**Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

**Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

"Accepting that one is accepted is the paradox of salvation without which there would be no salvation but only despair."

- Paul Tillich

**Prelude**

Prelude in C Major

Louis Vierne

* **Call to Worship**

Thinking we know all the answers, yet wondering if we haven't missed something:

**we enter this sanctuary of truth.**

In the company of sinners and saints alike:

**we gather as God's people.**

Standing by folks of deep, abiding faith;

seated with those who stumble through the Kingdom:

**we lift our praise to God.**

* **Hymn 409**

God Is Here!

**ABBOT'S LEIGH**

* **Call to Reconciliation**
* Prayer of Confession

God of Love, we fill our souls with the empty sounds of our culture, and wonder why we are so empty when we need words of hope, of grace, of comfort.
We are careful to follow the prescriptions our doctors give us, yet pay little heed to your hopes for us.
We puff out our chests over what good people we are, yet do not notice how our pride trips those who seek to follow Jesus. Please forgive us, renew, and make us whole. Amen.

* Assurance of Forgiveness

In the beginning was God, and at the end will be God, and in every moment in between, there is God: creating, redeeming, sustaining us.
And through Christ, gracious love is poured into our empty souls; through the Spirit, peace becomes the gift we can share with those around us. Thanks be to God.

* Response

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Psalter

Psalm 150

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Give Yourself to This”
Kristy Farber

Silent Meditation

Hymn 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters
BEACH SPRING

[Any children wishing to sit on the stairs to celebrate Sofia’s baptism, please join Heather Gast there during the last stanza of the hymn]

Sacrament of Baptism for Sofia Keenan Bolivar
(daughter of Omar & Bre Bolivar)

Faith Sharing with Children

Affirmation of Faith (from the Iona community)

With the whole church
We affirm that we are made in God’s image
Befriended by Christ,
Empowered by the Spirit;
With people everywhere
We affirm God’s goodness at the heart of humanity,
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong;
Will all creation
We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,
The unfolding purposes of God,
Forever at work in ourselves and in the world. Amen.

Our Life Together (Please sign the Friendship Pad located in your pew)

Offering (Please place prayer cards in the offering plate for the Prayers of the People)
Prayer of Dedication
Offertory Anthem    Down to the River to Pray    arr. Michael S. Pettersen
Doxology

* God, we honor you. God, we trust in you.

Bm Em/G A Dsus D

God, we worship and adore you.

D G A7 D

Take what we bring, offered to you.

Bm Em/G A Dsus D

Teach us to show your abundant blessings.

D G A7 D

Alleluia, alleluia,

Bm Em/G A Dsus D

alleluia, amen.

RENEWING COVENANT PROMISES

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer (using “debts...debtors”)

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
And the glory, forever. Amen.
**Remembering Our Baptism**

Baptism is a sign and seal of the new life given to us by God and nurtured by the love of God. We are to reject sin and to put our trust in Jesus Christ who calls us by name in baptism and fills our every need at the Lord’s Table.

Do you renounce evil and its power in the world, which defies God’s righteousness and love? **We renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ? **Yes! Day by day, we seek to trust Jesus.**

Do you intend to be Christ’s faithful disciple, trusting his promises, obeying his word, and showing his love as long as you live? **With God’s help, yes.**

**Bread, Cup and Water**

*Please come forward by the middle aisles, beginning with the front pews. Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup. After communion, you may take a bead from the bowls of water to remember your own baptism. Return to your pew by the outside aisles. You may be served in your pew if you do not wish to come forward.*

**Music During Communion**

**Prayer**

* Hymn 741  
Guide My Feet

**Charge and Benediction**

* Postlude  
Fugue  
Dietrich Buxtehude

(For some, the Voluntary serves as festive music to accompany their going back out into the world. Others prefer to remain seated and listen. Please be mindful of these different needs as you depart. Thank you!)

* Please Stand in Body or Spirit.

*We gather to worship God who is larger than all our imagination! We encourage all persons to sing the gender nouns and pronouns they prefer in referring to God.*

**Children’s Understanding of Communion**

We welcome all God’s children to celebrate in the joyful feast of communion. If you have any specific questions about this, please feel free to meet with the staff or join us for our Lord’s Supper Workshop on April 17 during Education Hour.
Thank You!
Head Usher: Beth Kissling | Liturgist: Heather Brown

The flowers that decorate our sanctuary this morning are given in loving memory of Sarah Harwell and in joyful celebration of her life by her husband, James, and her son, Greg.

Today is Kristy’s last Sunday preaching at Grace Covenant. If you would like to make a monetary gift to Kristy in honor of her almost six years of service to Grace Covenant, Asheville, and beyond, Kate Shem will be collecting contributions through today to present her with one consolidated gift. Please contact her at kateshem@gmail.com for more information or bring your gift to the office to Heather Gast.

real.life.stories.
real.life.stories | January 10 | 4:30 PM (Note earlier time) | Avenue M Childcare at GCPC | Theme for the evening: "Better Left Unsaid"

Listen to Amy Fowler, Cory Hartbarger, Mary Lou Nash, Karen Rohls, Lisa Reed and Ryan Madamba tell a first-person story centered on the theme “Better Left Unsaid.” Childcare begins at 4 PM. Dress rehearsal is open to anyone who would like to attend and will be held in the sanctuary on January 8 at 5:30 PM.
Grow
Weekly Bible Study | Wednesdays | 11 AM | Conference Room
Join GCPC pastors to study 1 Samuel. No preparation needed, just come ready to open scripture and discuss.

2016 Winter Women’s Memoir Series | Monday, Jan. 11 | 6:15 PM | Library
Hosted by Heather Gast, Rebecca Gurney, and Samantha Gonzalez-Block and open to all women of the church. Join us tomorrow night to discuss the first memoir in our series!

Jan. 11 | Stories of My Life | Katherine Patterson

Women’s Spiritual Retreat | February 4-7, 2016 | Folly Beach, SC $140
Don’t forget!!! Registration deadline is TODAY! This getaway is designed as a weekend of contemplation and togetherness for women ages 25-50ish. Our focus this year is "Spiritual Practices for Ordinary Life." Registration forms are available at the Information Station or on the website under GROW. Please email Heather (hgast@gcpcusa.org) with any questions.

Our Common Home: Reflections on the Pope’s Encyclical, Climate Justice, and the Call to Hope
Tuesday, January 19 | 7 PM | Alumni Hall on UNC Asheville Campus
Leading national experts to discuss faith and climate change in Asheville! Wake Forest University School of Divinity, in partnership with Creation Care Alliance of Western NC and UNC Asheville’s Office of Sustainability, will convene a panel discussion in Asheville, bringing four nationally-recognized experts to discuss issues of environmental justice. This event is free and open to the public although advance registration is requested. Go to events.wfu.edu and search for Our Common Home.

Serve
North Asheville Winter Tailgate Market
Saturdays | 10-12:30 PM | GCPC Fellowship Hall
The North Asheville Winter Tailgate, sponsored by the YMCA, operates in the Grace Covenant Fellowship Hall on Saturdays. Please note that the YMCA will have a market booth on January 23. They will be conducting balance and glucose screens at no cost.

Social Media Help Wanted
Presbyterian Women (PW) of Western North Carolina has started a robust Women’s Microloan Program in Guatemala. They are seeking someone to help with social media coaching to better tell the Microloan story and broadcast its Good News. Specifically they need help in establishing Facebook presence and scheduling regular posts and suggestions on establishing stronger internet presence to convey the microloan story. For more information please contact Barbara Mclean, barbaram_2@charter.net. Join with Presbyterian Women in their work in Guatemala empowering women through microloans.
Care
Prayer List
[We are happy to pray for anyone who is in need. Concerns will stay on this list for a month unless we hear otherwise. Please keep us updated.]
Jerusalem Church congregation; Linda Albin (Les & Susan Stradley’s friend); JoDell Hawthorne (Donna Robertson’s cousin); Dorothy LaRue Sloane (Donna Robertson’s cousin); Natalie DeVito (Karen Rohls’ daughter); Tricia & Steve Minnick (Mary Lou Nash’s friends); Susie Moore (Ray Kisiah’s sister); Lindseae Becker (Tyler Ander’s friend); Brenda Taylor (Florence Riedesel’s cousin); Bob McMillan (Ashley Park’s father); Ian Craig (Mary Craig’s son); George Dowdle (Karen Rohls’ friend); Joyce Fox (Ginnie Stevens’ sister); Pam Morrell (Penny Ponder’s daughter); Rita DiGiantomasso (Karen Rohls’ sister); Betty Horne (Mary Ellen Horne’s mother); Rudy Fenk (Cathy Froehlich’s father) Heath & Peggy Rada (Moderator of the PCUSA General Assembly); Barrett & Ali Payne (In Seminary); Mark & Heather Merritt (In Seminary); Emma, Savannah and Summer; Richard Simons; Jack & Betty Smith; Mimi Aldridge; Susan Stradley; Virginia Bradley; Lois and Donald Dossey; Hettie Lou Garland

Our sympathy and support are extended to James Harwell and family on the death of Sarah Harwell, on January 3. Please keep them in your prayers.

Updating the Online Directory | January 24 & 31 | Photographer in narthex
The last two Sundays in January deacons will be in the narthex taking photos and updating information for our GCPC directory. If you don't have a photograph in the directory, please stop by their table and have one taken. Or you can email a photo of yourself or your family to Anna Louise (almurchison@gcpcusa.org). On that note, if you don’t have access to the directory, or have misplaced your password, you can email Anna Louise to gain access.

GCPC Roller Skating Party! | Saturday, January 16 | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Tarwheels Skateway
Families, youth, singles, everyone...come on out and roller skate with us! The cost is $6 per person with a family cap of $25. Please RSVP to nquick@gcpcusa.org and pay by Monday, January 11.

Kitchen Clean up!
The kitchen refrigerator and freezer have, once again, collected an abundance of extra items over the past months. They will both be cleaned out of all old food, condiments, etc. on Monday, Jan. 18th. If you have anything of yours that you need to pick up, please do so by Sunday, January 17th.
Youth News

Youth Nashville Trip: Turn in the Full Amount & Copy of Insurance Card!
Please keep our 21 youth and chaperones in your prayers as we travel to Nashville from Friday, Jan. 15 - Monday, Jan. 18. The full cost of the trip is $195. If you have registered and paid the $50 deposit, please turn in the rest of the amount ($145) to Nancy in the church office ASAP, along with a copy of your youth's medical insurance card. Full and partial scholarships are available upon request.

Register for Middle & High School Montreat Youth Conferences by January 12th for a Reduced Fee | Summer 2016
Time to register! The Middle School Youth Conference (July 20-24) is for youth who will have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade by this summer. The discounted cost is $285. The Senior High Conference (June 12-18) is for youth who have completed 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade by this summer. The discounted cost is $385. Full and partial scholarships are available upon request. *Please turn in the registration form and $100 deposit to Nancy, nquick@gcpcusa.org in the church office by Tuesday, January 12th. Contact Samantha if you are interested in serving as a chaperone.

Support
Stock Donations
If you've made a donation to Grace Covenant in the form of shares of appreciated stock in the last few months and have not spoken with Bill Gettys about that gift, please contact him at bgettys@gcpcusa.org or by telephone at 828.254.3274 extension 202.
Next Sunday's Education for All Ages | 9:15 AM

**Pressure Points | Library**
Pressure Points class explores thorny issues that challenge those of us in the 21st century church. We will start a new study in January using a book, *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World* by Brian McLaren.

**Bible Study | Sunroom**
Over the course of this year, we will be diving into scripture as we study a book of the Bible together. We read a passage, have a lively discussion about it, and then move on as time allows. No preparation needed, just show up. Currently we are studying the gospel of Mark.

**Journeys | Jerusalem Room**
The Journeys class discusses and analyzes everything from scriptural texts, to historical expressions of faith, to current writings, with the goal of better understanding our own contemporary faith and the actions to which it calls us.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH EDUCATION** [Contact Heather or Samantha]

**Preschool:** The Exile and Return  
**Elementary:** The Ark and the Tent

**Middle School**
Get ready for another great morning of conversation and tough faith questions using the *re:form* curriculum. Enjoy delicious snacks and great company! Don't miss out on the fun!

**Senior High**
Enjoy continuing to roll through the Wired Word curriculum with Amy and Sheryl. Let's discuss this week's headlines together while we enjoy delicious snacks. See you there!
Next Sunday, January 17, 2016  
Education Hour at 9:15 AM  
Worship at 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM  

Sermon: “Today” by Rebecca Gurney  
Scriptures: Psalm 19; Luke 4:14-21

CALENDAR

Sunday    10    8:30 AM    Worship  
           9:15 AM    Education Hour  
           10:30 AM    Worship  
           4:30 PM    real.life.stories @ Ave. M  

Monday    11    6:15 PM    Memoir Series  

Tuesday    12    9:00 AM    Prayer Group  
           6:00 PM    Serve  

Wednesday    13    11:00 AM    Bible study  
                   6:00 PM    Church Dinner Brainstorming  
                   7:00 PM    Chancel choir  

Saturday    16    10:00 AM    Winter Tailgate Market  
           5:00 PM    Family/Parents Night Out  

Sunday    17    8:30 AM    Worship  
           9:15 AM    Education Hour  
           10:30 AM    Worship  
           11:30 AM    Deacons  
           4:00 PM    PW coordinating team  

Monday    18    Office closed
SESSION
Pastors: Kristy Farber; Samantha Gonzalez-Block; Rebecca Gurney; Cam Murchison
Clerk: Mary Lou Nash

CLASS OF 2015
Heather Brown
Nat Burkhardt
Amber Cook
Tim Hamel
Margaret Tierney

CLASS OF 2016
David Bailey
Sandra Dykes
Anna Jarvis
Serge Kavallhuna

CLASS OF 2017
Mark Clevenger
Keaton Hill
Tiffany Kinnaird
Susan Meade
Jordan Stokes

BOARD OF DEACONS
Jerry Bleckley
Jan Brunk
Nan Clarke
John Curry
Gordon Gaiser
Judy McDonough
Aaron Schnurbusch
Linda Stirk

WELCOME STATEMENT
Trusting that God’s grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, Grace Covenant intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.

GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Associate Pastor: Rebecca Gurney — rgurney@gcpusa.org
Children’s Ministries: Heather Gast—hgast@gcpusa.org
Music Ministries: Jeff Jones—jjones@gcpusa.org
Transitional Pastoral Associate: Cam Murchison — cmurchison@gcpusa.org
Operations Administrator: Nancy Quick—nquick@gcpusa.org
Communications: Anna Louise Murchison —almurchison@gcpusa.org
Church Treasurer: Bill Gettys—bgettys@gcpusa.org
Sexton: Chris Hartbarger — sexton@gcpusa.org

Scan this code for fast, secure online giving. Thank you!

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN in the bins next to the glass doors.