

THE GRACE OF *Les Misérables*

*It is a terrible place,
the pit of darkness,
the stronghold of
the blind. It is the
threshold of the abyss.*



March 12, 2023 ♦ 10:00 am
Park Ridge Community Church

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Grace of Les Misérables: When Grace and Justice Collide

MARCH 12, 2023

10:00 am

WELCOME!

We welcome you to worship today. Park Ridge Community Church affirms that all people are made in the image of God and are worthy of God's love and grace. We commit to the ongoing work of being a church journeying together to deepen our understanding of the nature of God's love and to fulfill our responsibility to embody the Christ Spirit in the world. No matter who you are or where you are on this journey, you are welcome and loved.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Pavanne

Dowland

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The word of God speaks invitation into the air,

The word of God invites us all to follow.

Love. Love widely. Love lavishly. Love unconditionally.

Love our neighbor and those we think of as enemies. Love.

Forgive. Forgive everyone.

Forgive without conditions, as we have been forgiven. Forgive.

Offer grace. And new beginnings.

For grace comes from God. May it also flow from us.

*HYMN

O Come and Sing Unto the Lord (vs. 1-4)

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*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we would rather proclaim death to our enemies, than see them forgiven and redeemed. Forgive our hardness of heart, O God, and our reluctance to see your divine image in those we do not understand or who are different from us. Teach us to love those we think of as enemies, that our lives may proclaim your truth—that love is stronger than hate, and mercy is greater than vengeance.

Silent prayers are offered

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God continues to invite us into God's grace. May we follow the paths of forgiveness and love that invite us into relationship with our siblings so that our lives may bring honor to Christ's name. **Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI

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*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.*

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CELEBRATING THE BAPTISM OF BENJAMIN DAVID BEESLEY

Parents: Michael & Jacqueline Beesley

Godparents: Allison Balow & Eric Beesley

...So, come to the water --water poured over and immersing us, water flowing freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Here we come to the water, to baptize Ben, and in each other's presence to renew our commitments to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

QUESTIONS OF THE FAMILY

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Ben being baptized as he grows in faith?

We promise our love, support and care.

How will you do this?

We desire to associate ourselves in a Fellowship of the Christ Spirit and covenant to accept one another in diversity of faith, supporting each other in love and respect. The fellowship that is our Church grows from and builds upon the traditions of the various Christian churches of the centuries. We intend as individuals to grow in our understanding of the true nature of God and the Way of Life taught by Jesus Christ. Unity with God is our Goal, Jesus Christ is our way, the Bible is our greatest resource, and the Church is our visible, sustaining fellowship. As members of this Church, we shall go forward together in freedom seeking continually to learn more of the true nature of God and God's Purpose.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

BAPTISM

LIGHTING OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here this day to this community, these parents, and this child. We pray that this community will always provide a safe shelter of your love in which all children may grow and play. We pray that these parents may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence so transparent here today. We pray that Ben will bask in your love as he makes his journey through this life. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CONGREGATION *God Claims You*

Refrain *Fine*

Ben-ja-min, Ben-ja-min, God claims you, God helps you, pro - tects you, and loves you too.

D.C.

1. We this day do all a - gree a child of God you'll al - ways be.
2. We your fam - ily love you so, we vow to help your faith to grow.
3. We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way.
4. And if you should tire or cry then we will sing this lul - la - by.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Stars
from the musical *Les Misérables*

Boublil & Schönberg

FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3, 4:1-5

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***PREACHING LESSON**

Luke 16:1-15

This is the word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Justice For All”

Pastor Mollie Foster

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

When I Was Sinkin’ Down

arr. Johnson

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

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***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of Grace, you care about hurting people no matter where they are, who they are, or what they have done. Let your kin-dom come, exemplifying an economy where all have enough, and until then, help us to ease the burdens of our neighbors, through our living and our giving. Amen.

***HYMN**

Be Thou My Vision

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***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Christ, We Do All Adore Thee

DuBois

POSTLUDE

Gigue

Handel

** INDICATES TO PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT*

BOLD INDICATES TO SPEAK ALOUD IN ONE VOICE

LEADING US IN WORSHIP MARCH 12, 2023 10:00 AM

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister
Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister
Lorenzo Formosa, Lector

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Sue Douglass, organ
Jane Kenas-Heller, piano
Chancel Choir
Karen Nelson, violin
David Belden, violin
Karl Davies, viola
Margaret Daly, cello

CREDITS: Call to Worship written by Rev. Dr. Katherine Thomas Paisley, 2022. Prayer of Confession written by B.J. Beu, and posted on the Ministry Matters website. Adapted. Prayer of Thanksgiving written by Rev. Carol Hill, 2023.



Our Garden Needs Some Angels!



Ever wanted to be an angel? On Saturday, April 1st, (no fooling!) we will be getting our garden beds ready for spring. Bring the family and be a "PRCC Garden Angel." Call or email the office if you plan to help. We'll start at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 1st. Bring your own gloves and some garden tools!



ITEMS OF NOTE

WELCOME GUESTS! We are glad you are joining us in worship today. Please fill out a postcard found in the pew baskets or in the narthex to share your information with us! Please email office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org if you have any questions.

COFFEE HOUR is held in Jordan Hall immediately following the 10 am service. Thank you to the Knitting Knights and Stephen Ministry Team for hosting coffee hour this month!

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship.

Thank you to our March ushers: Bud Shinn, Scott Nelson, Charlie Giera, Kym Dohnke, Linda Le Duc, Dan Smith, Michael Laginess, Haukur Gudmundsson, & Liz Ewald.

ALTAR FLOWERS We've got a brand new sign-up sheet for all Sundays in 2023 just outside the office! If you're interested in purchasing flowers to dedicate, you can sign up on the sheet and the office will contact you closer to that Sunday. Our flower vendor has increased the price of our altar flowers to \$55. Payments can be made by check or through the church zelle/paypal!

RESTROOMS are located on the lower level at each end of the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is offered for children and youth from Pre-K through 12th grade during the 10:00 am service! Pre-K-4th grade gather in the Sunday School Wing, 5th grade in the Library, and 6-12th grade in the Great Hall! On the 1st Sunday of each month, 6-12th graders will remain in worship for Holy Communion. The Nursery is available for all those under 3 years of age located on the lower level.

ONLINE DONATIONS can be made via PayPal or Zelle, our email is giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org. Thank you!

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER SIGN UP

A very special **THANK YOU** to all of the families who have helped in Sunday School already! We have loved having so many new faces in Sunday School! We are still in need of more volunteers for some upcoming Sundays. You can sign up [here](#).

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL (Pre-K-5th Grades)

Children depart the service during the Children's Message and gather in the Sunday School Wing. Children rotate rooms by grade level and engage in scripture lessons, crafts, stories, and music! *3rd graders are invited to attend "My Bible Class" in the library Feb. 12 & 19 with Pastor Mollie.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL (6th-12th Grades)

Youth will consider the topic "Judas Iscariot: The Disappointed Revolutionary" today in Sunday School! Youth Sunday School meets in the Great Hall and departs the service following the Children's Message.

YOUTH GROUP (6th-12th Grades)

All Youth are invited to join in watching the movie "Just Mercy" followed by pizza and discussion today from 3:30-6:30.

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP (4th & 5th Grades)

The Junior Youth Group provides gatherings for 4th and 5th graders! Our next gathering will be March 19 as we join the Youth Group for lunch and fun activities from 11:30-1:00!

CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY MAR. 12

- 8:30 am** - Worship Service (Chapel)
- 10:00 am** - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am** - Loving Lunches (Parlor)
- 3:30 pm** - Just Mercy Book Group (Parlor)

MONDAY MAR. 13

- 7:00 pm** - Action Ridge (Jordan Hall)
- 6:00 pm** - Finance Meeting (Library)
- 7:00 pm** - Yoga is back! (Great Hall)
- 7:30 pm** - Worship Support Group (Library)

TUESDAY MAR. 14

- 10:00 am** - Chair Yoga is back! (Great Hall)
- 12:00 pm** - Kindred Spirits (Jordan Hall)
- 4:00 pm** - Jr. Choir (Choir Room)
- 5:00 pm** - Middle School Choir (Choir Room)
- 7:00 pm** - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Library)
- 7:30 pm** - Membership Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY MAR. 15

- 10:00 am** - Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm** - Ministerial Association Meeting (Jordan Hall)
- 5:30 pm** - League of Women Voters Candidate Forum (Jordan Hall)
- 6:00 pm** - Intergenerational Basketball (Great Hall)
- 7:00 pm** - Fly Fishermen Group (Parlor)
- 7:00 pm** - Bible Study (Transept)
- 7:00 pm** - Creation Care Team Meeting (Library)

THURSDAY MAR. 16

- 9:00 am** - Men's Breakfast (Library)
- 6:15 pm** - Bells on High (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 pm** - Chancel Choir

FRIDAY MAR. 17

SATURDAY MAR. 18

- 8:30 am** - Stephen Ministry Training (Library)
- 9:00 am** - Staff & Usher CPR Training (Great Hall)

Happy Birthday!

3/12 - Danny Brewer, Nancy Skiersch,
Therese Wehman, & Matt Young

3/13 - Ginny Feurer

3/14 - Molly O'Brien

3/18 - Adrian Hill & Doris Sikorsky

ADULT EDUCATION

LENT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the Ellinger Transept

Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Throughout Lent, we will dive into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. As these imperfect and relatable characters interact, we can see how these ideals work together (perhaps even in spite of each other) out in the world.

Join Bible Study on Zoom!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85475047668?pwd=TU5meDVMcVBtcHVySis3VzJPZVFiUT09>

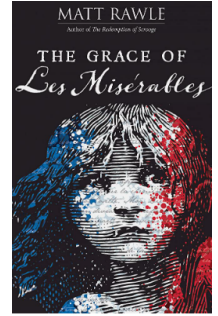
Meeting ID: 854 7504 7668

Passcode: 586822

One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,85475047668# US (Chicago)



PRAYER REQUESTS

One of the gifts of community is that we hold one another in prayer. Each week, we share our joys and sorrows with one another so that we might feel the support of community. No one is alone. God is with us, and we are supporting one another.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR LOVED ONES:

Laura Beaudion, Heather Cannon, Evan Curtis, Jon Forsythe, Candace Kidston, Christine Kotecki, Tommy Mack, Michael McDonough, Tracy McKenzie, Brian Stevens, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, & Kate Zoellner.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR March 5TH:

- We hold Bernice Z. in our prayers as she travels to Portland to visit her daughter Elizabeth for a few weeks. They will travel to California to visit family and celebrate the lives of her brother, Walter, and nephew, Vincent. We pray for safe travels and healing time with family.
- Kym asks for prayers for her friend Amanda's mom who is having some health challenges.
- Please hold Jean K. in your prayers as she has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will soon begin treatment.
- Please hold Sasha and Pastor Carol in prayer as they journey to Greece and back on a mission to prepare for the group trip in September. We pray for their families in their absence as well.



55th Annual Park Ridge Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, April 1st @ 7:30 am
Park Ridge Country Club
Buffet Breakfast, \$50/person

Sponsored by a voluntary committee of laymen, the breakfast brings together men in the community who not only seek a closer relationship to the Almighty, but also are looking for ways to make that relationship more real in their lives. Keynote Speaker this year is Patrick Angelo, DDS, MS, well-known Park Ridge resident, aka "Angel of Lower Wacker Drive." He is a man with a strong faith who has many amazing stories to tell. Special music will be provided by PRCC's Kent Wehman and Bob Mack. For more information, please contact Owen Hayes, Eric Johnson, Bob Mack, Bill Scharringhausen, or Kent Wehman.

VOLUNTEER



LOVING LUNCHES - TODAY! March 12th, 2023

Come join in serving PRCC's newest Outreach Partner, Loving Lunches. Each month PRCC will assist Loving Lunches by preparing and assembling 300+ lunches which will be delivered to those experiencing homelessness in the Chicagoland area. If you would like to volunteer, sign up by clicking [here](#), scanning the QR code, or by contacting Paula Mack at paula.mack@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.



LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER - April 6th, 2023

Assistance is needed to help prepare food for Lincoln Park Community Shelter. Join the team for meal prep at 11:30 am in the church kitchen. If you would like to volunteer, you can do so by [clicking here](#), scanning the QR code, or by contacting Luan Zoellner at lzoellner@ameritech.net.



SUNDAY SUPPER - May 21st, 2023

PRCC works with the Park Ridge Ministerial Association to prepare meals 3-4 times a year for those having difficulty providing enough food for their families. Sunday Suppers are hosted at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church. Meals are prepped at PRCC and served at the host site. The demand has increased for Sunday Suppers so we will prepare and serve food for 100 guests. [Click here](#) to sign up to volunteer today! Thank you for considering to help provide meals for local families in need.



THE BRIDGE PROJECT - Collection March 1-19, 2023

Beginning on March 1st through March 19th we will be collecting new cosmetic bags, like the ones given with sample products, along with travel size toiletries. On March 19th we will be filling the bags after the 10 am service. All donations will be given to the Bridge Project for distribution to the homeless. A collection box will be in the Park Place room. As always your generosity is so greatly appreciated.

Connections

A Peer Support and Social Group



7:00-8:30 pm at PRCC

Two Thursdays a month

Starting March 9th & 23rd

Connections is a non-religious community-wide group open to students ages 13-18 who identify as LGBTQ+ and allies.

[All are welcome here!](#)

To learn about opportunities to volunteer or for general information, please contact Shelley O'Brien at rainbows@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Park Ridge Community Church
100 Courtland Avenue ♦ Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
(847) 823-3164 www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org