



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come,
this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Church Staff & Officers

Brad Wright

Lead Pastor

Kyle Bobos

Assistant Pastor

Children's Ministries

Caleb McDuffee

Student Ministries

Elders

Brent Allmon

Dan Brink

Jon Green

Rob McIntosh

Mark Moore

Andy Yung

Deacons

Matt Bradshaw

Mike Bellin

Rhonnie Bellin

Jeff Cranford

Mark Hill

Scott Johnston

Mike Ryan

Joe Tison

Sunny Yung

Grace Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Reflections

Gratitude...is a response to grace. The compassionate life is a grateful life, and actions born out of gratefulness are not compulsive but free, not somber but joyful, not fanatical but liberating.

– Henri Nouwen

Persons who worship, sing. In the church's life, hymnbooks are prayer books. Worship stirs deep responses of adoration which are formed into rhythms and melodies of gratitude, and enlists the voices of creatures from every corner and century, putting them tunefully to work in praise.

– Eugene H. Peterson
Reversed Thunder

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- I Thessalonians 5:16-18

+ ADVENT + CHRISTMAS + EPIPHANY + LENT + EASTER + **PENTECOST** +

Ten days after the ascension of Christ and fifty days after his resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem (Lev. 23:15-21; Deut. 16:16). Pentecost symbolizes a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel. In celebrating Pentecost, the church expresses its gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling his promise to send "another counselor" (John 14:16); celebrates the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation; professes its confidence and security in knowing the Spirit's power is available for its mission and grows in awareness of the immensity of its calling to reach the world with the gospel.

Grace Presbyterian Church

Thanksgiving Eve Service, November 25, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Praise

Call to Worship

Psalm 100

Minister: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

*People: Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

Minister: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

*All: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Song of Praise

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Edward H. Plumptre and Marion S.M.

Rejoice, ye pure in heart;
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

Chorus:

Rejoice, rejoice,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Yes, on through life's long path,
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe. (chorus)

Then on, ye pure in heart,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing;
Your glorious banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King. (chorus)

Prayer of Adoration

Old Testament Scripture Reading

Psalm 116:5-9

The LORD is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
The LORD protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return to your rest, my soul,
for the LORD has been good to you.

For you, LORD, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,
that I may walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.

New Testament Scripture Reading

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Song of Thanksgiving

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Thomas O. Chisholm and William Runyan

Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is thy Faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (chorus)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (chorus)

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Minister: Generous God, for the abundance of your blessings to us day by day and year by year,

People: We give you our thanks!

Minister: For the simple pleasures of life: for garden harvests, coffee conversations, and familiar surroundings, for health and strength to appreciate the wonder of life, for needs met and desires fulfilled,

People: We give you our thanks!

Minister: With hearts that forgive as freely as you have forgiven, with enthusiasm of spirit for the gift of life, with music which declares your everlasting goodness, with prayers for mutual understanding and peace,

People: We worship you with joy!

Minister: With words which honor you as Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, with time and efforts dedicated to service in church and community, with our lives committed to extending the love of Jesus Christ,

People: We worship you with joy!

Minister: With gifts of money which reach farther than we can manage ourselves, with deeds done in service of neighbor and stranger, with giving ourselves to celebrate your goodness and grace, with family and friends distant and nearby,

All: We worship you, Lord, with grateful hearts! Alleluia! Amen.

Corporate Prayers of Thanksgiving

_____ *Commitment* _____

Scripture Reading

Mark 5:21-43

21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." 24 So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "

32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

35 While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

36 Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. 39 He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." 40 But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). 42 Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. 43 He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Calibrating to Thankfulness

Confession of Faith

The Apostle's Creed¹

Minister: Let us together confess the faith of the church at all times and in all places:

*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.
The third day he arose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic² Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

¹ Although not written by the apostles, this creed is a concise summary of their teaching. It originated as a baptismal confession in the second century.

² That is, the true Christian church of all times and all places.

Communion

Guidelines for Reception of Communion

Communion is a family meal for Christians. We welcome all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer using the prayers that follow as guidelines. We hope that this time is helpful as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ, and with his people, the church.

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: Therefore, lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Minister: Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Song of Communion

Here In This Place

Marty Haugen

Lay your burden down, every care you carry;
And come to the table of grace, for there is mercy.
We come just as we are, though we're all unworthy
To enter your presence, O Lord, for You are holy.

Chorus:

We lift our hearts, we lift our hands,
We fall on our knees and pray to the King of kings,
For the love You bring is here in this place.
We raise our voices, raise our song, we offer You our praise.
You're the King of kings and the joy You bring is here
You are here in this place.

Fill our lives with grace, show us Your forgiveness;
And give us the faith to believe that You've redeemed us.
You are Lord of all, and we give You glory,
All honor and power and praise, for You are worthy. (chorus)

Prayer of Consecration and the Words of Institution

Prayer for those not communing:

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you, as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Your communion elements are placed on your seat to ensure contactless serving. To open, peel back the first plastic seal to expose the unleavened wafer. Then peel back the second plastic seal to expose the juice. Once opened, please hold the elements until all have been received so we can celebrate this meal together. If you need gluten-free elements, please let an usher know.

Prayer after Communion

Song of Commitment

Doxology

Thomas Ken & Thomas Tallis

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Benediction³

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Dismissal

Minister: Now, let us go forth with thanksgiving to serve this community as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God! (BOLDLY)*

³ The benediction is a renewed ordination of the people of God to their service to each other, to their community and the world.

*The pastoral staff and other church leaders are available following the service,
to pray with you or to answer your questions about the Christian faith or Grace Church.*

Worship Music⁴

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with Grace Presbyterian Church.

Rae Moses, piano

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Prayer of Belief...

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope.

I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, bearing my punishment and offering forgiveness.

Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.