

Sunday Worship

Reasons to Gather

May 24, 2020

The Church Gathered
Together

GATHERING

Welcome Video

> *Welcome to Grace Sacramento. Thanks for joining us for the video stream of our worship service this morning. My name is Sara and my name is Daniel. We are the Moore Family and we're joining you from our (kitchen, living room, backyard). We have been attending Grace Sacramento for (how long?).*

> *Probably the thing that drew us here the most was.....*

> *We are excited to be becoming members of Grace Sacramento!*

1. *We want to connect with you. We want to hear from you, especially in this time when we cannot gather together in person. If you're visiting for the first time or are new to Grace, we would love to meet you, help answer any questions, add you to our weekly email or get you connected to our wonderful community. You can do that by visiting us on our website and finding the "contact us" tab and filling out our form so that we may better serve you.*

2. *If you are in need of material help or prayer or another kind of assistance, including a pastoral call, follow the resources button on our website. Or, if you have ideas about how you'd like to help others or care for others in need, we'd love to know that as well.*

3. *If you'd like to give to Grace, follow the "give" link on the menu for instructions for online giving or where to mail a gift if you'd like.*

> *The worship stream will start in just a moment. Thanks for being with us. Stay after the worship stream for a few announcements!*

What A Beautiful Name

B2, C3, Ending

Call to Worship

Today is the seventh Sunday of Eastertide.

Hallelujah Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Today we celebrate Christ's ascension, 40 days after Jesus' resurrection he went to the Mount of Olives with his disciples and ascended into heaven before their eyes (Acts 1:1-12). "Christ's ascension means that now in heaven there is one who, knowing first-hand the experience of suffering and temptation, prays for us and perfects our prayers. It is a witness and guarantee of our own bodily resurrection, as well as an invitation for us to set our hearts and minds 'on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God' (Col. 3:1-2).

Please stand if you are able and join me as we are called into worship this Ascension Sunday by God's words in Psalm 68.

May God arise, may his enemies be scattered;
may his foes flee before him...

**...May the righteous be glad
and rejoice before God;
may they be happy and joyful...**

Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.
**God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;**

Lets continue to worship our risen and ascended King!

Open The Eyes Of My Heart

V1x2, C, Vx2, Cx2, B, C

Great Things

Intro, V1, C, Turnaround V2, C, Bx2, C, Ending, Outro

Confession/Assurance

Confession of Sin (Book of Common Worship)

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him as the ascended Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory.

Forgive us, restore us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, given life by your word and your commands for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Forgive us, restore us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, given life by your word and your commands for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world.

Amen!

My Jesus I Love Thee

V1, V2, V3

Doxology

Prayers of the People

Brad: *Since the Day of Pentecost, the people of God have devoted themselves to four matters: to the apostles teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to prayer. Now it is our time to dedicate ourselves to the fourth matter: prayer.*

Our prayers this morning will be led by a variety of Grace friends. After each prayer our intercessor will say: "Lord, in your mercy- Hear our prayer."

And we will be invited to join in a sung response led by Mia and our worship team:

You hear us calling (2x)

Abba Father

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy (2x)

Let us now pray together for the Church and for the world.

[Martha] God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for your **Church**, both here and throughout the world. May we all strive to maintain fellowship and unity with each other in the bonds of peace and love.

Protect **all those who bear your name** in your sovereign care. Give all your people insight into the meaning of our Word and the strength and wisdom to apply it to our lives. Unite us in love for one another so that the world will see that we are the disciples of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We pray especially **for those you have appointed to lead your church**. We pray for **those from among us you have sent across cultural boundaries**, either here in Sacramento or in other countries, to minister your Word.

Finally, we pray for your people **who suffer for your name**. We plead and implore you especially for those who are harassed, tortured, incarcerated and killed for the sake of your name. May your name be glorified in their lives and even in the face of suffering and death.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer*.

You hear us calling (2x)

Abba Father

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy (2x)

[Joshua] Almighty and sovereign Lord, we pray for the **people and leaders of this world**.

Guide the hearts of national leaders in the ways of justice and peace. We pray now for our President, the speaker of the House, the leader of the senate, our representatives in congress and the supreme court of our land. That they may protect and defend our Constitution and responsibly steward the vast and powerful resources that you have entrusted to their government. May their decisions honor, protect and encourage life and health and unity.

We pray specifically for leaders in **California**. May your Holy Spirit guide and inform the hearts and minds...of our governor, our legislature, our county supervisors and our mayors as they make difficult decisions about the safety of people and the opening of businesses and public places.

We now pray specifically for those in public health positions making decisions of special concern to our families, livelihoods and church.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

You hear us calling (2x)
Abba Father

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy (2x)

[Julie] We pray now for this created earth you have granted to us to steward.

We repent of the ways in which we have failed to subdue and to steward the resources you have granted us and creatures you have given us to care for. We repent of the ways in which we have wasted what was precious and polluted what was pure; may we be renewed in our stewardship and rule over your creation so that whatever we do with the air, the water and the earth may glorify your name.

Grant especially to those your servants who you have specially gifted to undertake these tasks. We pray for you to inspire and empower the various scientists--the explorers and discoverers--engineers, businesspersons and public officials who can and should create responsible and wise methods of caring for this earth, the air, the water and the soil, for the creatures of this earth. We pray particularly for those researching and formulating new medicines and vaccines. May they undertake these tasks with all joy, reverence and urgency to preserve life and glorify your name in the care, maintenance and stewardship of your creation.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

You hear us calling (2x)
Abba Father

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy (2x)

[Jack] Our Blessed Father, we pray for our own families, for our grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren and all whose lives are bound to ours through marriage or blood. On this day especially, we ask your blessings upon those who are alone or whose health is at risk.

In this difficult season of physical distance in which we must maintain for a short while longer:

We pray as well for those friends who we love and care for.

We ask your blessing upon those of us at Grace Sacramento, that we may again soon be reunited, face-to-face to embrace and with whom we may rejoice again.

We also ask your blessing upon those in our local neighborhoods and communities with whom we hope to reunite again;

for those at our places of employment and in volunteer organizations in which we are members and with whom we hope to reunite again;

for those who serve us and for those we serve with whom we hope to reunite again;

for those we do business with and for those we play with with whom we hope to reunite again

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

You hear us calling (2x)

Abba Father

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy (2x)

[Joe] God of all compassion and healing, we pray for **all who are suffering** in mind, body or spirit, for the physically, mentally and spiritually ill, for the refugees, the incarcerated and the homeless. We submit to you, Sovereign Lord, special petitions for the following...

For our **deacons and deaconesses**, and all those who have been gifted and charged in showing mercy and care to the hurting, may you give them special strength and perseverance in this season of suffering.

For healers and **health care professionals**, for first responders and those in vital service industries, protect them from infection.

For those in **hospitals, long-term care or other medical facilities** For those who are **mentally ill**, those in dysfunctional, abusive or violent family situations.

For **refugees and recent immigrants** who have fled places of economic oppression or violence from war or genocide, **especially the Noori family whom we care for.**

For the **incarcerated and for the homeless** in our city, we ask for your provision and protection from illness.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

You hear us calling (2x)

Abba Father

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy (2x)

Ministry Moment

WORD

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:42-47

[42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

[43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

[44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

[45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

[46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

[47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Reasons to Gather

TABLE

Be Thou My Vision

[V1] Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

[V2] Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

[V3] Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven my treasure Thou art

[V4] High King of heaven when victory is won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision O Ruler of all

SENDING

Benediction

Closing Video (Announcements)

Grace Sac Slide
