

Order of Worship for at Home Use
Grace Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas, NV
June 28, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1D35xQHiHNA>

Welcome to worship with Grace@Home!

We are GLAD YOU are HERE!

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

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

Even as our world continues to be divided and filled with uncertainty, as the joyful people of God, we continue to be united as we worship our Risen LORD. We are separate, but by the mystery of faith, we are also together, a part of God's family and united in Christ and in our love for God and one another. In this time of separation and unrest, we come into God's presence seeking His shalom and His grace. We trust in God that we would be provided with all that we need to live out God's call in our lives, in Jesus 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, purpose, and peace.

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Dana

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude "All Things Bright and Beautiful" A. Travis
Dr. David Dorway
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnkbuLI79kY>

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

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 13)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXhO032Duic>

We come to You to gather at Your throne
We ask: How long will we suffer and struggle, Great God?
God our Father says: I am with you. I love you and will not leave you.
We plead: Take away our sorrow, Lord!
Heal us, guide us, make us whole!
Jesus answers, I take your burdens upon Myself.
I will never forsake you.
We search for answers, meaning and help
God sends Holy Spirit to guide, advocate and comfort.
Come! Lift your heads! Let us trust in God's unfailing love,
Let us rejoice in our salvation,
Let us sing the Lord's praise and worship His holy name!

Hymn "Cornerstone" Hillsong Worship
Kathy Koch, Jennifer Brinkley, Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeA8IQ2Mc>

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 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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5ICxRV24Rg>

Holy God, Who calls us into being, forms us out of dust and delights in us, we turn back to You once again in these moments. As we come to You we plead for Your forgiveness.

Again this week we have been tested and tried, and we have failed to live in the light of Your truth and remain faithful to Your word. Our eyes cannot hold Your gaze, we are ashamed and we look everywhere and anywhere except into Your face. Help us to both recognize and utter the truth of our failure, help us to see all of the ways we seek and search for a lamb to sacrifice, instead of laying our desire and our will and our failures on Your altar.

We pray You would forgive us and help us to accept Your forgiveness, Your love and Your grace. With intention now, we set our eyes on Jesus, we determine to trust in His goodness and in Your great love for us. We ask that You would take these broken and bruised hearts we offer to You, and that in Your mercy You would breathe new life into them. Make them new and righteous in Jesus' name.

We know, O God, that we are called to live by faith, not by sight or signs, not by worldly logic, or by intuition... we are called to faithfully look to You for truth and wisdom and discernment. Help us to believe in You, rely on Your Word, trust in the power of Holy Spirit and the grace that can only be found in fellowship with Jesus.

Gracious God, in these moments we offer our lives back to You, as a living sacrifice, pure and holy. Help us to live into the true message of the gospel with the boldness of Abraham - willing to trust and obey no matter the opposition, condemnation or trials that may come against us.

We thank You, O God, for all of the blessings that You shower upon us, and on this world. We lift to You all who are suffering, grieving, afraid, or angry this day. We pray, O God, Your hand would be upon all of those that need Your healing touch, Your help and Your power. Grant each one an extra measure of Your grace this day. Help each one of us to bring the gospel message and the balm of Gilead to each one who suffers by the power of Holy Spirit. We pray that You would provide a way through and grant hope for today and the days ahead.

We humbly offer these prayers, and so many more that we have kept hidden in our hearts, in Jesus' name...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=WWOe6bV0UHY>

Today the children are challenged with the idea that tests help us know where we succeed and where we need to do more work to learn. In order to illustrate this the children are encouraged to test their parents and adults who do not have children in the house are challenged to take the test below. A passing grade is two correct answers.

1. Who likes to explore and has a friend named Boots?

Answer: Dora the Explorer

2. Where is this written?

“Any signal required by chapters 484A to 484E, inclusive, of NRS to be made by a driver when making a turn or a stop must be given either by means of a hand and arm or by a signal lamp or signal device of a type approved by the department, except if a vehicle is so constructed or loaded that a hand and arm signal would not be visible both to the front and rear of the vehicle, the signals must be given by a signal lamp or signal device.”

Answer: State of Nevada Driver's Handbook

3. Who said these words and where were they spoken?

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

So here is how it goes in the first book of the Bible. God is, God creates the world, says it is good. God creates human beings and says they are good. God wants to be in relationship with His creation so He gives humankind free will, so they have the ability to choose to be in relationship with their creator. But, as we know, human beings go their own way. They worship the creation; they think they could be gods themselves. They seek to take advantage of God and one another. So, we have the stories of the tower of babel and Noah. In Noah's case, he is faithful, but the rest of humankind is inclined for evil, says the Bible. So, God starts over with Noah and his family. We skipped over these stories and the story of Lot and his wife, not because they are not important but because they emphasize the same thing. They show us that, left to ourselves, human beings will make bad decisions.

This is the doctrine of sin and evil and you could argue that the first part of the Bible is all about understanding the human condition and the evil that the human condition has brought on this world. There is evil, and it is caused, primarily, by bad choices humans make.

It is not that difficult to understand. We were created in the image of God. We have good in us. But we also have evil in that free will allows us to do evil, choose the ungodly. And we often choose the ungodly. It is almost our natural choice.

Think about it. If you give a teenager a new car and say this is for you to use for transportation, to help with your brother and sister and some of the shopping. They could choose to be a help. But you know, 9 times out of ten they will say, when you are not listening, I wonder how fast this thing will go? They may even try to see how fast it will go. Not what it is intended for, but what people will do. Freewill. Give a person power, and most often they will seek personal gain, not benevolence.

That is how it is. We are created good and we have the ability to be bad. Sometimes we choose good and sometimes we choose bad. Nobody is perfect, good all the time, and really nobody is totally evil, bad all the time. We are a challenging amalgam of good and evil. Cain and Abel, Tower of Babel, Lot, Noah, are all stories of this challenge of good and evil.

And so now we come to Abraham. Abraham is a true human. He is an example of who we are as people, even who we are as a nation. Abraham is capable of great good but also capable of evil and great failure. That is what makes his story weird and God's story good.

So, Abraham was a family man who was simply a nomadic herder. He traveled with his family and all his stuff from place to place. His family was all he had and then God told him to get up and go. Take his wife and nephew and go to a new land where God would make him a successful man with a family as numerous as the stars in the sky and with land of his own. Abraham is faithful and he goes. This is a good choice. He is God's man. Well, sort of. You see God promised Abraham a family and now he is getting old and he has no children. He is about 85 and it seems that God has not fulfilled His promise. So, Abraham the faithful decides God needs a little help. You see he is tired of waiting so he has sex with the slave of his wife. There is so much wrong with this story. Slavery not the least! And then the handmaiden Hagar has a son. But then Sara, the wife of Abraham becomes pregnant with the promised child. So, Abraham casts out Ishmael the child of the slave girl. God has to come to the rescue and bless Ishmael in spite of Abraham's terrible failing.

Now, Abraham, who is supposed to be the faithful one, has the promised child Isaac and it looks like everything is going to work out and then comes today's story.

Abraham like all of us has been faithful and unfaithful. Both good and bad before God. and yet God chooses him anyway. Maybe God chooses him because of his potential. He could do good if he would just choose to do good. But the jury is out on that. Abraham has betrayed his wife, well at least two times he forced her to go with another man, pharaoh. He said it was for her own good and for the salvation of the family. twice history and grace save her. He faithfully followed God to Palestine then he could not wait on God, so he took matters into his own hands with a slave girl. Was he faithful or not?

This is the challenge we all face? Are we faithful? Not all the time. Sometimes we choose evil or selfishness or greed. When we do others get hurt. Sometimes we choose good. We faithfully follow God and when we do the world is blessed.

Well now Abraham has Isaac, the 13-year-old promised child and God says, take Isaac, your future, and your blessing out to the hillside and kill him for me. What!!!!? That is crazy. It is not part of the plan. Can Abraham give up the blessing and the dream to be faithful?

That is the challenge of this story. Of course, Abraham was faithful, and God intervened. God does not want the sacrifice of children; he wants us to be faithful. In our faithfulness others and ourselves are blessed. When we are selfish and willful, others are injured.

This is true in our own lives isn't it? Selfishness may win you some battles but the cost to others is terrible. It is true corporately also. When we as a nation have fought for what is right in the eyes of God, people have been given freedom and opportunity that has no parallel in human history. When we have done right, we have educated millions, fed billions, provided healthcare and opportunity to those in need. But when we have been selfish and greedy, we have injured countless. We supported slavery and exploited the needy when we sought power and selfish gain.

In many ways the Christian church is the Abraham of our day. Will we be faithful to God's call in our lives? What would you be willing to sacrifice in order to be faithful? That is the test God has put before us.

When Abraham was faithful God got involved. He saw Abraham's actions as faithful and God said, "Now I know that you fear God"

And Abraham called that place, "God will provide."

In your crazy story, do you believe that God will provide?

We Respond to the Voice of God

Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4tE6kv0CPg>

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 "Here I Am, Lord" arr. T.
Fettke Sextet, Becky Aldridge and Dr. David
Dorway

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Vyx9YgjA7w

Offertory Prayer Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RXUaUsrzQ4>

God, Who gives life and breath, bless us now as we offer ourselves, and these Your tithes and offerings - multiply all of it for Your purposes. We ask that Your world and Kingdom would be blessed by all we offer. Help us in these moments, and in the days ahead to work for peace and be bearers of love and grace in this world. In Jesus' name we pray that Your kingdom would come. Amen.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Song "The God of Abraham Praise"
Sextet, Becky Aldridge and Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4zvR91uGM4>

Benediction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rffwE0qMF8>

*May God who raised Jesus from the dead be working in you that which is acceptable and pleasing in His sight.
May God bless you and may God bless our nation.*

Postlude "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" H. Fleischer
Dr. David

Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJTRFks7uow>

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*)

Alice Black (hospital)

Judy Aitken, Becky Aldridge, Bill Carlston, Bob & Joan 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, Louis Ramero, 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