

# Order of Worship for at Home Use Grace Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas, NV

**July 19, 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=MNv2MpfsFD4>

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 "Improvisation on 'Simple Gifts'" J. Barrett  
Dr. David Dorway  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNDPhsVEBPk>

Announcement Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nptr3V3Rpgk>

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXT7r5aiizI>

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 139)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sl8tXg48z8g>

God, Who knows us, is with us.  
**Let us worship Him!**  
God hears our thoughts before we speak.  
**Let us give Him our praise and thanksgiving!**  
God is with us no matter where we are.  
**Let us worship God!**

Hymn "I Speak Jesus" Here by Lions  
Kathy Koch  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oi6THDy5A20>

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!*

Let us pray today as King David prays...

Lord, God, You know everything there is to know about each one of us. You perceive every slight movement of our hearts and souls, every thought before it is formed in our minds. You know when we sit and when we rise and You know every part of our life's journey before we are even born. We praise You today for Your loving care, for Your attention and always walking with us. We are so grateful for the gaze of love which showers on each one of us...as we were the only one You made.

But, God, we admit before You now that when You search and know us, we lack so much. We go our way instead of Yours, we allow frustration and anger to capture us and spill out on others. We live with too much fear and anxiety, shame and doubt. If we try to hide from You, saying, "surely darkness will hide us" we soon realize that Your presence is everywhere and always brings light. Forgive us for our retreat into darkness.

Help us, Creator God, to embrace Your light. Grant us joy and peace that passes all understanding. Help us to draw near to You. Lead us into the way everlasting. Grant us grace to walk faithfully with You each moment of every day.

Today, Great God we call upon Your Spirit to slay and cast out all that comes against us. Sickness, pain, depression, financial hardship, relationship struggles, grief, separation anxiety, loneliness, or any other demon. We invite You today to search and know us, heal completely our bodies, families, the Las Vegas community, the United States, and the world. Help us, God, all of humanity to come back fully to Your everlasting ways and help us to walk the path that brings us back to You.

We thank You, Holy God, for all of the blessings of this life, for Your deep love and amazing grace, and for this opportunity to lay it all down at Your throne of grace....but most of all we thank You for Your Son Jesus, 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

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_6MUGr7ugdg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6MUGr7ugdg)

Today the children joining us for worship and those with childlike hearts are asked to choose a memory that is significant in their lives and share that memory with someone. Memories of significant events in our lives remind us of the things that make us who we are. We remember family, events, experiences and moments that touch us deeply and we carry them with us. In those memories we can often see God in action, touching our lives. Today the children are challenged to see God in the memories and moments of our lives that change us. They are also challenged to look for God in all the moments of life, because God is there.

Special Music  
Smith

“Agnus Dei”

M.W.

Kathy Koch, Savannah Scarlett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hz93NU2hh-k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ud9bYVCV0us>

<sup>10</sup>Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. <sup>11</sup>When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup>He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup>There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. <sup>14</sup>Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. <sup>15</sup>I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." <sup>16</sup>When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup>He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." <sup>18</sup>Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. <sup>19</sup>He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

Message

“Encountering God”

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KB0Ka48GMVc>

Genesis 28:10-19 “Encountering God”

Last week we talked about Jacob and Esau as we continued our study of Genesis, the beginning of things according to the Bible. One of the things we noted is that there are no perfect people. There are certainly no perfect people, except Jesus, to be found in the Bible. Jacob is a prime example of this. Jacob is a usurper, he is a liar and a cheat, he is a coward and he is cunning and conniving. And Yet God gives Jacob His blessing and then His covenant and finally makes him the father of the 12 tribes of Israel. He is a patriarch of a family that are the ancestors of Jesus Christ the Messiah. It seems odd that God would choose such a lout for greatness.

That is what God does. He chooses us when we least deserve it. He chooses us for great things and then allows us the opportunity to be grateful and thankful. Sometimes we get it right. Other times we fail and end up like everyone else, selfish, and headed the wrong direction. But God seems to believe in us. And you know, that ought to be enough.

Today we are looking at the conclusion of Jacob's story. This vision he has is one of the famous stories of the Bible, but few people have any idea what the stairway to heaven actually means. There may be famous songs written about it, but really you cannot buy a stairway to heaven, so it is best that you understand the metaphor if you want to know the vision's meaning.

So here is what is going on. As you remember from last week, Jacob has cheated his brother out of his birthright and he has lied to his dad to get his blessing, the family inheritance. Jacob's brother is deadly furious and his dad, Isaac is disappointed in his son and his mother has sent him off to find a wife in another land. So now Jacob is headed out of town to a place called Padanaram.

This journey would have taken Jacob completely across Israel, the promised land. As he sets out Jacob goes to sleep using a rock for a pillow (I guess no Holiday Inn with my pillows back then).

While sleeping, Jacob dreams of a magnificent ladder, or stairway that is set up on earth and reaches to heaven on top. Jacob witnesses' angels traveling up and down the ladder making their way to earth and back to heaven. He then sees the Lord standing above, who says to Jacob "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and your offspring." God tells Jacob that his offspring shall spread across the world and that "in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed." God informs Jacob he will stay with him wherever he goes and will eventually bring him back to the land where he is having the dream. Jacobs awakes and proclaims, "How awesome is this land! this is none other than the house of God and the gate of heaven." Jacob would rename that land "Bethel" meaning the house of God.

Some things to note:

1. The journey would have taken Jacob completely across the Holy Land. When God says, the land on which you lie, this was the promised land. God was giving a promise, a covenant.

2. It is angels moving up and down from heaven. Human beings are on earth, angels come down from heaven and then back to God. Angels are literally the messengers from God. They do God's work and speak His message. They are the holy ones from God. This is what Jacob sees. The message here is that God is coming to the earth, or at least His messengers are coming to earth and they return to heaven as if they are taking the needs of humankind back to God. The image here is one of God engaging His creation. He sends messengers and angels who do His work. There is interaction with the God of the universe!

3. Jacob receives God's blessing and covenant. Again, not because he has earned. This time he gets the blessing simply because God chooses to bless him.

4. Finally, Jacob faithfully responds. This may be the first time in his life that He does the right thing.

*Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup>He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." <sup>1</sup>*

Jacob recognizes what God is doing and it changes him. He faithfully gives God credit and recognizes God's action in the world around him.

This story is one of a man, a broken and failed human, encountering God and being changed forever. It is the story of a man who does not deserve grace receiving grace and letting it change him.

That is how it is for us also is it not? God touches us with grace, and we are changed. The question is for each of us, how will you respond to God's grace when it touches you.

We may not all have dreams and visions that change us like Jacob. But I can assure you God's messengers are still coming. Think about the moments in your life when God has revealed himself to you with grace. Maybe for you it was a moment when you should not have survived but, for some reason you were spared. That was God. Maybe you have a vision or heard a voice in your heart that gave you direction when you needed it most. That was God. maybe it was a still silent moment when you knew you were loved or were overwhelmed by the creation around you. That was God, the creator of the universe revealing Himself to you.

God still comes today. Up and down that stairway to heaven, God comes. The questions that remain are; what will you do when God comes to your life? What have you done in response to God's grace and what do you need to do?

## **We Respond to the Voice of God**

Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ev9wicwtofo>

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/graceplv/-/give/now>

Offertory "If You Search With All Your Heart" C. Courtney  
Sextet, Jill Usry-Taylor, Becky Aldridge

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_Ha5-mLNpI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_Ha5-mLNpI)

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XHkh4AyOfY>

*God, Who gives life and breath, we thank You now for the abundance of blessings that You generously bestow upon us. Bless us now as we offer ourselves, our energy, time and talents, and these Your tithes and offerings - multiply all of it for Your purposes. We ask that Your world and Kingdom would be blessed, and that You would help us in these moments, and in the days ahead, to be a people of light and joy... and to bring good news, the gospel message, to the world. Help us to joyfully live into our identity in Christ, that His light would shine through us...In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*



## We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Song "Nearer My God To Thee"  
Sextet, Jill Usry-Taylor, Becky Aldridge  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIJqoII910Y>

Benediction Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF4jHGehiqc>

Go in peace and know you go nowhere by accident.  
It is God who is sending you.  
So, go with the power of God Almighty,  
The 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 "Grand Choeur in D" C. Callahan  
Dr. David Dorway  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hhji71rLtdM>

## 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, Terry Glaser, Mary Phillips, Kathy Koch,  
Pam Kodey, Lara Kolberg, Dorell Koon, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles,  
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