



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church and Winter Streets, Hagerstown, Maryland
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Reverend Dionne T. Hall, Pastor

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If you are on Facebook, "like" our page at www.facebook.com/graceuntoyou

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

Sermon Series: *Stories That Matter*

Greeting

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Unless we hear God's voice, we will not believe.

People: Our believing is an act of faith.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, I welcome you to worship this fifth Sunday of Easter as we journey into 50 days of Resurrection wonder. During this season, we reflect on our Risen Lord and shout with joy because we too have seen him. May God grant us grace as we encounter the Risen Christ.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude 'Canticle on St. Fulbert' – Gordon Slater (1896-1976)

The Light of Christ Enters the Sanctuary

Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Leader: In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Leader: In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:

People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Leader: In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Leader: Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth, and our life.

People: Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Opening Hymn "He Lives"

1. I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today; I know that he is living, whatever foes may say. I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, he's always near.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

2. In all the world around me I see his loving care, and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair. I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast; the day of his appearing will come at last.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King! The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find; none other is so loving, so good and kind.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God, we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit. You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking, but with the milk of your truth, you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ. You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope, and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come. Meet us here, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. *Amen.*

Children's Message

Psalter: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

A reading from the psalms

I commend my spirit

Leader: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

People: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

Leader: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me;

People: take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Leader: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God. My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

People: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Here ends the reading of the Word.

Gospel Hymn "How Great Thou Art"

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze; Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin; Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Gracious God, as we listen to your holy Word, open our hearts to the power of your Spirit, call us out of darkness, and lead us into your marvelous light. *Amen.*

Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-14

A reading of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

Christ the way, truth, life

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, *"Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"*

Jesus said to him, ***"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."***

Philip said to him, *"Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."*

Jesus said to him,

"Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Pastor: "The word of God for the people of God."

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Preparation: *Lead Me, guide me, along the way. For if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

"You Know the Way"

Rev. Dionne T. Hall

John 14:1 – 14

Response to the Word: *Lead Me, guide me, along the way. For if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

The third day he arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Let us join our hearts in prayer, saying, God of resurrection,

People: hear our prayer.

For the church throughout the world, that all who profess to honor the risen Lord may be faithful in their witness and courageous in their testimony to the way of Jesus; God of resurrection,

People: hear our prayer.

For pastors, teachers, and ministers, especially Bishop Easterling and our District Superintendent Reverend Wunderlich, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, they may seek to build the church upon Christ, the cornerstone, and humbly lead in faithful service; God of resurrection,

People: hear our prayer.

For the governments of the world and its leaders, that the nations may dwell in peace, that good will prevail over conflict, and people of faith may freely worship as their hearts direct; God of resurrection,

People: hear our prayer.

For the sick and those in need, and for any who are oppressed by wounds of the soul; God of resurrection,
People: hear our prayer.

For rain and sun in proper measure, and for abundant food and water for all who dwell upon the earth; God of resurrection,
People: hear our prayer.

For our neighbors that we may live together in amity, and that strangers among us may find us to be hospitable friends; God of resurrection,
People: hear our prayer.

For our enemies, that their sins may be forgiven them and that they may find your peace; God of resurrection,
People: hear our prayer.

Almighty God, your Son promised to grant whatever we ask in his name. By your Holy Spirit, empower us to minister to the world as his faithful disciples that our work may testify to what we pray and show forth your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Siblings in Christ,
this is the joyful feast of the people of God,
a table prepared for us in the presence of our enemies,
a banquet of love in the face of hatred.

Here God's love for us overflows,
and here we find the depth of God's kindness and mercy
as we share this strange and wonderful feast in God's house.
So let us pray for God's full presence with us here, for our great shepherd is our host and invites us to meet him here.

Call to Confession

Whoever believes in Christ will not be put to shame. Confident in this promise, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Almighty God:

Your word offers freedom from sin, but we confess that we have not obeyed your word. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been deceitful in our relationships; we have been insincere in our commitments; through gossip we have slandered our friends. Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance. Help your children long for your pure, spiritual milk that we may grow into the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance (responsive)

Leader: Friends, hear the good news: Jesus came not to condemn us, but to love us and save us and show us the way. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

People: Alleluia! Amen.

Passing of the Peace (responsive)

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

People: And also with you.

Invitation to the Offering

As people of God, let us offer ourselves and the fruit of our labor for God's work in the world.

Offertory Anthem 'Behold The Tabernacle' – William Harris (1883-1973)

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Way-Making God, your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, and the life—calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we've heard your voice. In Christ's name. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving for Easter

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Communion Anthem 'O For A Closer Walk With God' – C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

Communion Hymn "Let Us Break Bread Together"

1. Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees) let us break bread together on our knees. (On our knees) When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. (On me)

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees, (on our knees) let us drink wine together on our knees. (On our knees) When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. (On me)

3. Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees) let us praise God together on our knees. (On our knees) When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. (On me)

4. Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees) let us praise God together on our knees. (On our knees) When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy if you please. (If you please)

Prayer after Communion

Triune God, you have fed us with the body and blood of Christ, uniting us with you, filling us with the power that raised Jesus from the dead. Send us, rejoicing, to declare with Mary, in hearts, and hands, and voices, that day has dawned, and we have seen the Risen Lord. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn “God Be with You till We Meet Again” (vs 1 – 2)

1. God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet; till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again; neath his wings securely hide you, daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet; till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude 'Postlude' – John Naylor (1838-1897)

The Light of Christ goes into the world.

Charge

Go forth to serve in the name of our risen Lord.

Benediction

May God bless you as you leave this place to follow the Way, to seek after the Truth, and to rejoice in the Life of the Triune God who draws us together and sends us out to be agents of Resurrection life in a hurting world. Amen.

Grace Notes

May 3, 2026

Mission Statement: *Glorify God ~ Draw All to Christ ~ Edify & Equip*

From the Pastor: In John 20, Thomas serves as a stand-in for us. Thomas asks the questions we hold in our hearts; speaking what we might not be ready to utter. Thankfully, Jesus gives Thomas (and us) an answer: *I am the way, the truth, and the life.* Follow Jesus, and we'll know the way to the place where Jesus is going. Jesus doesn't just answer that he is the way—Jesus adds truth and life. It is as if to say, “I am the way, and to follow the way, you have to both believe the truth of who I am and live the way I show you to live.” May we ever be found following the way Jesus taught us.

Pastor Dionne

Membership Reports: As faithful members of Grace UMC, we faithfully strive to remember our membership vows to support the church by upholding the church with our ***prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.***

Prayers - Persons listed on Joys & Concerns will appear for two weeks. Please fill out a request card if you would like your request shared on Sunday morning and listed in Grace Notes. You may call or email the church office Monday thru Wednesday (**by 10am**) with those you would like to include or remove. If a person requires additional time, or has a long-term illness, request they be added to the “Long-term” list. The joys and concerns will list first name and last initial; no details will appear.

Joys & Concerns

April 26: All spoken and unspoken

Prayers (Long-term): John S., Robin G., Lucy K.; Bill S., Erin B., Doris K.; Bill H., Wendi C., Margie C., Bev. B., Connie M.; Vickie S., Rhonda and Tony W., Harriett H.; Mike and Angel P.; Shelby B., Jane H.

The Daily Scripture Lessons May 3 – May 9

Sunday: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Monday: Psalm 102:1-17; Exodus 13:17-22; Acts 7:17-40;

Tuesday: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:5-12; Acts 7:44-56;

Wednesday: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:13-18; John 8:31-38;

Thursday: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12;

Friday: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 7:1-24; Acts 27:13-38;

Saturday: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 8:13-19; John 14:27-29;

Presence – Join us for worship in person or via Facebook Live.

Worship: 65 Sunday School: 21 Facebook Live: 549 Ladies T4U:

GIFTS – Your gifts offer HOPE to Grace Church and the community. When we tithe, we follow the example given to us in Genesis 28:10-22 by giving at least 10% to the **General Fund**. United Methodists value the tithe as a benchmark for giving, one we encourage our members to move toward and, once achieved, move beyond. We believe that there is joy in giving, and the greater the generosity the deeper the joy. The **General Fund** is responsible for ensuring all the needs of the church are met; this includes all of the ministries, missions, and operational costs of Grace Church. *The One Board (as of May 14, 2023) asks that all tithes and offerings be placed in the General Fund except those for T.H.R.I.V.E., Micah's Backpack & Building for the Future. Separate envelopes are provided for these ministries and located by the lectern. This is the only way to donate to these ministries.* This will allow Grace Church to move towards fully funding all ministries and missions of the church. This will bring us up to date with current UMC budget practices.

General Fund: \$1,640.11

Endowment Withdrawal: \$

Estate Gift:

Music Fund: \$632.00

Needed for Weekly Budget: \$4,500

Building for the Future: \$10.00

T.H.R.I.V.E. & Micah's Backpack: \$50.00

Service and Witness:

Ushers: J.C. Martin, Bill Thompson, Donna and Roy Shoop, Madison Shoop, Lucas Shoop, Ella Sholty, Justus Osuji

Greeter: Daisy Wolfensberger

Lay Readers: John Hess, Earlene Johnson, Sandy Kendall, Kurt Zimmerman

Media Managers: Donnie Bryan, Roy Shoop

Choir: Becca Bryan, Donnie Bryan, Patti Hull, Hannah Kamseuh, Polly Martin, Peace Osuji, Ryan Wetzel

Congregational Care Committee/Communion Stewards: Chris Jeter, Krista Zimmerman, Cindy Tedrick, Ruth Smith, Patti Hull, Helen Gilliam, Daisy Wolfensberger, Polly Martin, Rose Shank, Earlene Johnson, Sandy Kendall, Donna Bolinger, Amy Bryan, Becca Bryan, Jane Staley, Rhonda Weaver, Wanda Stouffer, Ruth Thompson, Pastor Dionne, Sonja Shearer, Cindy Swales, Patty Frazier, Caroline Jenkins and Vivienne, Margaret Hess

T.H.R.I.V.E. (Thankful, Hopeful, Revitalized, Intentional, Victorious, Educated). Continued needs are non-perishables, dry goods, feminine care products, hand soap, shower gel, razors, shave cream, individually wrapped paper towels and toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste/toothbrushes, laundry detergent, etc. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted, and please use the indicated envelopes located by the lectern. **Closet 712** Volunteers are always appreciated. Donations drop off is Monday -Thursday 10am-12pm., **spring and summer clothing ONLY**. Both T.H.R.I.V.E and the clothes closet are open on Saturday, **May 9, 2026**, 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Pastoral Care and Emergency Contact Information: In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Dionne at (240) 347-2345 (cell), Facebook Messenger, or pastordionne.hall@gmail.com. The church office number is (240) 850-2934. Please inform the hospital and/or funeral home that Pastor Dionne is the Pastor at Grace. ***The Pastor and church should be notified of any illness or death of a member or family member first.*** The Pastor will confirm availability dates for Services of Death and Resurrection with the funeral home director.

CALENDAR

Sun., May 3

8:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall
9:00 am *Fifth Sunday of Easter, Communion*
10:15 am Sunday school for all ages

Mon., May 4

12:00 pm T4U Luncheon and meeting in Rider Hall

Tues., May 5
attend

6:00 pm One Board meeting in Rider Hall – all are welcome to

Wed., May 6

1:30 – 3:00 pm Pop-Up Pantry

Sat., May 9

9:00 – 11:00 am Food Pantry/Clothes Closet

Sun., May 10

8:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall
9:00 am *Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day*
10:15 am Sunday school for all ages

Tues., May 12

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Wed., May 13

1:30 – 3:00 pm Pop-Up Pantry

Thurs., May 14

10:30 am Senior Citizens meeting – Charlene, Director of
Operations from

Sat., May 16

11:00 – 1:00 pm Brooks House will be speaking
Farewell Par-Tea in Rider Hall



Farewell Par-Tea

*The ladies of the church are invited to a
Tea celebrating Pastor Dionne!*

Date: Saturday, May 16th, 2026

Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

*RSVP: No later than Thursday, May 7th, 2026
by calling the church office at 240-850-2934.*



**Save
the
date**

There will be a Farewell
Luncheon for Pastor Dionne on
Saturday, June 13th at 1:00 pm

in Rider Hall. Watch for details in the next couple weeks!