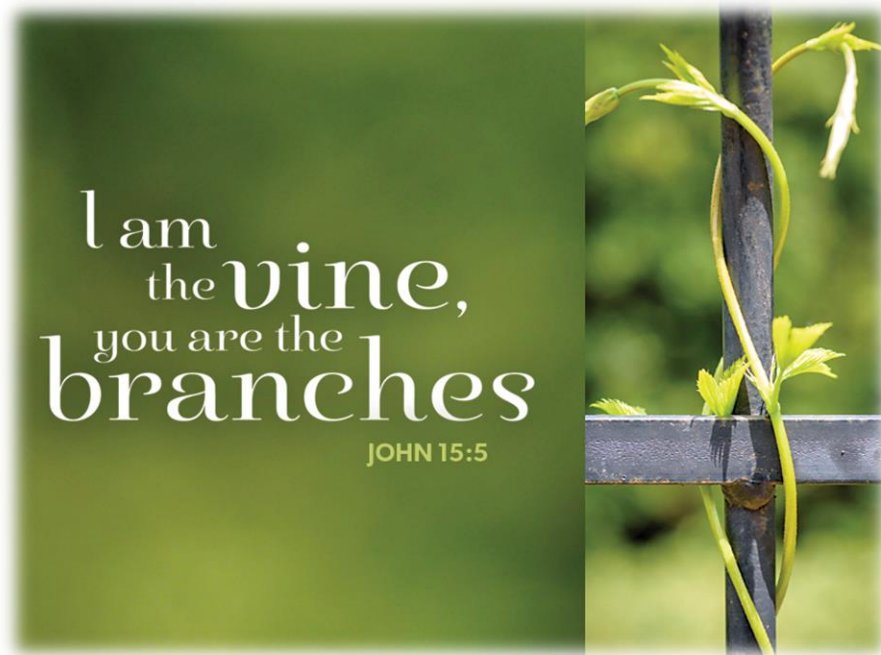




**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 21, 2024
8:30 AM**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (*Stand*)

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of Baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of Baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of Baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.



- 1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
- 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
- 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
- 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
 the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
 to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
 that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.


APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

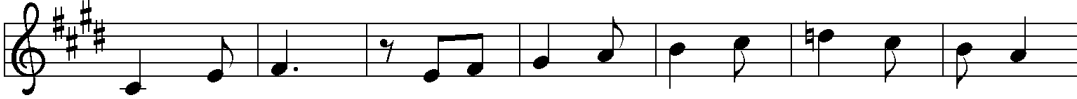
And also with you.

"Now the Feast and Celebration"


Refrain



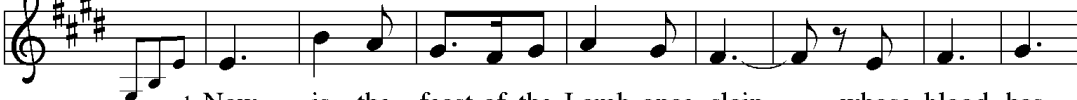
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



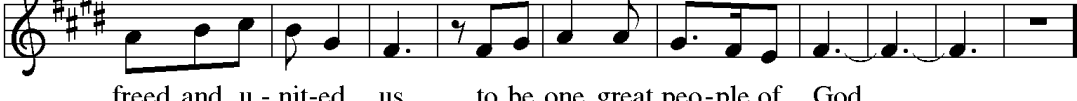
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;




praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



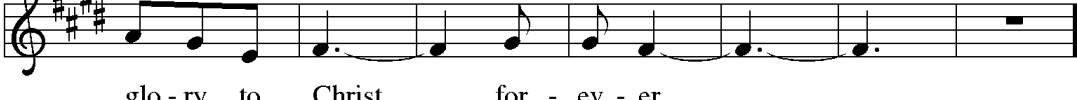
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S WORD TIME *(Sit)*

FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(Choir sings refrain first, then the congregation joins the refrain, and all bold verses)

Refrain

All the ends of the earth shall re -
 mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**

who rules o- | ver the nations. R

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" **R**

A reading from first John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Stand*)

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

*The Holy Gospel according to John, from the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.***

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

SERMON (*Sit*)

Pastor Gregg Hoffman



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the \ddagger resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS *(Sit)*

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of Baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

In Baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God.

We are called to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your Baptism among God's people in this place?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of Baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Stand)*

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Loving Lord, we pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially those we lift before you now, whether silently or aloud. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors: help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

*At this time in our worship, we invite you to share the Peace of Christ with others.
Feel free to share the peace with others nearby, or, if you are alone, give someone a call after worship!*

OFFERING *(Sit)*

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

“We Believe”

Matt Hooper, Richie Fike and Travis Ryan

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*)

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with
you. Lift up your hearts. We
lift them to the Lord. Let us give
thanks to the Lord our God. It is
right to give God thanks and praise.

The musical score is written on five staves in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

PREFACE

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation, and so, with the church on earth, all creation, and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some dotted notes and rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was handed over,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
**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 and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Thanks be to God.

All God's children are welcome to the table by God's grace.

Please notify the Pastor if you would prefer gluten-free bread.

Communion is received by the Pastor placing the sacrament in your outstretched hand.

You are then invited to dip the wafer into the wine.

Those who are not receiving Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD (Sit)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
you break the chains of ha - tred and fear:
you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
you are the way of mer - cy and love:
mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.



Ev' - ry-one needs com - pas - sion, love that's nev - er fail - ing; let
So take me as You find me, all my fears and fail - ures,



mer - cy fall on me. Ev - ry-one needs for-give - ness, the kind - ness of a Sav-
fill my life a - gain. I give my life to fol - low, ev'-ry-thing I be - lieve



- ior. The Hope of na - tions. Sav - ior, He can move the
in; now I sur - ren - der.

Chorus



moun - tains; my God is might-y to save, He is might-y to save! For - ev - er, Au - thor of sal -



va - tion, He rose and con- quered the grave, Je - sus con- quered the grave!



Shine your light and let the whole world see; we're sing- ing for the glo - ry of the ris - en



King, Je - sus! Shine your light and let the whole world see; we're sing- ing



for the glo - ry of the ris - en King!

To Chorus



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (*Stand*)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always.

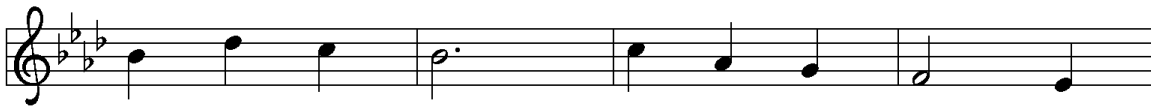
Amen.



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Risen One send us out, and walks with us on the way.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Presiding Ministers	<i>The Rev. Gregg Hoffman The Rev. Rachel Hoffman</i>
Director of Music	<i>Dr. Jeremy Mims</i>
Sanctuary Candle	<i>Joe and Karen Warmoth to the Glory of God!</i>
Altar Flowers	<i>Patti Saunders in loving memory of Larry Saunders</i>
Greeters	<i>Members of Grace</i>
Ushers	<i>Tom Sturniolo and Doug Ray</i>
Acolyte	<i>Nolan Darnell</i>
Crucifer	<i>Cameron Litzinger</i>
Lector	<i>Anne Johnson</i>
Petitioner	<i>Ruth Wasserman</i>
Communion Asst	
Audio/Visual	<i>Craig Allen, Ivy Grinnage</i>

For more information check out the latest Enews (found on the homepage of our website) for updates on Grace's Ministry and ways you can take part.

If there is a way we can support you, please let us know!

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