

**Order of Worship for at Home Use
Third Sunday after Easter, May 3, 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.

Christ is RISEN!

He is RISEN INDEED!

Today, as the joyful people of God, we continue to worship our Risen LORD, separate, but together, as God's family. Today is the 4th Sunday in the Easter season. As we worship today...

Again today as we worship we acknowledge that we are in fearful and uncertain times, however, we also turn our hearts back to God and renew our belief in Him...

As we begin you are invited to **prepare your worship space**. We will be partaking in communion today. Please prepare your bread and juice/wine ahead of time. If you don't have one or the other, use what is on hand. A roll or crackers, water or wine all will be fine as we celebrate the mystery and gift of communion.



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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXGmikP7RfA>

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude "Surely the Presence of the Lord" J. Haydn
Dr. Jerry Reeves
Dr. David Dorway
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzBiQtE2hNM>

Welcome/Call to Worship Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opIahT5l-V0>

*Welcome to worship @ home with grace!
Today we will meet Jesus at the table He sets before us.
Please be sure to have your communion elements ready as we begin.*

*This is the day that the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Come, let us devote ourselves to God's word,
to fellowship with one another,
and to the breaking of bread and prayers.*

*Let us with glad and generous hearts
praise God and worship His holy name!
Let us worship God!*

Hymn "Shine, Jesus, Shine" Kathy Koch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH4IbP3-F3k>

Sharing the Peace of Christ **not in video**

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!

Today, we come to Your throne of grace, knowing that we are Your people, Your family, separate but together in the love of Christ... We also seek Your face... knowing that You come... no matter where we are, and *neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will separate us from Your love.*

Not one thing, or millions of things... can separate us from You.

Thank You, Great God, for Your Holy Presence. Your loving embrace. Your Guidance. Your grace and the hope we have in Jesus. Help us in these moments to allow knowledge of You to seep deep within our bones, to fill us with Your shalom... to feel the salve of Your Spirit renew our dry and rough places... grant us the will and wisdom to drink deeply of the waters of Your blessing.

As we pray today, in the silence, we allow our individual hearts and voices to join with all of those around the world in prayer.

Today, we plead with You, O God, asking for You intervene ... to step into our broken places. Please, Loving God, touch the lives, hearts and health of those we name aloud before You now...

Holy God, we pray for health, discernment, provision, relationships to be mended, deep connections with You and others and we pray for peace.

Today, we lift up our country and government, as well as all of those around the world who are working for a cure for covid 19, all who are setting policy to keep people safe, and who are also mindful of the need for balance between physical wellness and the financial implications for so many. God, show them (and each one of us) the way to navigate this pandemic well. Guide each decision by Your hand and by Your grace help the world to heal and recover... as well as build community and a love for You.

We pray these things as Jesus Himself 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 **not in video**

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

Children's Message

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a32FF8X9f2Q>

Today the children are challenged with the questions:

1. Do you have friends?
2. How do good friends treat you?
3. Are you a good friend to others?

The children are then reminded that the church is the family of God. We are all sisters and brothers. We are to treat each other as friends and family. The children are also reminded that Jesus said; "greater gift has no one than they lay down their life for another." This means we are to put others before ourselves. We are to care for those in need and those we can help. Finally, the children are challenged to find ways to be a good friend sharing God's love and grace.

Special Music

"We are His Hands" M.S.Gersmehl
Kathy Koch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ruron925Ds>

Reading of the Word

Psalm 23

BJ Jamison

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oaUcHviEj0>

Message

"Christian Community" Acts 2:42-47
Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7E29VyqSLbw>

Today we continue our study of Acts of the Apostles. Today's text is the story of the followers of Jesus and how they organized themselves into the first church after Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit came to the followers of Christ. Listen to this description of the New Testament Church as it comes to us from the book of Acts from the words of Luke in Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

After Pentecost the followers of Jesus stay in Jerusalem and they begin to put into practice the things that Jesus had taught them. They loved one another, they shared the message of Jesus with outsiders, they met regularly and they remembered to practice Jesus' commands of the Last Supper and Baptism. In doing so, their group grew. People wanted to be part of their little religious group. It was amazing. Simply by living their faith, their church grew.

Simply by living, their faith their church grew. Can you imagine that? Simply by living, their faith their church grew. They were baptizing new members regularly, they met regularly and ate and had communion, a common meal where they remembered the living Christ. They committed themselves to the teaching of the Apostles. Wow, do you think that if we committed ourselves to the teachings of the Apostles, *people would come to our church*, or do they just not care in this day and age? Why listen to a sermon when you can get all the sermons you want off the Internet? And on the internet you can fast forward past the parts you don't like! Why come to church when you can watch it on TV?

Well, I don't have a good answer for that in this particular COVID-19 moment in history. We cannot get out because of health concerns so the best thing we can do is be part of a video church or digital church.

But, let's be honest, video church and digital church are not enough. This is not what we are called to.

Community; community is what is what makes us different from video games and Facebook messenger. The Christian Church, at its best, is a healthy community that welcomes outsiders and heals the broken. The church, at its best, teaches the truth, loves one another and offers home and salvation for a broken and hurting world. For the person who has never fit in or been part of a clique, the church offers you a place to belong where you are loved. If the church was faithful to its call, we would share what we had with those in need.

The apostles knew what it was they were to do in order to fulfill God's command to make disciples and be the Body of Christ. They were committed to teaching, prayer, fellowship and the sacraments. In this way, they created a community that cared so deeply for one another that whatever they had they were willing to share with those in need.

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Many people read this and say the first communists were found in the book of Acts. After all, wasn't it Karl Marx who made famous the saying, "from each according to his ability to each according to his need?" Marx went on to say at a later time that Communism could be summed up in one sentence, "abolish all private property". This makes us capitalists very nervous. But, is this what Luke meant when he wrote that in the New Testament Church?

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Well, communism is not what this text is about. This is not the introduction of an economic system. It is however the description of compassion, generosity, grace and a healthy community. Clearly it says that they gave to anyone AS they had need. That is, when a need arose they sold property in order to address the need. The needs of the community and each member in it were more important than their wealth or their property. They were, in fact, a community, a family and an economy that defined themselves differently than the world in which they lived.

You know, sometimes how we define ourselves changes the outcome of our efforts. I once heard a story about an old motorcycle rider who sat in a bar along the roadside drinking this lemonade (this is a church story!) He had parked his 1968 Harley shovelhead in the lot. He sat by himself as he did many days. Suddenly a young man wearing leathers burst in asking who owned the Harley. The older man sat quietly at the bar while the young buck ranted about the ancient Harley and how his Kawasaki Ninja could beat the Harley in any race, any race. He turned to the older gentleman who sat at the bar and said; “that’s your bike isn’t it? I can beat the old bike in any race you choose. You set the rules and the route; hills, curves, flats I can beat you on all of them. My bike is rated at over 220 mph!” The old man just ignored the younger challenger until the younger man called the Harley rider at the bar a coward. Slowly the older gentleman said; “I’ll take your challenge. We will race from the parking lot to the 1/2 mile marker turn around and race back. If one of us touches the ground with either foot we lose. The race is to see who can ride the slowest from start to finish without touching the ground. The shovelhead Harley lumbered awake and idled on its large wheels and well balanced engine. Slowly it completed the course. The Ninja, however, whined to life and with its high powered engine and narrow racing tires it required speed for balance. The rider could not stay straight or slow. At the end of the race the old man with the classic Harley returned to his seat. Nothing need be said.

Sometimes you have to change the rules, you have to change your behavior and play the game differently. When you do, you change the outcome of the game. Gandhi led a revolution and didn’t use violence. He did fight back and India won its independence with very little bloodshed. Martin Luther King followed Gandhi’s example and our nation changed its understanding to race relations.

The apostles created a community of love, grace, giving, centered on teaching and living out Christ's message in the midst of violent repression of the Roman Empire. This little Christian community changed the world. Their counter cultural behavior began a movement that continues to grow today. Maybe not growing so much in Western Civilization, but, make no mistake, in Africa, Asia, South America and throughout the globe, Christ is on the march and He is moving through the work of Christians who are giving the world an alternative to the way things are done.

Folks, we are a community and when we behave like the community we are called to be, people's lives change. This is true globally and locally.

You know how I came to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Well actually I was introduced to Christ at Calvin Crest, the camp our church attends in California. That is where I learned about Christ and His call on my life. But, I really became committed to Christ when I became a diabetic and the community of faith, my youth group, showed me the real grace and love of God.

I was 16 years old I was on a youth retreat when I got sick to my stomach. After throwing up for 10 hours the adults decided to take me home. When I got home I was alone because my parents had taken the opportunity of my being away to go out of town leaving my sister in charge. Now she was 19 years old and had a boyfriend, so she did not even know I was alive. I was sick and got sicker. When my parents got home, I was in a diabetic coma. They took me to the hospital where I spent the next week in and out of ICU and hooked up to many of those drippy things. I was terrified. My family was great. They were there to help and worked with the doctor as you would expect. But what really touched my heart was my friends from the youth group. They were there with me around the clock. I remember all of them. Kevin Locke, Pam Reeder, Rachel Stallings, Rob Garner, and so many more. They came because this was our group. It was a community that did what we are called to do.

⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need

This is not how normal high schoolers behave. But these kids were truly self-sacrificing and caring. I knew from that moment I wanted to be part of this type of community. I also learned it is hard work. Nevertheless, I was committed and have dedicated my life to building a community that is dedicated to the service of God and the service of others as Christ calls.

Today we are in a church that is part of the most amazing city on earth. We are a community called to care for one another. We have the opportunity to set an example that will be seen in every corner of our world. Today we are also facing a new challenge of how to be a community that is responsible to one another when faced with economic, social and medical threats. Today we need to think outside the box, change the rules and be faithful to our community in radical new ways. We need to display the love of God in ways that touch lives safely, share our resources responsibly and rebuild our city, nation and world faithfully. We need to be the godly community that is called for in scripture. A community that cares for those in need, feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless, heals the sick, protects the widows and orphans, turns the other cheek and even lays down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

In today's world, this is revolutionary, but it is what it means to be the church today, in COVID-19 2020.

Hymn "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
Dr. David Dorway and Lisa Elliott and Jim Aldridge
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV7akgyhzOg>

We Respond to the Voice of God

Tithes & Offerings Pastor Dana Pope
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lBc_ExaCkw

In these moments, remember and share ways that God has brought light and life, joy and other blessings into your life this past week. In addition, share ways you will offer yourself to God today and in the days ahead. Take this time 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 Prayer

****Not in video****

Please pray with me: God of all creation, bless us as we offer all that we have and all that we are, Your tithes and our offerings, our time, talents, and energies. We pray, Heavenly Father, that You would bless them and multiply them for the good of Your kingdom and for the salvation of the world. Help us this week to remember that because of Your love we have all that we need, and enough to share with the world. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Special Music

“The Twenty-third Psalm” V. Archer
Lisa Elliott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-8mU44luIE>

The Service of Communion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hjq5LQIrBP0>

Communion Transcript:

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.

Friends, this is the Lord's Table, our Savior invites those who trust Him to share the feast which He has prepared.

Today, we celebrate this great gift on our own tables...in our own homes... yet we celebrate as one body, the body of Christ, United in Christ in every time and place, in Jesus name.

Please pray with me: Creator and Sustainer of all creation, in Your wisdom you made all things and sustain them by Your power. You formed us in Your image to love and serve You, but we forget both who and Whose we are so easily.

We are so grateful that in Your Mercy You do not reject us, instead, you name us and claim us as Your own. We thank You that You call us back to You every time we stray, and we thank You for the gift of Your only Son, the way to eternal life, Who loves us even to death on the cross.

We praise You, and we sing once again with the angels, *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna, in the highest.*

You are holy, God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

We thank You that Jesus took for us the weight of our sin, and carried for us our guilt. We thank You that He shares our life in every way, and in His dying and rising we have been delivered from slavery to sin and death, and brought into a new life by covenant of water and Spirit.

We remember now Your mighty acts, Triune God, and we ask that You pour out Your blessing on this bread and on this cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By Your Spirit, unite us now with Christ and with all that are baptized in His name, around every table around the world, that as this bread is Christ's body for us, You would send us out to be the body of Christ for the world. Amen!

On the night of his arrest, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread and after giving thanks to God He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, *Take, Eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

And in the same way he took the cup saying: *this cup is the new covenant in My blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.*

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord until He comes again. These are the gifts of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God!

Come, and share in the joyful feast of God, for all is prepared.

As you take the bread, share the words: *This is Christ's body, broken for you* or *this is the bread of heaven.*

As you share the cup, share the words: *This is the cup of salvation* or *this is the cup of the new covenant.*

Communion Music

Panis Angelicus

C. Franck

Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1uq5vn-PJs>

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Benediction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_ZixWDtqQ8

*Go in peace, and know you go nowhere by accident.
God is sending you.
so , go with the power of God Almighty,*

*love of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit.
Go, and for heaven's sake, make a difference!*

Postlude "The Heavens are Telling" J. Haydn
Dr. Jerry Reeves, pianist and Dr. David Dorway, organist
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_baIz7_TRY

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

In Need of Prayer

Dolores Harris (*Merrill Gardens*)
Mary Phillips (*Legacy House*)
Dorell Koon (Rehab)
Greg Holt (Loma Linda)
Bill Franklin (home hospice)
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, Carole
McKinnis, Sherrie Miles, Beth More, Don Neeley, Maggie O'Donnell,
Alice & Gary Oiler, Dodi Palmer, Russ & Pat Reid, Aminta & Jorge
Santanilla, Marty Swartout, Sharon Wilson, Dick Wohletz, and Lynne
Zenier.

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