

Order of Worship for at Home Use

Memorial Day, May 24, 2020

Welcome to worship with Grace@Home!

We pray that you are blessed as you worship, that God will provide you with all hope and mercy as you enter into His Presence.

Today, as the joyful people of God, we continue to worship our Risen LORD, separate, but together, as God's family. Today is the Seventh Sunday in the Easter season. In this time of separation, we continue to be God's family and we worship His holy name.

On this memorial day weekend we remember the sacrifices that so many made for our freedoms, chief among them the sacrifice of Jesus Christ Himself, on the cross.

I pray blessings will be unbandant as we enter into God's grace together in worship.

Always, Pastor Dana

If you wish to worship via the video click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TbPJIsrfbQ>

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude "God of Our Fathers" G Warren
Dr. Jerry Reeves, pianist and Dr. David Dorway, organist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APHTRjHzhFg>

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hKpEGQSAFE>

Call to Worship from Psalm 47

Come! Let us celebrate on this Lord's Day.
Shout to God and clap your hands, make sounds of joy!
The Lord God Most High is astonishing, awesome beyond words!
He is the formidable and powerful King over all the earth.
God is the triumphant King; the powers of earth are all His.
Our God reigns over every nation.
He reigns on His holy throne over all.
So sing celebration songs of highest praise to the glorious One.
Let us worship God!

Hymn "Battle Hymn of the Republic" Quarantine Quartet
Lisa Elliott, Katharyne & Stephen Taylor, Travis Lewis
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR0pj3ejsOw>

Sharing the Peace of Christ

***The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you...
and also with you.***

In this time of social distancing it is important for us to remember that in Christ we are connected to all who believe in Jesus in every time and place. As the world continues to be isolated, and many are feeling anxious, as Christians we share the peace of Christ as a way to offer hope and the joy of Christ. Again today we use the familiar words, "The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you... and also with you."

Now, or after your time of worship, reach out via text, email, phone or video call, to someone outside of your home extending the invitation to enter into the peace of Christ with our faith community.

Praise God, that His peace is with us, always!

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kNq6b2NK_c

Gracious God, as we pause today to pray, we approach Your throne of grace with thankful hearts, hearts that are broken, and hearts that ache for new life, different circumstances, wholeness, resolutions, healing, and peace. We come carrying many things...and we lay each one down...naming it in Your presence. ...

As we name them in our hearts we offer them to You, and we know that each offering is Your delight, not necessarily in its content, but in our trusting You with it. We pray Your hand would be upon each person, situation, joy or concern... we pray that You would work in mind or body or circumstance. We pray for light and hope and life to prevail in the dark places of this world and in the dark places in our lives.

Holy One, wrap us once again in Your loving arms. Touch us now with healing, with Your forgiveness, Your grace. Help us to know fully and deeply Your love, and help us to show the world the grace that is given so abundantly...and the love that we find at Jesus' feet.

As we pray this day we offer to you our thanksgiving for those that have offered themselves in the service of our nation. Those who have sacrificed for us that we might be free. Help us to live into the freedoms we have been given with grace. Place in us the desire and will to bring freedom to others and stand with those who fight for justice and God's grace given to all people.

Holy God we thank You for hearing our prayers. We pray these things in Jesus' name, as He taught us to pray, saying: Our Father, Who 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

Hymn/Praise

Jesus Loves Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C63z5hCd7bc>

Children's Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snrLhwQDVOs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLEHrQS3Jho>

It is Memorial Day weekend and God bless you for being here online. It is appropriate that we pause once a year and remember and recognize those who have given their lives in service to our country and gone on to be with God before us. It is important to remember their sacrifice of self in the service of others.

So, today we recognize the tremendous sacrifices of sons and daughters, parents and children, families and friends that have given their lives for the service of our country and others. Memorial Day is a significant day for Americans. When America has stood for the principles of freedom and justice, America has been one of the greatest forces for the betterment of humankind in the history of the world. And America, like any great thing, when its God given gifts are used for anything other than what God intends, its impact is not God honoring or good for the world.

The United States of America, however, is a country built on the idea of freedom and justice and throughout history it has fought for those principles, not only for its own citizens, but for the people of the world as well. We stand in a long and proud tradition that was born through the blood, sweat and tears of many great women and men who were willing to sacrifice what they had for others.

You know, Memorial Day began in 1865 when a local druggist (That's not a good term to use today, he was a chemist, or in today's vernacular, a pharmacist) named Henry Welles mentioned at a social gathering that honor should be shown to the patriotic dead of the Civil War. Two years later General John Logan issued an order that the first state-wide Memorial Day would be observed in Waterloo Pennsylvania. An everyday person, a druggist, err pharmacist, suggested something important, and just for speaking up, things changed. If a druggist can create something like Memorial Day simply by exercising his right of free speech, think what you can do by simply speaking up or caring for another in need.

The American Veterans organization, AMVETS, writes in its magazine and on its website that Memorial images "*serve as a constant reminder of those who gave their lives for something greater than themselves. The freedoms we enjoy stem from their sacrifices. We who survive these heroes must always remember the price they paid...and that freedom is not free.*" Well, that is true.

Regardless of which side of the political aisle you stand, you benefit from the freedom that was won by our constitution and defended by our heroes, like soldiers, airmen and women, marines, navy, coast guard and tens of thousands men and women like me and you who are called to stand up for something bigger than ourselves. These things that are fought for by patriots include the right to freely practice our faith, our freedom to speak, the right to assemble and our responsibility to care for others less fortunate than ourselves.

You know, this idea, the idea of giving yourself to something that is bigger is not a new idea. It did not begin with the discovery of the new world in the Americas. Jesus Christ affirmed the value of a person giving their life in the service of others. Jesus Himself said in the kingdom of Heaven, the first shall be last. John the Apostle said that *we are not to love only with our word and ideas, but that we are to love others in action and deed*. That is, folks, you cannot just talk about it, you have to do something if your words are going to mean something. Jesus Christ said:

*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends –
John 15:13*

There is no greater gift than to lay down your life for another. Deep in our hearts, we all know this to be true in our hearts. It is one of the great eternal truths that God has placed in our hearts. It is why we are drawn to have respect for our elders and our parents. We know that the generations before us have worked hard and have given us all that they have to give. We do that as parents.

The I thing is we don't live in a perfect world. Imperfection is all around us. Homes are broken, people abuse drugs and alcohol and in doing so hurt the ones they love. The world is full of disease, people die unjustly and hatred, jealousy, and greed ruin lives and even nations. And then, of course, there are those who would use terror and death for political and religious gain. The world is not a safe place. And do not get me going on natural evil like viruses and the panic they can cause!

H.G. Wells once said that we are only able to sleep safe at night because dangerous men stand ready to do violence on our behalf. That is, sadly, the condition of the world we live in. Today Wells might say that we sleep safe in our homes because our doors are closed, we are social distancing and brilliant women and men in lab coats are working to find a vaccine! Honestly, there are people who go into harm's way for the safety and security of others. And those people, my friends, are heroes.

You know, the world was not intended to be this way. The world was intended to be a place where we are cared for by God and we live in a place where we are surrounded by community and safety. We, as followers of Christ, are to live in a community that models God's grace and fellowship. This should be a place where we will no longer fear, because God is with us and we are caring for one another and all of God's creation. We are to live in a world where war is not a political outlet and power is only to be found in proximity to God, in faithfulness and service. This is God's desire for our world, but it will only happen if we are faithful and active like the heroes who have gone before us.

Today's text from Acts chapter one is a text that we have read time and again for the past few weeks as we have been in lock-down and together have studied Acts of the Apostles both in worship and in our weekly Bible study. We have focused on the call of the faithful to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. But today I want us to look at one short phrase that calls us to action like the heroes of our past.

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Acts Chapter one verse 11. After Jesus had been taken into heaven angels asked the earliest followers of Jesus, why are you just standing there looking into the sky?" The greatest miracle in human history has touched your life, and you are just going to stand there?

Folks it does not take hours of exegetical Bible study to unpack this for us. This is a call to get after it. Get to work. Stand up for what is right. Build something that honors God and the gifts He has given you. Build it in your home, in your families, in your business, in every endeavor. This is what the patriots of our country have done for us. Blessed with freedom and opportunity, they stood up and acted when the challenge was before them.

So, why are you just standing there?!

We Respond to the Voice of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBTOesmhfU>

Giving is an act of faith, grace and trust. Giving is an action that faithful people take, in and by, their worship. So, as the joyful people of God, in response to God's word and His blessings, we give back to Him what He has generously given to us. Take this time to count your blessings, to re-dedicate yourself to God's ministry and mission, to living with open hearts and hands, and to return your tithes and offerings to the church via mail or online giving, using text to give or the following link:

<https://onrealm.org/gracepclv/-/give/now>

Offertory "My Country Tis of Thee" arr. B Catham
Dr. Jerry Reeves, pianist and Dr. David Dorway, organist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQmWloVExfk>

Offertory Prayer Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pnyPEqVVeY>

Please pray with me: God of all creation, of all nations and peoples, bless us as we offer all that we have and all that we are to Your kingdom. We pray, Heavenly Father, that You would bless these gifts and multiply them for the good of Your kingdom and for the salvation of the world. Help us again this week to give with grace, reach out in love, and remember that because of Your great love we have all that we need, and more than enough to share with the world. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Song "America the Beautiful" Q. Quartet
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRzR3xcs51w>

Benediction
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNqYWb5Zb8I>

Go in peace, and know that you go nowhere by accident,
It is God who is sending you.
So, go with the power of God Almighty,
go with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ; and,
with the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
Go, and for heaven's sake, make a difference.

Postlude

“America the Beautiful”

J Dixon

Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSgszaVTB6Q>

We Go to God in Prayer

As you continue to worship this week, please keep the following people in prayer, and reach out to one another in word or deed.

Dolores Harris (*Merrill Gardens*)

Mary Phillips (*Legacy House*)

Judy Aitken, Becky Aldridge, Alice Black, Bill Carlston, Bob Clark,
Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Pennie Everhart,
Joice Franklin, Mary Gafford, Pam Kodey, Lara Kolberg,
Dorell Koon, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles, Beth More, Don Neeley,
Maggie O'Donnell, Alice & Gary Oiler, Dodi Palmer, Russ & Pat Reid,
Aminta & Jorge Santanilla, Marty Swartout, Nick Vogelzang, Sharon
Wilson, Dick Wohletz, Lynne Zenier, Kathy Koch.

In Memoriam:

Jack Crockett 3/18/2020

Randy Innis 3/18/2020

Clark Trapp 3/18/2020

Ruthy Stull 3/19/2020

Ted Phillips 4/1/2020

Violet Cross 4/4/2020

Bill Franklin 5/4/2020

Greg Holt 5/7/2020