

# Worship Leader Guide

DATE: Sunday, March 9, 2025

SERIES: Drink From the Fountain of Grace

Preacher: Pastor Amy

Liturgist: Loween P

Accompanist: Leigh Ann C

Greeters/Ushers:

Media Technicians: Tammy M

Nursery Attendant: Shirley C

[9:55 AM]

PRELUDE "In His Presence" by James Denton

[10:00 AM]

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

### WELCOME & WORDS OF GRACE

**Amy:** The Lord be with you!

I am pastor Amy, and I use she/her pronouns, and I am glad that you are starting this Sunday morning here at Grace UMC. It is a joy to welcome you today whether you are here in our sanctuary today or joining us on livestream. We know we have a wonderful, diverse group of folks that come to worship with us online.

Friends, no matter where you come from today, or where you go at the close of this service, no matter what you believe or doubt, no matter what you feel or don't feel today, no matter your immigration status, no matter whom you love, you're welcome to come just as you are to be met by our God who knows you by name and who loves you and who wants to have an ever closer relationship with you. You are welcome here.

Let's pray: Lord of mercy and grace, we thank you for the gift of your presence here today. We come to you as broken vessels. We acknowledge that breaking is part of life. We ask that through the power of your Holy Spirit you heal not only us, but all who are broken. You and only you can bring purpose and beauty out of our brokenness and make us whole. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Liturgist moves to the pulpit.

Liturgist: Please stand as you are able and comfortable and join me in the call to worship.

### CALLING ON GOD

One: Our ordinary, messy lives are filled with the light and love of Jesus!

**Many: We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord in our ordinary, messy lives!**

One: We are servants for Jesus' sake, surrendering to God's power at work in us.

**Many: Even in our trouble, uncertainty, and confusion,**

One: We are servants for Jesus' sake, surrendering to God's power at work in us.

**Many: Even in persecution we've endured, even when we've been thrown down,**

One: We surrender to God's power at work in our ordinary, messy lives.

**Many: Let's light up this dark world with Jesus' light and love!**

**Liturgist:** Let's lift our voices together in our opening hymn, #269 Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days.

**OPENING HYMN:** [UMH #269 Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days](#)

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us gracious lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence and through thy passion-tide  
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 18:1-11

**Liturgist:** Today's first lesson comes from Jeremiah 18.

Jeremiah received the Lord's word: <sup>2</sup>Go down to the potter's house, and I'll give you instructions about what to do there. <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter's house; he was working on the potter's wheel. <sup>4</sup>But the piece he was making was flawed while still in his hands, so the potter started on another, as seemed best to him. <sup>5</sup>Then the Lord's word came to me: <sup>6</sup>House of Israel, can't I deal with you like this potter, declares the Lord? Like clay in the potter's hand, so are you in mine, house of Israel! <sup>7</sup>At any time I may announce that I will dig up, pull down, and destroy a nation or kingdom; <sup>8</sup>but if that nation I warned turns from its evil, then I'll relent and not carry out the harm I intended for it. <sup>9</sup>At the same time, I may announce that I will build and plant a nation or kingdom; <sup>10</sup>but if that nation displeases and disobeys me, then I'll relent and not carry out the good I intended for it. <sup>11</sup>Now say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem: This is what the Lord says: I am a potter preparing a disaster for you; I'm working out a plan against you. So each one of you, turn from your evil ways; reform your ways and your actions. <sup>12</sup>But they said, "What's the use! We will follow our own plans and act according to our own willful, evil hearts."  
One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.  
Many: Thanks be to God.

## ANTHEM "I Choose Love" by Mark A. Miller

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**Amy:** Now, let us pass the peace of Christ with one another.

### JOY & CONCERNS

**Amy:** As we make our way back to our seats, we will move into a time of prayer. Are there joys and concerns that you would like to lift, so that we can be in prayer and praise with each other today and in this coming week?

### PRAYER HYMN UMH #382 Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Have thine own way, Lord!

Have thine own way!

Thou art the potter;

I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me  
after thy will,  
while I am waiting,  
yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Search me and try me,  
Savior today!  
Wash me just now, Lord,  
wash me just now,  
as in thy presence  
humbly I bow.

Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Wounded and weary,  
help me I pray!  
Power, all power,  
surely is thine!  
Touch me and heal me,  
Savior divine!

Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being  
absolute sway.  
Fill with thy Spirit  
till all shall see  
Christ only, always,  
living in me!

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Healing One,

We don't have to look far to see that there are broken places in the world and in ourselves.

Forgive us for ways we have contributed to brokenness  
through our sharpness, our carelessness, or our denial.

Forgive us for ways we have tried to hide or fix ourselves.

Help us not be afraid or ashamed of our brokenness  
but help us lift it to Jesus, the Great Healer.

Help us believe that transformation is possible  
and that it shines like gold through the cracks.

Forgive us, quench us, make us whole, all in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Amy:**

**The Lord's Prayer**

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

**Amy:**

As our Lenten journey begins, God invites us to view our lives through the lens of holy possibility. Trusting in God's creative touch, we give our gifts, that they may be transformed into signs of new life.

Thank you for giving support to the ministries and mission of Grace. We cannot be a beacon of hope to this community and to each other without your faithful giving.

There are many ways that you can give today. There is an offering box at the back of the sanctuary. You can give online at [graceumcbillings.org/give](http://graceumcbillings.org/give) or you can text to give as well. You can text (406) 660-3699 and follow the prompts to give that way as well. Whatever you give, great or small, thank you for giving so we can continue to spread God's love for all people to all the folk we meet.

Let's pray: Bless our gifts, Creative God, that they may become streaks of gold, shining through the brokenness of the world. Through your touch may our giving bring beauty into view. Amen.

## SECOND LESSON 2 Corinthians 4:5-11

**Amy:**

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, <sup>9</sup>persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, <sup>10</sup>always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For we who are living are always being handed over to death for Jesus's sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh.

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

**MESSAGE** Drink from the Fountain of Grace: The Broken Cup

**CLOSING HYMN** UMH #369 Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,

praising my Savior all the day long;

this is my story, this is my song,

praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,

visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

## **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**Amy:**

Postlude: "Postlude G Minor" by George Blake

Leigh Ann Corcoran, Minister of Music

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

<https://billingsgrace.breezechms.com/form/virtualpewcard>