

May 21, 2017  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Eleven O'clock in the Morning

Lighting of the Candles

Ann Thomson

Loving God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
help us to choose life in you,  
that we may keep the commands of Jesus,  
follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit,  
and witness to the hope that is within us,  
sharing Christ's love in the world. Amen.<sup>1</sup>

Welcome

Noell Rathbun

Chiming of the Hour

Spencer Anderson

Introit

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Ludwig van Beethoven

The Chancel Choir with GBC Children arr. Dan Goeller  
Susan Jones, flute; Craig Lawyer, shakere; Cory Woessner, djembe

*The congregation will sing the following stanza  
upon direction from the Minister of Music.*

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of giving, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother—all who live in love are thine.  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

\*Call to Worship

Gay Bachtell

Come! Gather and listen to the Good News of God's love!

**Come! Share and tell the story of Jesus!**

Come! Worship and lift your voices to praise our Creator!

**Come! Sing and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!**

Come! Pray and breathe in the Spirit of Life!

**Come! Worship our God, who breathes us into life!<sup>2</sup>**

\*Hymn 21

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*

LLANFAIR

*Children, please come to the lectern-side of the chancel  
for the Time with Children during the final stanza.*

Time with Children

Noell Rathbun

Hymn 113

*Jesus Loves Me*

JESUS LOVES ME

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\* Those who are able, please stand.

Elements in bold print are to be spoken or sung by the congregation.

God, the divine giver,  
gifts us with life and breath and all that is.  
In gratitude, let us offer our gifts in return  
for the goodness and grace of God in Christ.

**O Loving God, we give you thanks that you  
have placed in the hearts of your faithful people  
the gifts of generosity and the desire to keep your commands.**

**Bless these gifts and use them to reveal your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

Giving of our Tithes  
and Offerings

*The Power of Your Love*

Geoff Bullock  
arr. Jane Holstein

The Lessons

Psalm 66:8-12;16-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22

David Boykin

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*O Praise the Lord with Heart and Voice*

Franz Joseph Haydn  
ed. and arr. Jacob Narverud

Chris Baker, Charlotte Fennell, Wanda Sauley Fennell, Melissa Jackson  
Waverly Ann Jackson, Deb Loftis, Sarah Paxton, Lara Pugh  
Lynn Clayton, conductor

O Praise the Lord with heart and voice, all hosts on high and Earth rejoice!  
Let echoes rise, let songs break forth!  
Let songs abound, from world to world the joy shall sound!

Prayers of the People

Marilyn Fishel

Let us join our hearts in prayer,  
first confessing our sins before the Lord in silence.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Silence is held.*

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, the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Gospel Lesson

John 14:15-21

Kayla Bayles Lennon

Sermon

Time of Response

\*Hymn 540

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

ST. MARGARET

Sabbatical Sending Litany for Wanda Sauley Fennell

David Burhans

Wanda, we wish God's blessings on you as you leave for this sabbatical time of renewal.

**As you journey, we ask God to guide you in all you do.**

*God's peace be with all of us as I leave for a season to renew my spirit, my ministry, my life.*

**May you experience the gift of spiritual growth on your sabbatical.**

*I pray this gift for you also, in this season of no ordinary time.*

**We pray for you, Wanda, and for our staff and church leaders, that we will all be strengthened and renewed in this time.**

*During my sabbatical I will pray for all of you, and use my time faithfully to renew and strengthen me as a minister in this church. I look forward to the ways we will use our shared growth in ministry together.*

**We send you off with our blessing.**

**We will greet your return with joy.**

Spirit of God, descend upon our hearts.

**Renew Wanda for ministry through this time set aside for reflection and rest:**

the refreshment of a break from daily tasks and routine after nearly twenty-nine years of ministry at Grace Baptist Church; the excitement of new learning and discernment.

**Grace her with your presence**

**and keep her steadfast in faith while we are apart. Amen.**

Benediction

Kayla Bayles Lennon

Postlude *Prelude and Fugue on I Sing the Almighty Power of God* Edward Beals

## Decades ago, GBC realized...

The wisdom of providing ministerial staff members with periodic sabbatical leave—a break from the regular routine that can be used for personal and professional development. The church approved for me, in business meeting, four weeks of sabbatical leave, which I will be experiencing in June. As in the past, I will be attending to Jesus' invitation recorded in Mark 6:31: "Let's go to a place where we can be alone and get some rest" as well as the proclamation found in Habakkuk 2:20: "The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before him." Previous experiences of withdrawing from my regular routine for a time of silence, solitude, and stillness have been beneficial, so I look forward to another season of practicing these spiritual disciplines. I will be using as a template for contemplation Philip Gulley's book, *Living the Quaker Way*, with its thirty Quaker queries "self-directed questions that help us discern our habits, values, and priorities." One of my intentions for the sabbatical is to attend worship services in which I have had no part of planning, and I plan for at least one of them to be a Quaker service since they place a premium on quietness in corporate worship.

Outside of Sunday morning worship, I will practice silence, solitude, and stillness at the Earthwalk retreat center and a monastery or two as well as the river home of Cheryl Crawford and Marilyn Fishel. I am deeply grateful to Cheryl and Marilyn for opening their home to me.

I also plan to spend some time exploring a hymnal that is new to me: *Community of Christ Sings*. Thanks to Deb Loftis for providing a copy.

Another book that will serve as a guide for the sabbatical is *Aging as a Spiritual Practice: A Contemplative Guide to Growing Older and Wiser* by Lewis Richmond. On the Summer Solstice I will celebrate my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. I assume that I am more than halfway through my journey on this planet, so I want to do some focused thinking about what remains.

Thank you for making all this possible. It has been a blessing to serve with you almost 29 years. I look forward to rejoining you in July.  
Sincerely, Wanda

## Visitors

If you are a visiting with us today, welcome! Whatever brings you to us and whoever you are, we are so glad you are here! Our prayer is that you will find Grace Baptist Church to be a place of welcome, love, and peace. Please fill out one of our visitor cards, found on the back of the pews, and drop it in the offering plate as it is passed.

Hearing devices are available for use during the worship service. They are located on the aisle side of the two large front columns on either side of the chancel. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

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We give thanks to Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) flutist, Susan Jones, and percussionists, Craig Lawyer and Cory Woessner, who lend their talents to worship today in partial fulfillment of the space-sharing agreement between GBC and the RPO.

This Sunday's flowers are given in honor of Lois France's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday by her family, Gay, Jim, and Justin Bachtell.

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<sup>1</sup>Reprinted with permission from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press

<sup>2</sup>Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell [www.rev-o-lution.org](http://www.rev-o-lution.org)

<sup>3</sup>Reprinted with permission from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press

# Church Calendar

## Sunday, May 21

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 am Worship  
12:00 pm Grace Café  
12:15 pm Children's Commission Mtg.  
5:30 pm Youth Group

## Wednesday, May 24

12:00 pm Bible Brunch Buddies:  
*The Bible in 36 Words Part IV*  
5:45 pm Dinner  
6:30 pm Welcome Table led by  
Kayla Bayles Lennon  
7:15 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

## Sunday, May 28

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 am Worship:  
Praises on the Portico and  
Hymn Sing

## Sunday, May 28 (cont.)

5:00 pm Canal Cruise Picnic  
5:30 pm Youth Group Ice Cream  
Social

## Monday, May 29

Church office closed  
5:00 pm Liberation Veterans  
Services Meal

## Wednesday, May 31

12:00 pm Bible Brunch Buddies:  
*The Bible in 36 Words Part V*  
5:45 pm Dinner  
6:30 pm Welcome Table  
7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Sunday, June 4

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 am Worship  
12:00 pm Pentecost Lunch  
and Cake Auction

## News & Notes

**May 28**

### **Praises on the Portico: Outdoor Worship and Hymn Sing**

Request your favorite hymn on the sheet outside of the office or email [office@gbconline.org](mailto:office@gbconline.org).

### **Canal Cruise 5:00 pm**

Join us for fellowship and to learn some Virginia history. Sign-up outside of the Church Office or contacting Noell at [Noell@gbconline.org](mailto:Noell@gbconline.org)

### **Youth Group Ice Cream Social 5:30 pm**

**June 4**

### **Pentecost Lunch and Cake Auction Fundraiser**

Bring your specialty and bid on your favorites!

**June 7**

### **Variety Show at 6:00 pm**

Share your talents with all of us! Sign up outside of the Church Office.



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All members of the church are ministers.

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