

## TUMC Worshiping Together on Sunday June 14, 2020

Rev. Amy Overton-Harris



Good Morning Dear Ones,

**Song** [Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing](#) Shane & Shane



(flowers from Tami Weitman)

**Prayer** (Richard Eslinger)

We praise you with joy, loving God,  
For your grace is better than life itself.  
You have sustained us through the darkness,  
And you bless us with life in this new day.  
In the shadow of your wings we sing for joy  
And bless your holy name. Amen

**Joys and Concerns** (please send me your joys and concerns for prayer)

As always, please keep one another in your thoughts and prayers.

- All who are suffering with the Covid 19 virus.
- The frontline people who work on our behalf.
- Those who march and call for justice.
- George and Patt Bowlsby and Family as George's son David (58) is now on Hospice.
- Members of your own family each day.
- The folks who continue the work of our local church.
- For each person you lift up in your daily prayers.
- Mildred Wells, Colleen Rivers and family.
- Sharona Shnyder's graduation today.

## **Prayer**

O God, your Spirit works without ceasing, flowing as a great river through our lives. We have felt the power of your Spirit of grace seeking us out, lifting us up when the mire of the day seems too difficult to bear. We praise you, O God for grace abundant, for merciful love when we find ourselves in the midst of struggle and change. As we work for a new wave of justice, healing and wholeness for everyday life, we find ourselves embraced and freed to follow your call. Amen

## **The Lord's Prayer (Alternate Version from the New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book)**

*Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:*

*The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.*

*With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.*

*For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.  
Amen.*



**Song [Be Still My Soul](#) Selah**

**Scripture Reading: Romans 5: 1-5**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our LORD Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.



**Song** [Give Me Jesus](#) Jeremy Camp

Reflections : EVERY DAY GRACE

The word you see above in the green box is the Greek word that is often translated as “grace”. It probably won’t escape your notice that the word transliterated is “charis”. The words grace and charity are connected in many ways. If you were to try to define the word “grace” what would you say? Is it like love.... similar to forgiveness, maybe being nice to others, giving thanks, goodwill, generosity? I imagine that there is an array of options to define “grace”. Pause for a moment and think, “How would you describe your experience when you feel grace given to you?” I would say, GRACE brings justice.

And it is every day grace is what inspires me. When I say ‘everyday’ I think of something that we are called to live, give and receive each and every day. I also think we are called to make it something common, frequent, not just a once in a while occurrence. Would it surprise you to know that the word ‘grace’ is found in the Hebrew Scriptures about 9 times. Wait, nine? Yep, in the 27 books of the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) we find that word “grace” about 9 times, give or take a few, based on translations. AND would it surprise you to know that in the four Gospels in the New Testament, the word “grace” appears 4 times? Get outta here! In all the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John the word “grace” is found just 4 times?? Yup.

BUT in the Epistles in the New Testament (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians.....) the word “grace” appears 108 times. Hard to believe right?? Why? Why is it that “grace” is mentioned 108 times in the Epistles? In my opinion, it is because in the letters sent to local churches is where the rubber hits the road as they say. The Epistles overall deal with the experiences and problems that people are having in everyday life. Life goes along pretty well, when most things are looked at in theory in my experience. We can look around our cities and nation right now and see that living life “in theory” isn’t real life. Living life in theory covers up a myriad of injustices. And then when you actually have to live the grit of life ‘everyday’, it gets exponentially more difficult and many times, volatile.

Everyday Grace! Can’t we compromise and live God’s grace on our terms? You know, more realistic for our own wants and needs like : “once in a while grace”, “next week grace”, “not including my brother-in-law grace”, “not in my neighborhood grace”, “not until you pay me back grace”, “no non-July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks grace”, “only if you buy Starbucks grace” “if you stay in your own place grace”. You get the idea. That isn’t grace at all. The writers of the

Epistles were faced with the nitty gritty of daily life. And wow, it could be ugly, screaming injustice based on wealth, gender, race, religion.

The Apostle Paul wrote 7 of the Epistles in the New Testament. (Romans, Corinthians 1&2, Galatians, Philippians, Philemon, 1 Thessalonians). Paul had a ton of experience with each one of these church communities. Some were on the 'plus side' of the everyday grace scale like the Phillipians, and some, like the Corinthians, were on the 'downside' of everyday grace to put it nicely. Paul's unwavering love and grace demanded that a new community be formed. A community where grace meant justice; everyday justice, not just when it was convenient.

Paul's sense of call and ardent faith in the grace of God lived out in Jesus Christ for Every Day and Every One, was the cornerstone of his ministry to the end. That is hardly where Paul began his journey with Christ. Paul's personal history was one as a synagogue leader who persecuted and even murdered those who didn't fit it to the prescribed hierarchy of the day. And yet, toward the end of his life, everyday grace was his mainstay. Even in jail, facing execution, his everyday grace made no exceptions or exclusions. In God's grace, everyone fits into the plan of new life. We are called to walk in love and grace with one another in every tribulation and celebration. Paul wrote to his congregations knowing that portions of their lives were filled with suffering, abuse, and injustice.

Paul wrote this sequence of faith: "We know that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope and hope does not disappoint because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Suffering seems commonplace for many right now, but pause to imagine the suffering of the least among us. Maybe we are getting a flavor of enduring, but what do others endure if poor, homeless, immigrant? There needs to emerge is a reformed character that brings hope on every level.

For Paul, hope is not a wishful thinking, pie in the sky dream. Hope is grounded in the faithfulness of God. EVERY DAY GRACE. Every day, we hold fast to these words. Grace, endurance, character, hope, love. We have a long road ahead before we can all look justice in the face and proclaim that justice must be for all, not just for some. Theoretical love, grace, and justice have no meaning. We cannot pretend that our lives will ever be what they were before. And I say, it is time. We have an uphill and painfilled climb as we move forward. We have a long road ahead before we can feel any sense of relief from a virus that has claimed hundreds of thousands. We have a long road ahead before we can share an economic recovery. Grace is our dwelling place where we stand with God. God's goodness surrounds us, upholds us and makes us human, in the image of God.

The Rev. Dr. David Lose, who serves in the heart of riot ridden Minneapolis, preached these words to his people. "No tear shed is unnoticed by God. No hurt or frustration is unimportant to God. No tragedy is ignored by God. God is present with grace and hope." EVERY DAY.

Rev. Amy



Thank you Debbie Raby

Song: [You're Gonna Be Okay](#) Brian & Jenn Johnson

**Offering time**

We invite you to continue your gracious offerings to our congregation. You can use Automatic Bill Pay, set it up with your bank and they will send it to the church. You can always send a check by USPS. If you would like to donate electronically,

Go To our website: [www.tualatinumc.org](http://www.tualatinumc.org)  
 On the opening page of the Website,  
 you will find a blue link to donate on line.

**THANK YOU** so much for your generosity for the life of our church family, staff, and our ongoing ministry together. Mere words cannot express our deepest appreciation. With your help we will be able to pay our on-going bills and make employee payroll for the weeks ahead.



**Prayer: Prayer of Saint Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of thy Peace.

Where there is hatred,

**let me sow Love.**

Where there is injury, thy Pardon, Lord.

Where there is doubt, let there be Faith.

Oh Lord, make me an instrument of thy Peace.

Where there is despair,

**let me bring Hope.**

Where there is darkness, let there be Light.

Song [I Will Fear No More](#) The Afters

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Special thanks to our Music Director/ Pianist, Kathy Niguidula for our worship music selections for today.

**We NEED YOU!!! If you have some time during the week, we desperately need some yard care helpers! We are down to two people doing our yard maintenance: mowing, flower bed care, bush trimming etc. email me if you can help!! [amytumc@gmail.com](mailto:amytumc@gmail.com)**

### Good for Your Soul



**School Supply Distribution** is planned for late August again this year. It may look different with than in the past, but we still want to make sure our local kids start the school year with their school supply needs met. Most likely our distribution will be of more generic grade level kits that our volunteers put together in advance distributed in a drive-by type set up. We are starting to work out the details now.

**What need now is the money to buy the supplies. Please give generously via the same manner you give your offering, just mark the donation "School Supplies." Our goal is to raise \$4,000 which will enable us to buy all our needs for at least 200 kids.**

This will be our 5<sup>th</sup> year hosting this ministry. In 2019 we served 188 kids. This year we are gearing up to serve 200+. Because of our desire to follow all requirements to keep our donors, volunteers and safe and healthy, we prefer not to have school supplies purchased individually. Our local Fred Meyer Manager, John Prochovnic, has agreed to provide our purchasers with the best price of the summer season for all our school supply needs.

Thank you all for your generous hearts!

Emilie Kroen  
Schools Supply Distribution Team Leader

Good resources for current events: (From Emilie Kroen)

I'm Still Here by Austin Channing Brown

Me and White Supremacy by Lalya F Saad

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Here's the video link on the Ellen Show.

<https://www.ellentube.com/campaigns/black-lives-matter.html>

tWitch and Allison Now Have Deeper Conversations About Race