



# Oak Hills

PRESBYTERIAN

Longing to Know and Make Known  
The Astonishing Grace of God

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
January 24, 2021

# Welcome!

We are glad you are with us today. Oak Hills is a church of broken people who have been redeemed, and astonished, by God's abundant and free grace offered in the gospel of Jesus Christ. In everything we do, we aim to unpack the greatness and implications of that gospel. In this gospel we encounter two powerful truths that shape our entire lives and relationship with God: we are more sinful and flawed than we ever dared believe, and we are more accepted and loved than we ever dared hope. Our prayer is that these gospel truths would shape us into a community and fellowship worth joining. May you be satisfied in fresh ways today through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you are visiting with us today, we would love the chance to get to know you. Please fill out the tear-off contact card in the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate. We trust that you will find Oak Hills to be a warm community of people eager to care for you. Let us know if you have any questions.

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Puritan pastor and author, John Owen, once wrote that "the principal exercise of faith" is the contemplation of the glory of Christ. If, as a church, we will minister to the faith of people and call ourselves to deeper Christlikeness, our principal exercise is to display the glory of Christ for our contemplation. Christ's glory is most beautifully seen in his astonishing grace: a powerful, sustaining, and multiplying grace. We pray that you would see Christ all the more clearly during your time with us. We also believe that beholding Christ in his glory is the means God uses to renew you. As another Puritan writer, Thomas Watson, reflects, "As the chameleon is changed into the colour of that which it looks upon, so faith, looking on Christ, changes the Christian into the similitude of Christ." May we see Christ afresh this morning!

—Pastor Dale

## FOR YOUR REFLECTION

Jesus here invites self-satisfied believers to the altar of the dissatisfied, where they can be converted from their righteousness to a confession of their ties to sin and so, finally, into a blessed liberation. We don't often think of being converted from (a consciousness of) "righteousness" to (a consciousness of) "sin," but that is the preliminary revival in consciousness that Jesus is now undertaking. (Luther's Reformation was and continues to be exactly this urgent and preliminary reverse-formation of consciousness.) I wonder if this kind of revival (revivification) is necessary in our churches more often than we think? Why does John include this story of "these strange believers" in his Gospel at all if he does not think that this kind of reverse revival needs to take place – and, yes, take place with people explicitly called "*believers*" (v. 31)? And so now we need to strap on our seat belts because the next several sentences (vv. 37-47) are (after the "Historical Interpretation" of our passage immediately below) the most difficult verses in the entire Gospel.

From Frederick Dale Bruner, *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*, page 533.

# Exalt God's Astonishing Grace

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## **PRELUDE**

*AJ Harbison*

The Call to Worship  
is God's invitation to  
us. Biblical worship is  
a dialogue with God  
where he initiates,  
calls, and draws us by  
his grace and we  
respond in praise,  
humility,  
thanksgiving, and  
faith.

Congregation reads  
bold print.

We respond to God's  
call with prayer,  
inviting him to  
minister to us.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP** - From Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep  
of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his  
faithfulness to all generations!

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*Pastor Dale Thiele*

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

*We Come O Christ To You*

(LYRICS ON PAGE 5)

## **WE COME O CHRIST TO YOU**

WORDS: E. MARGARET CLARKSON (1957), MUSIC: JOHN DARWALL (1770)

We come, O Christ, to you,  
True Son of God and man,  
By whom all things consist,  
In whom all life began:  
In you alone we live and move,  
And have our being in your love.

You are the Way to God,  
Your blood our ransom paid;  
In you we face our Judge  
And Maker unafraid.  
Before the throne absolved we stand,  
Your love has met your law's demand.

You are the living Truth!  
All wisdom dwells in you,  
The Source of every skill,  
The one eternal TRUE!  
O great I AM! In you we rest,  
Sure answer to our every quest.

You only are true Life,  
To know you is to live  
The more abundant life  
That earth can never give:  
O risen Lord! We live in you:  
In us each day your life renew!

# Encounter God's Astonishing Grace

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Confession is a normal and essential part of our relationship with God. Humility and honesty about our sin is welcome and safe in the presence of God. See Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:15; & 1 John 1:9.

The Good News of Jesus Christ is that we are forgiven of our sin by faith in Christ's substitution for us on the cross.

## **CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy Father, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not sought to do your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore to us the joy of your salvation now and forever. Amen.

*Silent Confession*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **Romans 8:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17**

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Thanks be to God!

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND SUPPLICATION**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Pastor Stephen Sprague*

# Know God's Astonishing Grace

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We believe the Scriptures are given by inspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life. If you are able, we invite you to stand in honor of God's Word.

The Spirit makes the reading and preaching of God's Word a powerful means of nourishing and comforting God's people, and awakening people to new faith.

## **SCRIPTURE READING - John 8:31-38**

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE - Pastor Dale Thiele**  
**John: That You May Believe**  
**The Freedom of Truth**

Abiding in His Word Leads to True Disciples

Questions for  
Further Study or  
Group Discussion:

1. Read John 8:31-38.

What is freedom?

What hinders  
freedom?

2. What does Jesus  
mean by “true  
disciples”? Is this a  
second-tier Christian?  
Why or why not?

3. What does it mean  
to abide in Jesus’  
words? How are you  
doing in “abiding”?

4. What is truth?

How do we know  
truth? Why is truth  
connected with  
freedom?

5. What sort of  
freedom is Jesus  
speaking about? How  
does his explanation  
in verses 34-36 help?  
Why is this freedom  
so important?

6. Consider the  
crowds’ response in  
verse 33. In what  
ways are we just like  
this crowd?

True Disciples Will Know the Truth

The Truth Will Set You Free

**Memory Verse of the  
Week:**

**John 8:31-32** So Jesus  
said to the Jews who  
had believed him, “If  
you abide in my  
word, you are truly  
my disciples, and you  
will know the truth,  
and the truth will set  
you free.” (ESV)

# Experience God's Astonishing Grace

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Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is a symbolic meal for Christians. As part of our preparation to receive the bread and the cup, we profess our hope in Christ out loud. We join with Christians throughout history and the world in making such a profession.

In his Last Supper before crucifixion, Jesus commanded his followers to "do this in remembrance of me." The broken bread and the cup represent Christ's broken body and shed blood for the sake of our salvation. By partaking of the bread and cup, you are proclaiming hope in this salvation and, by faith, enjoy fellowship with Christ (see 1 Cor. 10:16). The bread and cup are signs and seals of God's covenant promises to forgive our sin and make us new in Christ.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 19-21

What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

**All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.**

Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

**God, having out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.**

Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

**The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.**

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Jesus I Come*

(LYRICS ON PAGE 10)

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*O The Deep Deep Love Of Jesus*

(LYRICS ON PAGE 11)

## JESUS I COME

WORDS: WILLIAM SLEEPER (1887), MUSIC: GREG THOMPSON (2000)

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;  
Into thy freedom, gladness and light,  
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my sickness into thy health,  
Out of my wanting and into thy wealth,  
Out of my sin and into thyself,  
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;  
Into the glorious gain of thy cross,  
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into thy balm,  
Out of life's storms and into thy calm,  
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,  
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;  
Into the joy and light of thy home,  
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the depths of ruin untold,  
Into the peace of thy sheltering fold,  
Ever thy glorious face to behold,  
Jesus, I come to thee.

## O THE DEEP DEEP LOVE OF JESUS

WORDS: SAMUEL TREVOR FRANCIS (1875), MUSIC: THOMAS WILLIAMS (1890)

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
In its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me,  
Is the current of thy love,  
Leading onward, leading homeward  
To thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Spread his praise from shore to shore!  
How he loveth, ever loveth,  
Changeth never, nevermore!  
How he watches o'er his loved ones,  
Died to call them all his own;  
How for them he intercedeth,  
Watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Love of every love the best!  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'Tis a haven sweet of rest!  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
'Tis a heaven of heavens to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
For it lifts me up to thee!

# Go and Make Known God's Astonishing Grace

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God has blessed us by  
graciously inviting us  
to worship and by  
reminding us of his  
astonishing grace in  
Jesus Christ. We end  
our service with a  
reminder of God's  
promises to bless us  
throughout our week.

## SONG OF DEPARTURE

### *And Can It Be*

WORDS: CHARLES WESLEY (1738, ALT. 1990), MUSIC: THOMAS CAMPBELL (1825)

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Savior's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain?  
For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

#### *Chorus:*

Amazing love! How can it be  
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above  
(So free, so infinite his grace!),  
Humbled himself (so great his love!)  
And bled for all his chosen race!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for, O my God, it found out me!

#### *Chorus*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray;  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

#### *Chorus*

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

#### *Chorus*

## BENEDICTION

# Ministry Highlights

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## WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are visiting Oak Hills (in person or virtually) we're glad you are with us! We'd love to hear from you so we can connect and follow up. We're here to serve and care for all. [Use this form to introduce yourself to us](#) or fill out a visitor slip found at the back of the bulletin.

**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE EACH SUNDAY 10:30am, In-person and Livestream**

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 7, Noon

Join us as the elders share their vision and budget for the new year. The meeting will be held in person at the church and we will provide a video connection as well.

## FOR THE MEN

**Men's Gathering - Monday, January 25, 6pm at Stew Terry's**

A chili cook-off! All men are invited to join us for a night of food and fellowship. Bring beverage of choice and a sweet/salty snack to share (if not bringing chili). RSVP to Stew (913.475.3034).

## FOR THE WOMEN

**Winter Wreath Crafting Social (*virtual*) - January 29, 7pm**

Join us virtually to make simple winter hoop wreaths under the skilled artistic direction of Eleanor Harbison! Use your own supplies, or [RSVP](#) to reserve a wreath kit (available at church or for pickup from Suzanna). Sign-on information will be emailed the day before the event.

**Wisdom & Wine (*in-person*) - Thursday, Feb. 11, 6:30-8pm**

Discuss the book of Proverbs while also learning a bit about wine tasting! Bring a snack to share and sample a red and a white wine (or just sip some La Croix!). [RSVP](#) by Monday, Feb. 8. Lianne Terry is hosting at her [home](#). Reserve the second Thursday of each month for this event!

**John Bible study (*virtual*) - Thursday, February 4, 7:45pm**

Gather virtually to study the book of John every other Thursday. Gain a deeper understanding of what many consider to be the most artful and poetic of the Gospels, written "that you may believe." Contact [Eleanor Call](#) or [Lindsey Layzell](#) with questions or to get sign-on information.

## FOR THE YOUTH

**OH, Youth! - Wednesday, January 27, 7pm at Church**

**Kid360 - Wednesday, January 27, 5pm Virtual, 7pm at Church**

**Harvesters - Saturday, January 30, 8:30am at Shawnee Mission North**

Let [Mason Welsh](#) know if you plan on coming to help with drive up food pantry.

# Join Us in Longing to Know and Make Known the Astonishing Grace of God

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## THE VISION OF OAK HILLS

"...that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified."

Isaiah 61:3

Be a part of what God is doing at Oak Hills. He calls us "oaks," which means we are...

## ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL

**Sunday Mornings** – The ordinary means of grace, the Word and Sacrament, in the context of weekly worship feeds us in God's grace.

**Study the Bible with Others** – Whether it is a men's or women's or age-specific study, or one of our Adult Christian Education classes, studying God's Word with brothers and sisters sharpens our understanding of the gospel.

## GROWING IN COMMUNITY

**Church Gatherings** – God saves us into a community, his church. Know and be known in our community by coming to one of our regular gatherings.

**Life Groups** – Go deeper in knowing and being known by joining a Life Group for regular fellowship and prayer. Contact Pastor Dale ([dalethiele@oakhillspca.com](mailto:dalethiele@oakhillspca.com)) for more info.

**Membership** – Members commit to be faithful contributors to the mission and vision of Oak Hills. The *Getting Acquainted Luncheon* is the first step toward membership (offered periodically). Contact Pastor Dale ([dalethiele@oakhillspca.com](mailto:dalethiele@oakhillspca.com)) for more info.

## BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

**Serve the Church** – The church builds itself up when each part is serving and contributing. Look for ways to serve, whether volunteering with children's ministry, joining the worship team or serving in some other way.

**Serve Your Community** – You are an ambassador for Christ wherever you live or study or work. How can you love others well, meet needs, and share the gospel?

Communication is important for any relationship. We send weekly emails and periodic text message announcements. Contact Gerie Owens ([gerieowens@oakhillspca.com](mailto:gerieowens@oakhillspca.com)) to sign up.

## CONTACT US

**Oak Hills Presbyterian Church (PCA)**  
**5638 Goddard St.**  
**Shawnee, KS 66203**  
**913.341.4500**  
**office@oakhillspca.com**  
**www.oakhillspca.com**

Ministers: The Congregation  
 Rev. Dale Thiele, Pastor, dalethiele@oakhillspca.com  
 Rev. Stephen Sprague, Assistant Pastor for Youth & Children  
 AJ Harbison, Director of Worship Music  
 Gerie Owens, Administrative Assistant

Elders  
 Bill Burns, Roy Heinbach, Tony Layzell, Matt Stagemeyer,  
 Dale Thiele, Bret Willoughby

Deacons  
 Joel Call, Jason Mauk, Jeremy Muehlbauer, Mason Welsh  
 On sabbatical: Brandon Schwabauer

*All song lyrics printed with permission CCLI #1489978*

Financial Update	General Fund Offerings	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses	Building Fund
Sept. 2020	\$13,506	\$21,126	\$23,033	\$252
Sept. YTD	\$170,809	\$178,546	\$207,297	\$3,282

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please write your prayer requests in the space below.

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*I/We would like:*

- to talk to a pastor about becoming a Christian
- to join Oak Hills
- info on Sunday School
- info on Children's Ministries
- a call from the pastor  
(Best time: \_\_\_\_\_ )
- info on Discovering Oak Hills Seminar
- info on Life Groups
- info on Student Ministries
- info on Men's Ministries
- info on Women's Ministries
- other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Check if you do not want to receive emails from Oak Hills

*Thanks for Visiting Us Today!*  
We are glad you're here! Please take a moment to fill out this card and help us to know and serve you better. Just drop it in the offering basket.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Children (Name/Age/Grade): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn of us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please check all that apply:*

- Youth
- 18-21
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50+
- First time guest
- Repeat guest
- Regular attender
- Member

## **THIS WEEK AT OAK HILLS**

*January 25 - 31*

### **Monday, January 25**

Men's Gathering @ 6pm at Stewart Terry's

### **Tuesday, January 26**

Session Meeting @ 7:30pm at Church

### **Wednesday, January 27**

Virtual Kid360 @ 5pm

OH, Youth! & Kid360 @ 7pm at Church

### **Thursday, January 28**

No Meetings

### **Friday, January 29**

Men's Bible Study @ 6:30am at Panera (11401 College)

Virtual Winter Wreath Crafting Social @ 7pm

### **Saturday, January 30**

OH, Youth! Harvesters @ 8:30am at Shawnee Mission North

### **Sunday, January 31**

Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am; John: That You May Believe: *Like Father, Like Son*, John 8:37-39, Pastor Dale Preaching (In-Person and Live Stream); The Lord's Supper Served

