

# Sunday Worship

Confrontation with a  
Counterfeit

September 20, 2020

The Gospel &  
Redemption in a Time of  
Exodus

## Live Stream Prelude

### GATHERING

#### Welcome/Call to Worship

> *Welcome from Grace Sacramento.*

> *My name is ... Thank you for joining us on the live stream of our worship service this morning.*

(anything personal you want to share)

1. *We want to connect and hear from you. 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. Find the "contact us" tab on our website at [www.wearegracesac.org](http://www.wearegracesac.org) and tell us how we can care for you and your family.*

2. *If you are in need of help whether material, or prayer or any another kind of assistance, follow the resources button on our website and click on either request prayer or request help.*

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

> *Please stand if you are able and join me as I call us into worship this morning from Psalm 145. Please read with me the parts in bold.*

#### Call to Worship (Psalm 145:1-4)

I will extol You, my God and King,  
and bless Your name forever and ever.

**Every day I will bless You  
and praise Your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,  
and His greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall commend Your works to another,  
and shall declare Your mighty acts.**

*Let's continue to worship our great God!*

#### ***How Great Thou Art***

V1, C, V2, C, B, Cx2

#### ***Here I Am To Worship***

V1, C, V2, C, Bx2, C

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## **Confession/Assurance**

*We are the people of God,  
but Scripture reminds us that we still sin.  
We need to confess our failures,  
knowing that the Lord Jesus intercedes for us with the Father,  
who freely forgives us, through His infinite goodness and mercy.  
So let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together.*

Call to Confession (based on Psalm 145, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16)

**O Lord,  
we count on Your mercy,  
yet expect You to punish the wicked.  
We serve You in faith,  
but when others don't,  
we forget the joy of doing Your work.  
We pout in our prosperity  
when You distribute Your generosity so . . . “unjustly”.  
Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we know in our hearts.  
Save us, Lord, from the sins we hide.**

[Silent Reflection]

Words of Assurance (Based on Palm 145)

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
Jesus Christ, the only son of our Heavenly Father,  
comes so that we might know God's mercy.  
He suffered and died paying the wages of our sin.  
Our sins are forgiven.  
We have been graciously granted the privilege of believing in Christ.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.  
In the name of Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God!**

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***Thy Mercy My God***

V1, V2, V3, V4

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## **Doxology**

**Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you**

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## **Prayers of the People**

[Pastoral Prayer]

Oh Father, we come today so grateful that You are the God who hears us. You are our God. You are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call on You. You are great and powerful, and You are merciful and faithful. And You hear and answer us when we pray.

Lord, we come to You poor and needy, knowing we have nothing of any value to offer to You but ourselves. We put our trust in You, but we ask for more faith because we know our own weakness. O Lord, make us faithful, for we know our bent to wander. Give us undivided hearts and teach us Your way, that we may rely on You no matter what comes our way.

Father, we love retelling the stories of the glorious deeds You did for Your people long ago. We rejoice in the ways You showed Your power and faithfulness and turned the hearts of people to Yourself. We would love to see You do it in our day, in our nation. This year has brought pain, chaos, and uncertainty, but we know that this is the kind of backdrop that can showcase Your faithfulness. We pray that You act—and help us, as Your people, to act—in such a way that in the midst of this difficult year, Your goodness shines forth in new ways and draws people to Yourself.

Forgive us, Father, for our divided hearts, for the times we do not rely on Your faithfulness but look to ourselves, or those close to us, or our political leaders, or experts in other areas, for our security. Forgive us for forgetting Your greatness and magnifying our own. Forgive us for seeking first our own kingdoms instead of Yours, for looking first to our own solutions and power rather than turning to You in prayer.

This morning we lift up our state and local leaders as they make significant, very difficult decisions in responses to all that is happening around us.

We pray for protection from the disease for those who are the most vulnerable. We think particularly of those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds or unsafe home environments who already face many challenges, which may now be amplified. We pray for school aged children who have to attend schools and learn virtually. We pray for the difficult task that teachers hold in teaching virtually. We pray for parents, many who have to juggle watching their children, while trying to work from home. We pray for those whose jobs are on the line or who face difficult decisions between their livelihood and their safety. May families who need extra support this Fall find it, and may we as Your church be on the lookout for ways we can be a support to those around us, and may all of us experience You anew as our Protector, Provider, and Peace.

We pray that Your peace would fill our homes and our hearts, even as we feel the heaviness this year has brought. May Your peace be a beacon that draws others to the goodness of the gospel.

We ask all this in the powerful name of Jesus, and all God's people said, Amen.

## **Ministry Moment**

1. Outdoor Worship Service

2. Gospel Conversation Training (September 23)

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## Scripture Reading

Exodus 5:1-21

Please stand if you are able for a reading from God's Holy Word. Today's Scripture reading is from Exodus 5:1-21. Please read with me the verses in bold.

[1] Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"

**[2] But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."**

[3] Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."

**[4] But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens."**

[5] And Pharaoh said, "Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!"

**[6] The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen,**

[7] "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves.

**[8] But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.'**

[9] Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words."

**[10] So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I will not give you straw.**

[11] Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.'"

**[12] So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.**

[13] The taskmasters were urgent, saying, "Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw."

**[14] And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?"**

[15] Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, "Why do you treat your servants like this?"

**[16] No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people."**

[17] But he said, "You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.'"

**[18] Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks."**

[19] The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, "You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day."

**[20] They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh;** [21] and they said to them, "The Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

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**Sermon**

Confrontation with a Counterfeit

**TABLE*****Living Hope*****SENDING****Benediction****Live Stream Closing Video****Communion**

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