

**\*THE CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Precious Jesus, precious Jesus, come and fill our hearts anew, precious Jesus:  
and we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love,  
precious Jesus, precious Jesus.

**THE POSTLUDE**  
"Allegro"

Henry Heron



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

March 7, 2010  
9:25 a.m.

3rd Sunday in Lent  
Liturgical Color: Purple

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. It is a season where Christians "Repent, and believe the Gospel!"

*The asterisk (\*) designates when the congregation will please stand.  
Worshippers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated.*

*Worshippers are encouraged to turn off their cell phones while they are in the sanctuary.  
**Bold print** is read or sung by the congregation.*

**WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP**

**THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*You are invited to sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pads.*

*When it reaches the end of the pew, please pass it back so that all may note those worshipping today.  
Cards are available in the pew for those desiring to request prayer or praise  
for specific needs, concerns and joys. Please place the card in the offering plate during the offering.*

**THE PRELUDE**  
"Voluntary"

Henry Heron

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP**

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ!  
**All:** **We have come to experience God's grace in our worship and in our lives!**

**\*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT**

*The congregation stands with the first note of the chimes.*

*The lighted candles on the altar symbolize the presence of God's Holy Spirit.*

*The Holy Bible is facing the congregation as a reminder that God's Word is open and available to all.*

**Grace United Methodist Church**

**Ministers**

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

**Pastors**

Rev. Stephen A. Beutler      Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring      Rev. Larry Newberg

**Our Missionaries**

Rev. Jeff Newton, Kokomo Urban Outreach Ministries  
Dr. Dennis Marke, Medical Missionary, Kissy, Sierra Leone  
Rev. Ken Vance, Missionary, Ndola, Town Center, Kafakumba Pastor's School, Africa

**Specialized Ministries**

Barbara Hobbs, Music Ministries      T.J. Knowland, Youth Director  
Amanda Kelly, Children's Ministry      Jacque Hunt, Chamber Ensemble Director  
Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager      Debbra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse  
Phill Montgomery, Counselor      Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider  
Brandy Dodd, Childcare Provider      Amy Lovegrove, Childcare Provider

Our Greeters today are Larry & Norma Raber.  
Today's Acolyte is Courtney Mitts.

The Lenten Candle will be extinguished by Chris, Mary, Katie, Megan & Deanna Hedges.

## WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

\*OPENING HYMN

**“And Can It Be that I Should Gain”**

Hymn No. 363

*Musical Interlude*

### EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES OF LENT

Leader: During this time of Lenten preparation, we think of those who turned away from the light of Jesus. And we remember that we, too, turn away. We will never know the motivations of Judas's betrayal. All we know is that Judas thought his agenda was more important than Jesus. We, too, are all often willing to put our agenda and priorities ahead of the Light of the World. We extinguish the third candle, recalling with regret the times we have betrayed Jesus by the darkness of our own self-centered willfulness.

### THE CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us join together in declaring our historic Christian faith as professed in the Apostles Creed..

All: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe 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, died and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living 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.**

Moments of Silent Prayer

*Those desiring to come to the altar for a time of intercessory prayer are welcome to come and kneel or stand.*

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### THE ANTHEM

**“He Will Come and Save You”**

Altar Choir  
Bob Fitts and Gary Sadler

*During the playing of the hymn, “Jesus Loves Me” children, preschool through Grade 2, are invited to attend Children’s Church in the Multi-Purpose Room, lower level. An adult will meet the children at the sanctuary exit to escort our little ones.*

## WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

### \*THE SCRIPTURE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Luke 13:1-9

### THE PROCLAMATION

**“REPENT . . . OR PERISH. YIKES.”**  
Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring

## WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD

### OFFERING GOD OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

*If you are visiting this morning, you are our guest. If Grace U.M. Church is your home, remember that the biblical expectation is that you will give your tithe to your church. May we all remember that giving to God in response to His great love is the most celebrative moment of corporate worship. Today’s loose coin offering is dedicated to MUFF.*

The Giving of our Tithes and Offering

The Offertory

*“Intermezzo, Op. 118 No. 2”*

\*The Lenten Chorus and Prayer of Dedication

Johannes Brahms

**Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your Spirit free**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

\*THE HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST

**“Just As I Am, Without One Plea”**

*The altar of this church is open to you...come.  
Come to witness, come to repent, come to pray.*

Hymn No. 357

\*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

*The Living Flame on the altar reminds us that we must carry the message of God’s grace and love out from this sanctuary into the world.*

\*THE BENEDICTION