and crowns us with grace.

## 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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord,  
God of pow - er, God of might, Hea - ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. — Ho - san - na  
in the high - est! — Bles - sed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord; — 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



In the break-ing of the bread We have come to know the Lord,  
And in drink-ing from the cup We have shared the life of God.

*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: Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet



Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path. Thy Word is a  
lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path. When I feel a- fraid. I will not for-get your  
Think I've lost my way. Still, you're there right be-side me. No-thing will I fear as  
love for me and yet, My heart's for - ev - er wander-ing. Je - sus be my guide and  
long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.  
hold me to your side. and I will love you to the end.

## 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: The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve



1. The Spir-it sends us forth to serve; We go in Je - sus' name
2. We go to com-fort those who mourn And set the bur-dened free;
3. We go to be the hands of Christ, To scat-ter joy like seed
4. Then let us go to serve in peace, The gos-pel to pro - claim.



1. To bring glad ti-dings to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro-claim.
2. Where hope is dim, to share a dream And help the blind to see.
3. And, all our days, to cher-ish life, To do the lov-ing deed.
4. God's Spir - it has em-pow-er'd us; We go in Je - sus' name.

## 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 Gherzi; 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](mailto: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 the Protection of God's Endangered Creation

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**God** of all, who fashioned an **Earth teeming with life** and called it good, **we lament** the recent changes to the implementation of the Endangered Species Act that **weaken protections** for the habitats on which many endangered species depend. **We pray** for the life and future of plants and animals as they face increased harm and peril from the destruction and degradation of habitats that preserve biodiversity. **Give us**, we pray, **a reverence for your creation** that extends to all life, remembering that you have ordained in your wisdom that our common life is one of mutual growth and interconnected dependence. **Grant wisdom to the governing authorities** and business leaders who stand to personally gain from these changes, that they might repent of placing short-term profit above the **flourishing of your creation**. And help each of us to live up to our sacred calling to steward the land with justice and love. Grant this, O Lord, through Christ, our Cosmic Redeemer. Amen.

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