

# Wakefield Grace United Methodist Church

At Crawford Memorial UMC - 3757 White Plains Rd, Bronx, NY 10467

August 6 27, 2023 8:30 am

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

LITURGICAL COLOR: GREEN



**“BE TRANSFORMED”**

Preacher: Pastor Laurel

Liturgist: Bro. Vereton McKenzie

Opening Prayer: Bro. Kevin Cooper-Esprit

Holy Scripture: Sis. Joyce Brown; Sis. Charmaine Stewart-Clarke

Worship Coordinator: Sis. Yolanda Dyer

Musician: Mr. Frank Pisani, Mr. Trevor Hepburn, Pannist

**THE PEOPLE GATHER**

Centering Music

8:25 am: Music

**t CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: UMH #368 “My Hope Is Built”**

**1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

**Refrain:**

**On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.**

**(Refrain)**

**3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.**

**(Refrain)**

**4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!**

**(Refrain)**

### **Gathering Prayers**

**(silence to start)**

### **Welcome**

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH UMH # 887 From Romans 8: 35, 37-39**

*Leader:*

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

*People:*

**No!**

**In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us.**

**We are sure that neither death nor life,**

**Nor angels, nor principalities,**

**Nor things present, nor things to come,**

**Nor powers, nor height, nor depth,**

**Nor anything else in all creation,**

**Will be able to separate us from the love of God**

**In Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## Invitation, Confession and Pardon

### INVITATION (L. Scott 2021)

Christ our Lord invites to his Beloved Community, all who believe in his resurrection and who covenant to live in peace with their neighbors. As we come to the circle of love, let us confess our sins before God and one another and find reconciliation within the Beloved Community.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION: UMH: #893

Lord, we confess our day-to-day failure to be truly human.

**Lord, we confess to you.**

Lord, we confess that we often fail to love with all we have and are, often because we do not fully understand what loving means, often because we are afraid of risking ourselves.

**Lord, we confess to you.**

Lord, we cut ourselves off from each other and we erect barriers of division.

**Lord, we confess to you.**

Lord, we confess that by silence and ill-considered word

**We have built up walls of prejudice.**

Lord, we confess that by selfishness and lack of sympathy

**We have stifled generosity and left little time for others.**

Holy Spirit, speak to us, Help us listen to your word of forgiveness, for we are very deaf. Come, fill this moment and free us from sin.

### *All confess in Silence*

(L. Scott 2021)

### Pardon

Hear the good news! Before you came to the table, God knew your heart; and while you were speaking God heard your prayer and forgave you. This I declare in the name of Jesus Christ: You are forgiven.

**This we declare in the name of Jesus Christ. We are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Let us offer each other signs of reconciliation and Love

One: *May the Peace of the Risen Christ be always with you*

Response: **And also with you**

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (L. Scott 2021)

**Shine your light upon our minds and hearts this day O God and illumine our understanding so that we may receive your Living Word in our lives and demonstrate to all the abundance of your goodness. Amen.**

## THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

### **APOSTOLIC WRITINGS : Romans 12: 1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

### **t GOSPEL: Matthew 16: 13-20**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you,

Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be

bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**t SERMONIC HYMN: TFWS #2162 “Grace Alone”**

1. Every promise we can make, Every prayer and step of faith,  
Every difference we will make Is only by His grace  
Every mountain we will climb, Every ray of hope we shine,  
Every blessing left behind Is only by His grace.

**Refrain**

Grace alone which God supplies, Strength unknown he will provide.  
Christ in us our cornerstone; We will go forth in grace alone.

2. Every soul we long to reach, Every heart we hope to teach,  
Everywhere we share His peace Is only by His grace.  
Every loving word we say, Every tear we wipe away,  
Every sorrow turned to praise Is only by His grace.

**Refrain**

THE WORD: “ Be transformed” Pastor Laurel

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

### BLESSING OF THE OFFERING

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...and try me now in this says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it!” Malachi 3: 10 God’s promise of abundant, overflowing blessing is directly linked to obedience in giving tithes and offerings to Him. To ask God to bless you financially even though you are in disobedience to His commandments is to ask God to overlook His own laws and statutes and to deny the truthfulness of His Word, God will not do that. Our role is to obey God in all matters including giving of our tithes and offerings.” Max Lucado

**\*NOTE:** If you are having financial difficulties or having problems giving to the work of God, speak with Pastor Laurel in a private conversation to receive guidance in this matter. All issues will be kept confidential and a learning plan to do with living in abundance will be shared with you.

**t HYMN TFWS #2151 “I’m so Glad Jesus Lifted Me”**

1. I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, Jesus lifted me, Jesus Lifted Me  
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.
2. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me, Jesus lifted me, Jesus lifted me,  
Satan had be bound, Jesus Lifted me Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.
3. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me ,Jesus lifted me,Jesus lifted me  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, Singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

## **DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

### **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Pauline Taylor	August 28
Eunice O'Poku	September 1
Ismay Staine-Whittaker	September 1

### **Anniversary of Independence**

Trinidad and Tobago      August 31

### **t BENEDICTION**

### **NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **t The Song of Hope**

**May the God of Hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with Love and Joy and Peace**

**May the God of Justice speed us on our way,  
Bringing life and Hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for Peace, Singing, share our joy with all  
Working for a world that's new. Faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**DONATE TO THE HUDSON VALLEY FLOOD RELIEF PROJECT. SEE THE PASTOR FOR DETAILS.**

**Wakefield Grace United Methodist Church**

4750 White Plains Road, Bronx, New York 10470-1117

*Church Occupied, May 08, 1887    Incorporated, June 24, 1889    Title Deed, June 21, 1927*

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Rev. Dr. Laurel E. Scott, Pastor

The Rev. Simeon Law – District Superintendent, Metropolitan District

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton – Resident Bishop, New York Annual Conference



#### A PRAYER FOR WAKEFIELD GRACE IN THIS TIME...

Holy God long ago you led your people out of slavery in Egypt and brought them to the land you promised. You led them through various challenges - hunger and thirst, sickness and despair, earthquake and flood, fire and sandstorm. You provided for their needs – manna from heaven, water from a rock, quails and dates for food.

We too are your people of promise. As we, the congregation of Wakefield Grace UMC face the difficulty of rising construction costs and all kinds of unseen obstacles to the accomplishment of the new worship center, residences, and community center, which have been envisioned for fifteen years, we continue to look to you for answers, solutions and resources. Help us O God to meet these challenges with faith in your limitless ability and unending resources. We see this building constructed, occupied, and operating in your time, according to your plan and supplied with your abundant materials. Let money and assistance come from somewhere, anywhere, everywhere. Remove obstacles from our way. You know our need. You know our hearts. We are relying on your grace and your mercy to see this dream of a Wakefield Grace UMC sanctuary, residences and community center become a reality in time and on time. Amen

“May he give you the desire of **your** heart and make **all your plans** succeed”. (Psalm 20:4)

#### **Local Church Vision Statement**

Wakefield Grace United Methodist Church will focus on the committed disciples who will intentionally create the atmosphere that will cause others to experience Christ’s presence among us.

***Local Church Mission Statement:***

Wakefield Grace United Methodist Church will strengthen its members spiritually so that they may be bold in proclaiming, reaching and embracing the at-risk and underserved of the wider community.

***Local Church Core Values:***

We embrace the values that propel us to offer service to the wider community; to lovingly welcome all who gather for worship; to respond to the challenges of all to provide a safe space for children and youth, to enliven the spirit of the elderly to reach out to the sick and home-bound; to build relationships across the divide and to empower the vulnerable and the We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love. We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength. We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need. We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice. We believe in the church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service. We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters. We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. Amen. We are motivated so to act because the love of Christ directs us.