

Order of Worship for at Home Use

June 14, 2020

Welcome to worship with Grace@Home!

We are GLAD YOU are HERE!

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twbv3g8u_Ao

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.

Even as our world is hurting and divided, as the joyful people of God, we continue to worship our Risen LORD. We are separate, but by the mystery of faith, we are also together, a part of God's family. In this time of separation and unrest, we continue to turn our hearts to God as we worship His holy name. I pray blessings will be abundant as we enter into God's grace together in worship, and that Holy Spirit fills each of us with holy fire and a real sense of God's presence and peace.

Always, Pastor Dana

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" arr S. Tucker
Dr. David Dorway, organist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsG43UkXrOk>

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK01hVkQPhE>

Call to Worship based on Psalm 16

Our mighty God is THE safe place,
Let us draw near to Him.
Our Holy God is our Maker, Mediator, and Master,
Let us lift our eyes to Him.
Our Lord is our Counselor Who provides us wisdom.
Let us listen for His Word to us today.
Come, Let us enter into the Resurrection life.
Let us worship God!

Hymn "One Thing Remains"
By Brian Johnson, Christa Black Gifford, and Jeremy Riddle
Kathy & Dave Koch, Savannah Scarlett & Family
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dC7qJ0PAq8g>

Sharing the Peace of Christ

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWL-ZzdWC2A>

In this time of social distancing and unrest it is important for us to remember that in Christ we are united with all who believe in Jesus in every time and place. As Christians we share the peace of Christ as a way to offer hope and joy and connection to one another through Christ. So, as we worship today we use the familiar words, "The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all... 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 family of faith.

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

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together: God of wonders, of all creation, we come to You today to pray. Many of us are weary and worn, worried and angry. We pray for ourselves and families/friends and call to you to intercede for this world. We need You once again to put Your hands on us, to move over the waters of all that You made, we need Your provision, Your patience, Your grace and Your love. We pray that You would restore and renew what You lovingly created. Help us, as Your children, to reflect the light of Christ and to boldly speak truth. Help us to bring a word of peace and comfort as well as spread the good news of hope in Christ Jesus, and life abundant only found in Your kingdom.

God, Who knit us together as individuals, and Who calls us to gather, in unity, as family, we pray that You would welcome and unite us at Your throne of grace. Breathe into us Your Spirit. You know us better than we know ourselves. So, by Your Spirit we pray that You would open the eyes of our hearts, grant us grace that as we pray, as we draw near to You with love, intention and adoration... Your name would be glorified and we would be made pure and holy by Your mercy.

We acknowledge now, in the presence of our faith family, and in Your Presence, our need for forgiveness and grace. We know that we fall short of Your will, we go our own way in our stubborn pride. Forgive us for all that we have failed to do, all that we have done which is against Your commandments and that damages our relationship with You and others. Forgive us for our heartless living and numb ways of going about our days. Set us on the right paths, lead us by still waters. Give us new insight and the ability to see the way You see us and our world. Remake and restore us in Jesus name. And then send us out, to be a part of what You are already at work doing in this world.

Help us to remember:

When we are at our wits end, O God,

You are our peace and our stronghold.

When we know not what to say, or how to say it,

You are THE Word of life.

When we are weary, lonely, or grieving,

You are our safe place and our comfort.

When we seek our own solutions and keep our own counsel,

You remind us that You ARE Wisdom

and Your ways are always righteous.

Help us in all ways and in all times to turn to You - fully - trusting in

Your grace and in Your love for us and for this world.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who 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=CUGKRRUmKiY>

In today's children's message the children were asked to read and say the words, "yes, no, stop and go". These are important words because they are words that show that we can make our own choices. The children are reminded that God has created us in a special way. We are made in God's image. This means that we have a choice in every decision we make. We can choose to say yes to goodness and no to things that are bad.

Today please take a moment and talk with your children about the decisions they make. Ask your children about the choices they have and how they might make good choices that show the world they are good and loved and created in God's image.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqVjvdalv8A>

(dedication: We are in unprecedented times. There is a pandemic that has taken over 115,000 lives in our country and cost millions of jobs and economic hardship that has not been seen in our lifetimes. There is political strife that divides our nation, communities, and families. And there is social turmoil, racial strife, rage, and injustice that has cost lives and is tearing us apart as a people. These are unprecedented times.

This piece, a presentation of Psalm 23, the shepherd's Psalm, is dedicated to those who have lost their lives during this challenging moment in history. This piece is dedicated to all who are grieving, all who are suffering and all who are lost and struggling to find their way. And this piece is dedicated to all who serve us and protect us in our moment of need.)

Special Music

"The Twenty-third Psalm"

A. H. Malotte

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgAfgethR88>

Reading of the Word

Genesis 3:1-13

Corrie Dirickson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ou7JQAFxpcc>

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Message

"Good and Evil in the Garden"

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

As you know, this summer we are looking at the book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, what it tells us about ourselves and about God. Last week we kicked off our study with the creation story in Genesis chapter one. We saw how the Bible teaches that God created the world and that He created it good. We learned that God created humankind, all of us in His image and that we have a special place in creation, according to the Bible.

Now, I think that deep down we all know that God created this world and everything in it. We may argue about how God created the universe, evolution, big bang, seven days, seven years, in an instance, but we know that there was a creation and we are not the creator. We may argue as to who God is, but we know we are not Him. We also know that while God created goodness in this amazing world, things are not always that good. In fact, sometimes we are touched by evil, pain, brokenness. Even worse, as we have seen lately, sometimes we participate in evil, or things that are hurtful.

Evil and its effects on our world is what we are going to talk about today. You know, the second story in the Bible, the thing that God teaches us after creation is the reality of evil in our world and how we are to deal with it.

In the first part of this morning's text, Genesis Chapter 3, we have the story of Adam and Eve's fall from grace; the story of their sin. Then, in this next section, we have the consequences of their actions, or as some like to call it, the curse. So, listen closely to the remainder of this story and I think you will find that amidst the fall and the coming of evil there is a story of God's love and grace. In God's creation, when evil is evident, there is not only judgement and condemnation, there is also redemption and hope.

Genesis 3:14-24

*¹⁴ "So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.*

*¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring ^[a] and hers;
he will crush ^[b] your head,
and you will strike his heel."*

*¹⁶ To the woman he said,
"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;
with pain you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you."*

*¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate
from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat
of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat of it
all the days of your life.*

*¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.*

*¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return."*

*²⁰ Adam ^[c] named his wife Eve, ^[d] because she would become
the mother of all the living.*

*²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife
and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, "The man has now
become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed
to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and
live forever." ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of
Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he
drove the man out, he placed on the east side ^[e] of the Garden of Eden
cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the
way to the tree of life."*

So, here is the deal. God creates the world. He then creates human beings in His own image. God gave His people freedom, that is, the ability to choose whether to love and follow God. Simply put, God gave humans the ability to choose good or evil. He did this by putting a tree in the garden and then saying, “I have given you this garden for you to play in and to eat from. You may do whatever you like, except, do not eat from that one tree. It is the tree of knowledge of good and evil; really it is the tree of choice. You can choose to do right or wrong. I want you to do right but you can do wrong there is the tree I am telling you, however, do not touch that tree or you will die! Do not do it, don’t do it, don’t do it. If you do, you will suffer!”

So, what do the first humans, our ancestors do? They act like humans and they do that which they are told not to do. They want to test God and see if what He says is true, or can they get away with a little infraction because they are special? After all, the tempter says, “it's not that big of a deal, surely you will not die if you eat the fruit, you are more important than that. Others would die but not you!” fair that I should be guilty of Adam or Eve’s sin, after all, I did not eat the darn apple!” Well, you would have. It is human nature, we are broken, inquisitive and deep down we are all-selfish. Moreover, we all would like to get away with something. When we are told not to do something the first thing, we do is try to think of a way we can do it without being punished. When we are told to work, we are lazy. When we are told the maximum speed limit is 45 mph on most major streets and thoroughfares, we think; “Now that is just a suggestion right?” We think the rules should apply to everyone else but not to us. It is in our nature. You know, it is not safe to climb to the high altitudes where there is less oxygen. You really should not do it yet look at the sport of mountain climbing. How many people have crossed the 14,000-foot barrier? I have no idea; but I do know that 4000 people have tried to climb Mt Everest and 300 have made it to the top. 39,035 feet. You see, as soon as we are told not to do something, we begin the process of trying to break the rule or the barrier.

And, honestly, sometimes breaking the rules is a good thing. When rules that cause evil are in place, they should be defied and changed. We celebrate Martin Luther King because he broke the social rules and did the right thing. He fought against the sin of racism. Today there are those who break rules in Martin Luther King Jr.’s tradition. That is okay because rules that are designed to hurt others or encourage evil are evil in themselves.

Sadly, however, we more often break rules for selfish gain and for the bragging rights of having stared death in the face and defied it. We think we are better or more deserving than the rest of the world and so the rules do not apply. We let the sin of selfishness warp our thinking. We jump motorcycles, bicycles, and anything on wheels, simply to be defiant. We race cars and drive drunk, simply because we think that the rules do not apply to us.

Did you know that the puffer fish can be deadly if you are stung by it or if you ingest its poison? It is as if God said, “don’t touch this fish, don’t do it, it is bad for you, very bad.” So, you know what humans did? They said, “hey, I bet we could eat that and not die. So now, across the globe you can order puffer fish off the menu in many gourmet restaurants. In fact, in Japan, over 100 people a year die from eating that fish and even more die catching and preparing it. We know this, but we still catch it and eat it, because certainly the rules do not apply to me. And the tempter says, “go ahead, do it, surely you will not die.”

The reality in life is that we are not good at following rules and we are not good at being faithful to God. We want our own way. We have gone astray, and let us be honest, not because we have wandered, that is an excuse, we have intentionally gone looking for some loophole or special condition where we leverage our advantage for personal gain. It is in our nature and that is the consequence of sin.

Well, that is the doctrine of sin. There is good and bad in all of us and in the institutions we create. We can choose either good or evil in every decision we make. When we use the gifts and the guidelines God has given us for anything other than goodness, we fail. Institutions that seek to give advantage to one group over another need to be changed. People who violate the image of God in others with violence or discrimination need to be held accountable. Laws unevenly applied need to be rewritten. We must recognize that we are a fallen people and that we have the ability to choose good and do what is right. Goodness must be encouraged while evil is restrained. That is how we heal and how God works in us to bless our world. This is what we should be working for.

Look at our text, even as the curse levied for Adam’s and Eve’s sin, there is a promise of salvation from evil in the birth of a child, descendant that will crush the head of evil.

*between you and the woman,
and between your offspring ^[a] and hers;
he will crush ^[b] your head,
and you will strike his heel."
¹⁶ To the woman he said,
"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;
with pain you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you. "'*

Folks, that is the promise of Christ who comes for everyone. This is the first prophecy of Jesus the Messiah who brings redemption from sin. It is clear in God's word that when evil is present and temptation surrounds us, there is always an alternative. It is time for us to choose the alternative!

We Respond to the Voice of God

Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k84JdBaYpRE>

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 people of God, in response to God's word and His blessings, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, we give back to God what He has generously given to us. Take this time to re-dedicate yourself to God's ministry and mission in the church and in the world. Take some time this week to practice living with open hearts and hands, to reach out in love with words of peace and justice and grace...and to return God's tithes and offerings to the church. Our online giving link:

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

Offertory

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" by T. Chisholm & W. Runyon
Kathy Koch and Savannah Scarlett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVRrJxXrMq0>

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1M2RYJAFyZ0>

God of all that is seen and unseen, bless these Your tithes and offerings - multiply them for Your purposes. We ask that Your world might be blessed by all we offer, and that in the mystery of faith we would be used to bring about Your peace and love in this world, and that Your kingdom would come. Amen.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Song “Amazing Grace” Lisa Elliott & Travis Lewis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wLPNAvgSaY>

Benediction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1KjqDNkD18>

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

“Psalm XIX”

B. Marcello
Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bx2LQUd1Dc>

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*)

Judy Aitken, Becky Aldridge, Alice Black, Bill Carlston, Bob Clark,
Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Pennie Everhart,
Joice Franklin, Mary Gafford, Mary Phillips, Kathy Koch, Pam Kodey,

Lara Kolberg, Dorell Koon, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles, Beth More,
Pennie Everhart, Maggie O'Donnell, Alice & Gary Oiler, Dodi Palmer,
Russ & Pat Reid, Aminta & Jorge Santanilla, Marty Swartout,
Nick Vogelzang, Sharon Wilson, and Dick Wohletz

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

Carol Mohr 5/25/2020