

God Loves Our World

Responsive Prayer

One: Since the beginning, and until the end of days,

All: God is in the world.

God loves the world.

One: God loves
to give life.

All: God loves the world.

One: God loves
not to judge.

All: God loves the world.

One: God loves
the truth-tellers and truth-bringers,
the humble and earthy, the honest and brave.

All: God loves the world.

One: God wants us to shine,
through danger, through division,
through denial, through death.

All: God loves the world—our world.

One: This broken, hurting world.
This world where no life escapes pain.
What would it feel like to love this aching world?
The pain of a mother losing her son.
Of a father losing his daughter.

All: God loves our beautiful, broken world.
God loves. So God gave us our Christ.

— Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey
Portland, Oregon

Text for today: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:16-17, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21 (16).

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For God so loved the world

**CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland**

MORNING WORSHIP

10:00 AM

Worship March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Amazing Grace" (Lasky)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Jack Finniff, Worship Leader

One: God loves us with a steadfast love.

All: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

One: God loves us so much he gave us his Son.

All: Let us believe and have eternal life!

One: God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.

All: Let us have faith to receive this grace!

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

***HYMN #43** "Christ is our cornerstone"

[Verse 1]

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build.

*With his true saints alone the courts of heav'n are filled. On his great love
our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.*

[Verse 2]

Oh, then with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring.

*Our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing, and thus proclaim in
joyful song, both loud and long that glorious name.*

[Verse 3]

*Here, gracious God, do thou for evermore draw nigh. Accept each faithful
prayer, and mark each suppliant sigh. In copious shower on all who pray each
holy day thy blessings pour!*

[Verse 4]

*Here may we gain from heav'n the grace which we implore, and may that
grace, once giv'n, be with us evermore, until that day when all the bless'd to
endless rest are called away!*

(continued)

***OPENING PRAYER**

Great Triune God, we have gathered here in your name as an act of faith, believing that you are not only among us, but that you love us. It is often hard to recognize your love, see your mercy, and feel your presence. Help us today in our worship, that we might be transparent to your grace, as you reveal yourself to each one of us. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

In joyous thanksgiving, we offer sacrifices of time and resources to announce God's healing grace to the world. It is our privilege to participate in God's wonderful works to humankind, to share the steadfast love that is saving us, and to offer life to those who are perishing.

If you did not place your offering in the plate on your way in, you can take it to the plate during the offertory or at the end of the service. And, if you are joining us on Facebook Live, we virtually pass the offering plate to you, too. As you listen to the offertory, you could use this moment to prepare your offering to mail into the church, or to drop off at the church, or you can go to the Hagerstowncob.org webpage and use PayPal to give your offering. Praise and thank the Lord that we can participate in his holy mission.

Offertory "Wondrous Love" (Curtis)

Doxology #119 "Praise God from Whom"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray. For life-sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted— for shelter, food, and meaningful tasks to do; for your steadfast love that awakens us and raises us from our sinful ways; for your word that guides and heals us – we give you thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of the church, may we show to others the immeasurable riches of your grace in Jesus Christ. Make this church a beacon of hope for the world. Amen.

(continued)

SPECIAL MUSIC *“I Will Lift Mine Eyes Unto the Hills”*
Brethren Bells and Organ (Moklebust)

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

*Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.
Please do not share any personal information you do not want public.
The usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

MESSAGE *“Getting Free Stuff”*
Pastor Twyla Rowe

(continued)

***HYMN #151** *“Marvelous grace of our loving Lord”*

[Verse 1]

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt, yonder on Calvary’s mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

[Refrain]

*Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within.
Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.*

[Verse 2]

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss. Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

[Refrain]

*Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within.
Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.*

[Verse 3]

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, freely bestowed on all who believe. You that are longing to see his face, will you this moment his grace receive?

Refrain

*Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within.
Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.*

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated. Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

***POSTLUDE** *“Irish Hymn”* (Chmura)

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*\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.*

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