



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide
Anglican Communion.

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021

*All are welcome to this service of communion;
All are wanted at the table of the lord.*

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

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 livestream on our Facebook page.

Officiant: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik
Cell: 203-641-2068
Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan
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www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

Opening Hymn: Morning Has Broken

Unison or harmony

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. _____
like the first dew - fall on the first grass. _____
born of the one light E - den saw play! _____

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! _____
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. _____
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! _____

OPENING ACCLAMATION: from *Feasting on the Word*

Celebrant: Praise the Lord, for God is great indeed! Let us sing praises for God's glorious works.

People: We give glory, honor and thanksgiving to the Lord, who makes and sustains all things.

GLORIA

At the early service:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

At the later service:



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria___ en - las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry,___ glo - ry to God_ on high



y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra a-qué-llos___ que a-ma el Se - ñor._____
and on earth peace to all peo-ple in whom God is well pleased.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: May God be with you.

People: And also with you.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 124

Nisi quia Dominus

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

THE SECOND READING

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church .

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Hymn: Your Ways Are Not Our Own



1. Your ways are not our own, O
2. Christ teach - es us to bless The
3. Yet, we can - not ex - cuse A -
4. How shall we show your love, Your
5. For - give - ness is our joy, Re -



gra - cious God most high, Yet we would fol - low
ones who curse and harm, To turn the oth - er
buse in an - y form, For all are chil - dren
par - don to be - lieve? You bid us share as
ceiv - ing, giv - ing, too. Keep us from judg - ments



in your paths And on your love re - ly.
cheek when struck, At - tack - ers to dis - arm.
of your care, And love must be our norm.
we are blessed And give as we re - ceive.
hard and cruel, That we may dwell with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, Mark 9:38-50

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Christ

The Homily: The Rev. Steven Steinberg-Domienik

We observe a brief silence for reflection.

The Affirmation of our Faith

At the early service:

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
The Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day, he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
And his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

At the later service:

The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace we pray to you, O God.

You nourish our heart in its yearning. You dignify our soul in its struggling. You harmonize our grief and gladness. You make melody from the fragments of chaos. You align our spirit with creation. You reveal the grace of God. You calm us and delight us and set us free to love and forgive. **Lord hear us and feed us through your grace.**

Let us pray for our nation in a time of crisis: keep our hearts open with compassion and caring for those who have been affected by the pandemic. **Lord hear us and feed us through your grace.**

Let us pray for those who do migrant work and for those who are unemployed. **Lord hear us and feed us through your grace.**

Guide the people of this land to use its wealth so that all may find fulfilling employment and received just payment for their labor. **Lord hear us and feed us through your grace.**

Be with those who are disheartened. Bless them with courage, and let it be as a spark to their flagging spirits. **Lord hear us and feed us through your grace.**

Let us sense your loving presence in our moments of bewilderment, our days of trial and our nights of worry. **Lord hear us and feed us through your grace.**

Be with those who are isolated and lonely due to illness. Bless them with and let it be as a friend to them. **Lord hear us and feed us through your grace.**

Let us love in such a way that when we die our love will survive and continue to grow. **Lord hear us and feed us through your grace.**

We pray to you, O Lord, for the time of your favor, O God! In your great kindness answer us with your constant help. **Lord hear us and feed us through your grace.**

For all those who are sick or infirmed and for those suffering because of COVID – 19, And for all who have asked for our prayers: Ena, Cindy, Michelle, Jeff, Samantha, Thor, Rosy, Liz, Janice, Carol, Jennifer, Nina, Frank, Barbara, Helen, Matthew, Jennie, Katherine, Reggie, Pam S, Roy, Karen, Ollie, Jasmine, Allen, Donna, Tom, Darrell, Marcie, Mark, Annette, Michelle, Frankie, Margaret, Sue, Jeff, , Dominique, Lianne, Lori, Michael, Amber, Marilee, Eric, Leslie, Elliott, Neville, Roseanne, Sally, Bud, Sue.

Are there others?

That they may receive your healing touch. **Lord hear us and feed us through your grace.**

Concluding Collect

Good and gracious God, send forth your Holy Spirit upon your people throughout the world. Tear down the walls that divide us, and make us one through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

NOTE: We are sharing the peace in COVID safe ways, so we ask that you do something other than hug or shake hands.

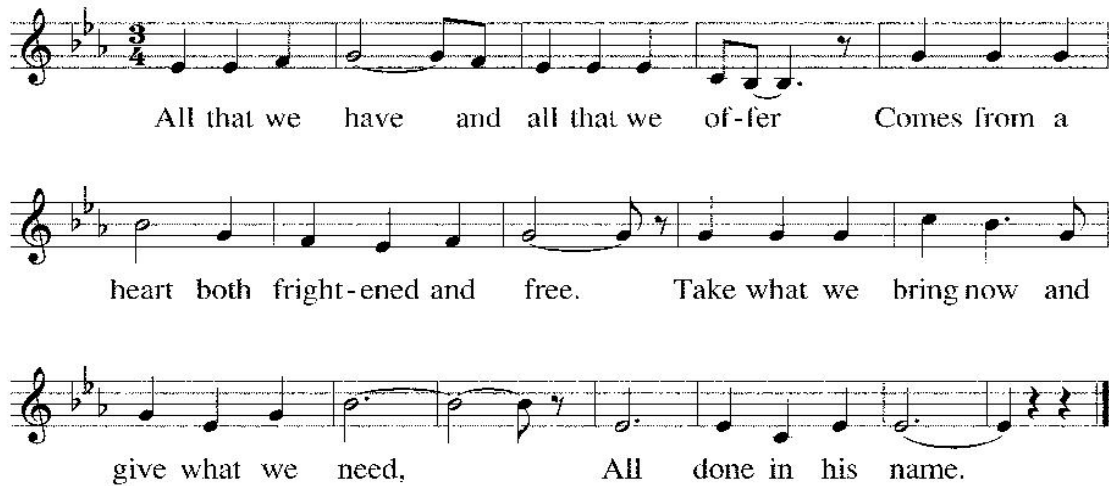
The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MINISTRY OF THE TABLE

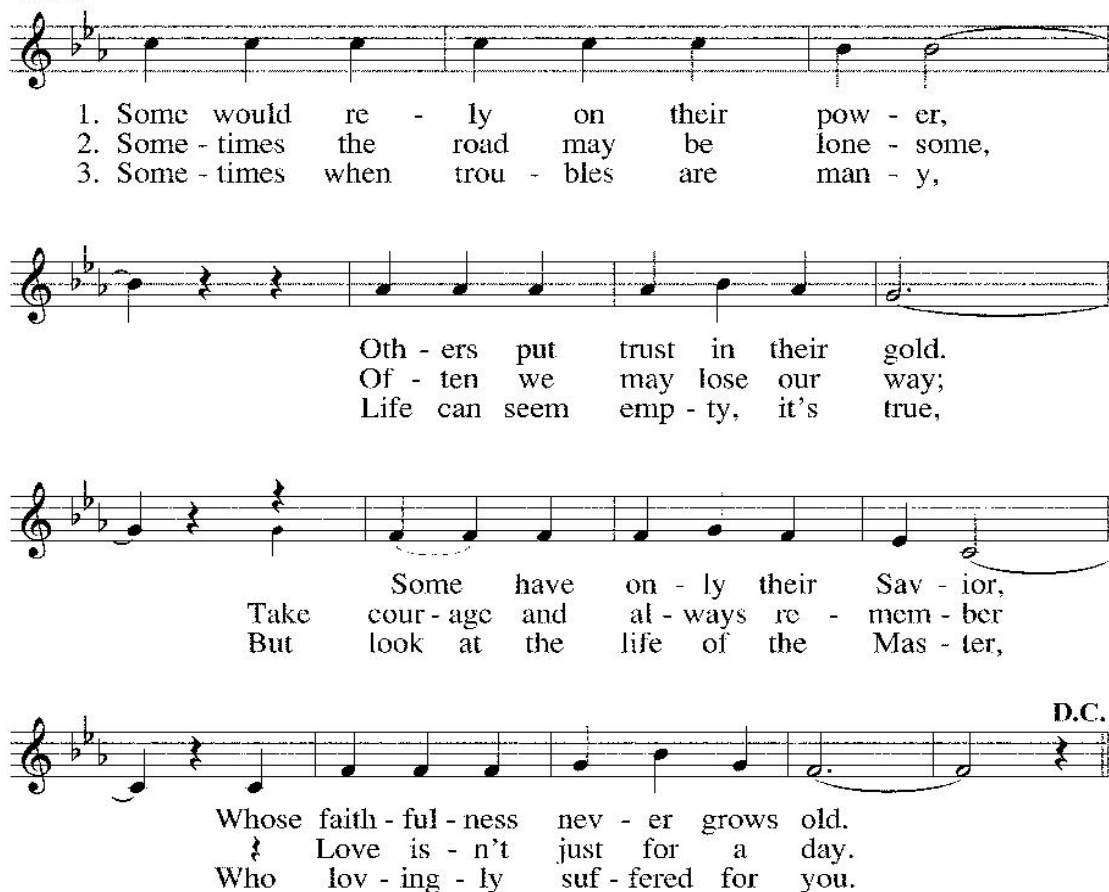
The Offering Song: All That We Have

Refrain



All that we have and all that we of-fer Comes from a
heart both fright-ened and free. Take what we bring now and
give what we need, All done in his name.

Verses



1. Some would re - ly on their pow - er,
2. Some - times the road may be lone - some,
3. Some - times when trou - bles are man - y,
Oth - ers put trust in their gold.
Of - ten we may lose our way;
Life can seem emp - ty, it's true,
Some have on - ly their Sav - ior,
Take cour - age and al - ways re - mem - ber
But look at the life of the Mas - ter,
Whose faith - ful - ness nev - er grows old.
Love is - n't just for a day.
Who lov - ing - ly suf - fered for you.

Doxology: To God, Creator

To God, Cre - a - tor, to God, Re - deem - er, to God, Sanc - ti - fi - er

7
be all glo - ry and praise for - ev - er, be praise for - ev - er, be

13
praise for - ev - er, A - - - men.

OFFERTORY BLESSING

Awesome God, Jesus fed thousands of people with seemingly little effort. Yet, we have grave difficulty feeding children in our own country — let alone the entire world. Even while we are praying this prayer, someone has died from starvation and the lack of food. When we share resources with care-giving ministries, your hand is upon our shoulders, just like it was upon Jesus' shoulders the day he fed his followers. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to change lives by becoming generous caregivers of the resources that you first gave to us. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN. (John 6:1-21)

Everyone: Which we are blessed, we offer our gifts to our God, to carry on the works of Jesus Christ our Lord for all he has given us.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Season After Pentecost

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

Everyone **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Everyone **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say/sing:

Everyone at the Early Service

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

At the Later Service

SANCTUS:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts! Heav - en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na

in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life.

You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Music for Communion: All Who Hunger



1. All who hun-ger, gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na
2. All who hun-ger, nev - er stran-gers, seek-er, be a
3. All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is



is our bread. Come from wil - der - ness and wan-d'ring.
wel - come guest. Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing.
liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing.



Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for
Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were
Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who



days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.
lost and scat-tered in com - mun-ion's love have stood.
from this ta - ble live their lives in grat - i - tude.

Refrain



Taste and see the grace e - ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Everyone

Gracious God, we thank you for nourishing us with the food of our savior. Now send us out in the power of your Spirit to be beacons of hope and love in your world. For it is through Christ and with all your saints that we offer ourselves and our lives to your service O God. We humbly pray in the name of Jesus your Christ, AMEN.

BLESSING

Celebrant

May Christ who is human and divine, who is of heaven and earth, give you strength, courage and boldness to do God's will in this world; and may the blessing of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier be with you this day and forever. AMEN.

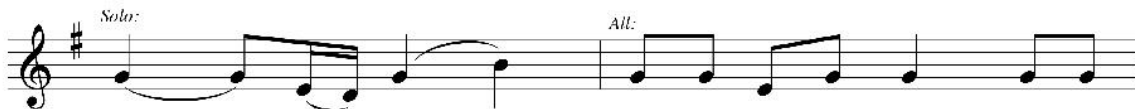
Closing Hymn: Guide My Feet



1. Guide my feet while I run this race.
 2. I'm your child while I run this race.
 3. Hold my hand while I run this race.
 4. Stand by me while I run this race.



Guide my feet while I run this race.
 I'm your child while I run this race.
 Hold my hand while I run this race.
 Stand by me while I run this race.



Guide my feet while I run this race,
 I'm your child while I run this race, For I
 Hold my hand while I run this race,
 Stand by me while I run this race,



don't want to run this race in vain!

DISMISSAL

Priest Our worship has ended, let our service begin, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Prayers of this Congregation

For all refugees, especially those at our southern border; for the farmers across our country who are struggling; for Bonnie Perry, our Bishop, for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., our retired bishop; 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 Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod; Stewart Wood, our retired bishop; and our whole diocesan household, including Holy Comforter in Dajabon DR, St. John's in Clinton, Holy Cross in Novi; for Gretchen, our Governor; Joseph, our President; Kamala, our Vice President; and all members of Congress.

For Ena Pederson, Cindy, Michelle, Jeff, Samantha, Thor, Rosy, Liz Moorehouse, Janice Kibler, Carol Bales, Jennifer Holland, Nina DiGaetano, Frank & Barbara Davenport, Donna Hanes, Helen Stein, Matthew Bishop, Jennie Berube, Katherine Domienik, Reggie Chrzanowski, Pam Sherry, Roy Lawrence, Karen Blackburn, Ollie Denham, Jasmine Gardner, Allen David Clay, Tom Krell, Darrell Banks, Marcie Griffin, Mark Hall, Annette Leone, Michelle Grabowski, Frankie Dion, Margaret Marchionda, Sue Schlanbusch, Jeff Lepkowski, Dominique Czupski, Lianne Neumann, Lori Dodge, Michael Thomas, Amber Bean, Marilee Racine, Eric & Leslie Mix, Elliott, The Seewald Family, The Sarns Family, Neville Thompson, Sally Wheeler, Bud Denham, Sue Treend.

Please note: Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.

In order to add someone or keep someone on the prayer list, please call the office.

Do you know someone who is ill? Please contact the office and we will add them to the prayer list.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Everyone is invited to bring your pet(s) or a picture of them and treats for them to whichever service you attend on Sunday, October 3.

The blessing will happen during the service time and they are welcome to stay the entire service.

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 7 pm on Zoom (Meeting info will remain as follows each week)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89732417015?pwd=Z0NkeFQ4L2FFSExYelB3WXoyUmFvZz09>

Meeting ID: 897 3241 7015 Password: 683930 Or call: 312-626-6799

The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH

Currently

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, online 8:30 & 10:30 am. Visit our website for more information.

Bible Study: Thursdays at 10 am.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Community Suppers:

Wednesdays at 4:00

Food Pantry:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 am -12 noon, curbside pickup

Serving from 250 - 350 people every month

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

Call the office to learn about helping or giving:

586-465-4573

