



This week, we continue exploring the theme of grace through the lens of the musical/book *Les Misérables*, and the book by Matt Rawle. We have seen the amazing gift of grace the bishop gave to Jean Valjean and the invitation to live in a new way. Yet, not everyone can accept this gift of grace. Javert, the police inspector who follows Jean Valjean around throughout the movie, cannot accept grace. He cannot allow Valjean to change—to Javert, he will always be prisoner 24601. For Javert, justice alone matters, and justice comes in the form of punishment. Our scripture demonstrates that tension between justice and grace. The scribes and Pharisees cannot abide by the grace that Jesus lives. They want to trap him, so they bring a woman caught in the act of adultery. Surely, Jesus will agree that they need to stone her. After all, that was the law. Instead, Jesus reveals God's way of navigating the tension between justice and grace. Let's discover that new way together.

## EPWORTH

a United Methodist Church

19285 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971  
(302) 227-7743 ☩ [www.eumcrb.org](http://www.eumcrb.org)



*VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community*

*MISSION: Inviting All, Finding Your Place, Connecting to God, Demonstrating Care*

☩ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ☩

### Invocation

### HOLY SPIRIT

There's nothing worth more that could ever come close.  
No thing can compare; You're our living hope. Your presence, Lord.

I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves,  
where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone.  
Your presence, Lord.

*Holy Spirit, You are welcome here.  
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere.  
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for,  
to be overcome by Your presence, Lord.  
Your presence, Lord. {Repeat to top}*

Let us become more aware of Your presence.

Let us experience the glory of Your goodness. {Repeat section 4X total – then 1<sup>st</sup> four lines of Chorus}<sup>1</sup>

## Welcome & Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth

Gwen Osborne

### \*Opening Hymn

*For the Healing of the Nations*

UMH 428

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word)  
help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, restored to health and wellness, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase, (hope increase)  
fear will die and hope increase.
3. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, (may find)  
earth its destiny may find.

### Children's Celebration

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

## ☞ WE ENGAGE THE WORD ☛

### \*Gospel Lesson

*John 8:1-11*

John Gauger

While Jesus went to the Mount of Olives, early in the morning he came again to the temple.  
All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them.  
The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and  
making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in  
the very act of committing adultery.  
Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women.  
Now what do you say?"  
They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him.  
Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.  
When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone  
among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."  
And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground.  
When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was

left alone with the woman standing before him.  
Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they?  
Has no one condemned you?”  
She said, “No one, sir.”  
And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you.  
Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

Brothers and Sisters,  
This is the Word of God for the People of God.

§Thanks be to God

## Anthem

REDEEMED

Doug or Laurie

Seems like all I could see was the struggle. Haunted by ghosts that lived in my past.  
Bound up in shackles of all my failures, wond'rin': how long is this gonna last?  
Then you looked at this pris'ner and say to me “Son,  
stop fighting a fight that’s already been won.”

*(1) I am redeemed. You've set me free.  
So I'll shake off these heavy chains and wipe away ev'ry stain.  
Now I'm not who I used to be. I am redeemed.  
I am redeemed.*

All my life I have been called “unworthy,” named by the voice of my shame and regret.  
But when I hear You whisper, “Child, lift up your head,”  
I remember, O God, You're not done with me yet.

*(2) I am redeemed. You set me free.  
So I'll shake off these heavy chains and wipe away ev'ry stain  
Now I'm not who I used to be.*

*(Bridge)* Because I don't have to be the old man inside of me,  
'cause his day is long dead and gone.  
Because I've got a new name, a new life, I'm not the same.  
And the hope that will carry me home:

*(3) I am redeemed. You set me free.  
So I shake off these heavy chains, and wipe away ev'ry stain, 'cause I'm not who I used to be.  
I am redeemed. You set me free.  
So I'll shake off these heavy chains and wipe away ev'ry stain.  
Now I'm not who I used to be.  
O God, I'm not who I used to be.  
Jesus, I'm not who I used to be, 'cause I am redeemed.  
Thank God, redeemed<sup>2</sup>*

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

☞ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ☞

**\*Hymn of Response**

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

UMH 390

Tune: AMAZING GRACE

1. "Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
2. How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?
3. In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:  
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.  
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

**Invitation to Offering**

*Please sign the blue Connections Pad and pass it down the row.*

Vicki

*Offerings are given through cash and check, on-line giving, Texting at 302-488-0038*

*and by using our Giving Kiosk in the main lobby. There are Giving Cards in the pews to place in the plate, if you wish*

*Bless your heart for supporting our ministries!*

**Offertory:**

YOU SAY

Laurie Kuebler, soloist

I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough,  
ev'ry single lie that tells me I will never measure up.  
Am I more than just the sum of ev'ry high and ev'ry low?  
Remind me once again just who I am, because I need to know. Oo, oh.

*You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing.*

*You say I am strong when I think I am weak.*

*You say I am held when I am falling short.*

*And, when I don't belong, oh, You say I am Yours,*

*and I believe, oh, I believe, what You say of me. I believe.*

The only thing that matters now is ev'rything You think of me.  
In You I find my worth, in You I find my identity. Oo, oh. {Chorus}

Taking all I have, and now I'm laying it at Your feet.  
You'll have ev'ry failure, God; You'll have ev'ry victory. Oo, oh. {Chorus}

TAG: *Oh, I believe Yes, I believe what You say of me. I believe.* <sup>3</sup>

**Morning Prayer**

Gwen

**The Lord's Prayer**

UMH 895

§ Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Prayer Response**

*God, How Can We Forgive*

FWS 2169

Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,  
when you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?  
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.  
As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

☞ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ☞

**\*Benediction**

Vicki

**(PICK A VERSE)**

*Go Walk with God*

TUNE: OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

1. Go walk with God in all you do, and may God's love bring joy to you.  
May gifts of peace fill all your days, and may God's truth guide you always.
2. O may the grace of Christ our Lord, the wondrous love that comes from God,  
the Spirit's fellowship now be God's gifts to you eternally.
3. We thank you, Lord, for life we share in learning, serving, praise and prayer.  
And when we say good-bye to friends, we thank you, Lord: Love never ends.

**\*Sending Forth**

*TRUST IN YOU*

Letting go of ev'ry single dream, I lay each one down at Your feet.  
Ev'ry moment of my wandering never changes what You see.  
I've tried to win this war, I confess. My hands are weary, I need Your rest.  
Mighty Warrior, King of the fight, no matter what I face, You're by my side.

*When You don't move the mountains I'm needing You to move,  
When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through,  
When You don't give the answers as I cry out to You, I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You.*

Truth is, You know what tomorrow brings; there's not a day ahead You have not seen.  
So, in all things be my life and breath. I want what You want, Lord, and nothing less.

{Chorus}

*Bridge:* I will trust in you.

You are my strength and comfort, You are my steady hand.  
You are my firm foundation, the Rock on which I stand.  
Your ways are always higher, Your plans are always good.  
There's not a place where I'll go You've not already stood. {Chorus}

TAG: I will trust in You. I will trust in You. I will trust in You. <sup>4</sup>

## Postlude

Doug Yetter, organ

\* = *Please stand as you are able*; S = *congregational response*



**Bulletins** for the month of May are sponsored in loving memory of Robert Greenawalt's death 8 years ago, May 5, by his Wife and Family.

**Stephen Ministers**, wearing blue name badges, will be at each service if anyone in the Epworth family wants to talk about any life challenges.

**The special Peace Candle on the Chancel** shines to remind us of God's desire for peace throughout our world and our call to be God's peacemakers.

**DVD and Broadcast Ministries:** All Church Service at Epworth are presented using multimedia technology. The screens above the Chancel area are used for text, videos, photographs and live cameras. Each service is digitally recorded for archive purposes as well as for distribution to our homebound members on DVD. These recording may also be broadcast or archived on our web page. Therefore; you may, at any time, be seen and recorded on camera - anywhere throughout the Sanctuary.

### Assisting with today's service as

**Greeters:**

**Sound:** Sharon Wert, Josh Megee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman, Sofia Tamburello, Tommy Vyas

**Ushers:** Head Usher: Russ Mullen  
Usher Coordinator -

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**Ministers:** The Church Family... *Lay Leader:* Gwen Osborne

*Senior Pastor:* Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

*Director of Music Ministries:* Doug Yetter ... *Accompanist:* Linda Jo Hess ... *Coordinator of Caring Ministries:* Mickie McManamon

*Communications & Technologies Manager:* Kenneth Mahan ... *Office Manager:* Darlene Ford

*Special Projects:* Debbie Hunt ... *Administrative Assistant:* Barbara Kurtz ... *Sound Tech:* Josh Megee ... *ASL Interpreter:* Sandy Davis

*Preschool Director:* Betsy Plowman ... *Nursery:* Cathy Crawford ... *Cemetery Superintendent:* Jay Stevenson

*Custodian:* Wanda Hudson...*Maintenance:* Mike Harrigan



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**Please see an Usher for assistance**



**American Sign Language**  
**at 9:15 Service**



**Affiliated with other United Methodists for greater inclusiveness through the Reconciling Ministries Network**  
**www.RMNetwork.org**

**worship@epworth**  
**7:45 & 11:15 - Traditional 9:15 - Contemporary**

### Worship Resources

Song lyrics by permission of CCLI license no. 1019082.

<sup>1</sup> *Holy Spirit:* Bryan Torwalt & Katie Torwalt @2011 Jesus Culture Music & Capitol CMG Genesis

<sup>2</sup> *Redeemed:* Benji Cowart, Michael Weaver ©2011 Word Music, LLC, Weave Country

<sup>3</sup> *You Say:* Lauren Daigle, Jason Ingram & Paul Mabury ©2018 Centric Songs & See You At The Pub (SESAC)

<sup>4</sup> *Trust in You :* Michael Farren, Lauren Ashley Daigle & Paul Mabury, ©2014 Farren Love and War Pub.