

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

**July 26, 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=XENRuj40AHg>

Our world continues to be divided and filled with uncertainty. This week we have news of possible layoffs in the casino industry, rising COVID numbers, and continued frustration as we navigate deeply divided opinions for the reopening of the church and the need (or not) for wearing masks. Even so, as the children of God, we continue to strive to be united in our love for our Father in heaven, and our love for one another.

Together, we worship our Risen LORD, we put our trust in Him, and we celebrate the fact that all of us are invited into His presence, His love, and His grace.

We are separate, but by the mystery of faith, we are also together, a part of God's family and united in Christ. We trust in God that we would be provided with all that we need to live out God's call in our lives, not by our strength, but by His - in Jesus' name.

We pray that you are blessed as you worship, and that God will provide you with all hope and mercy as you worship and in the days ahead.

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Dana

## We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude "Rondeau" J. Fiocco  
Dr. David Dorway  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k82ySEGEDzY>

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dp2jo1ca6jw>

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 105 1-11, 45b)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIyHA-wdcI4>

One: Come, give your praise to the Lord.

**All: We proclaim His wonderful name!**

One: Sing to Him, sing praise to Him.

**All: We tell of His wonderful acts!**

One: There is glory in His name and He is the One Who gives us strength, purpose, and hope.

**All: Let us worship our Lord, our God!**

Hymn "God will Make a Way"  
Kathy Koch and Dana Pope  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kL-NH8RZ9Mw>

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 Pastor Dana Pope  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-C2qwF4iYGI>

Gracious God, we gather around Your throne today to give you our thanks and praise, to proclaim Your Holy name, and to witness to all You have done for us and in us, in Jesus name. As we turn to You we acknowledge our failures once again to live into our identity in Christ. Forgive us for what we have done and what we have left undone. Forgive our tendency to look to ourselves for strength, instead of to You. As we draw near to You make plain to us the ways in which we must let go - die - to ourselves, our own plans and designs for our lives. Help us to re-align with Your will and ways, show us signs of life abundant and peace in You. Help us to seek Your face and glorify Your name in all we say and do.

Today we praise You, Holy God, and we give thanks for all You have done. As we pray in the next few moments we ask for Your mercy, grace and love to flood our hearts and minds ...

Lord, hear our prayers!

In these moments we plead Your protection and mercy upon those who work in the medical profession, the many who are in constant contact with those who are ill. We lift all who serve us in so many ways - soldiers, policemen and women, fire fighters, and so many others. Grant each one an extra measure of Your grace that they might truly be Your hands and feet, a gift of hope to all they serve. Put Your shield around them - and their families, that they would be protected by Your hand, and help them to be at peace in their work and calling. Keep them righteous and good in all of their ways.

Lord, hear our prayers!

God Who heals, we ask for Your hand to be upon all who are struggling with medical issues including covid, pain, anxiety, cancers and so many other diseases. Draw near to them, grant them Your healing touch. Work, O God, in mind or body or circumstance. Help each one to look to You for strength and to seek Your face in all sickness and trial. Lord we pray for Your help, intervention, and mercies for all of Your children who need You now... we lift them up to You now in our hearts...

Lord, hear our prayers!

We thank You, Holy God, for what You are already doing in us, in Your church and in this world...we thank You 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=OkULAHp10kc>

Today the children and the childlike people in worship are shown different balls that children might play with. Each ball is identified for the game to which it belongs. Ping pong balls are for ping pong and soccer balls are for soccer. Each ball is different and has a part to play in their particular game. If a soccer ball is used for ping pong the game will not go well, the children are told. People are like this also. God has created us unique and we have a special role to play in God’s world. If we allow ourselves to be God’s children and do good for God’s world and for others then we are being used by God the way God wants. Like the right ball for the right game. If we choose to not use our gifts and talents faithfully to bless others and this world then we are like a ping pong game being played with a basketball.

Please take a moment and discuss with your children and each other what gifts God has given you that you can use to bless others. Also please discuss what is it in your life that you think God wants you to do now.

Special Music

“Blessings”

Kathy Koch and Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJFndWECJR4>

<sup>15</sup> Laban said to him, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.”

<sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup> Leah had weak<sup>[a]</sup> eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. <sup>18</sup> Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”

<sup>19</sup> Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.” <sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

<sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her.”

<sup>22</sup> So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. <sup>23</sup> But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. <sup>24</sup> And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.

<sup>25</sup> When morning came, there was Leah! So, Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?”

<sup>26</sup> Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. <sup>27</sup> Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.”

<sup>28</sup> And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRFVR6Fyti0>

So today we continue our study of the first book of the Bible, Genesis. And today's text is another story about Jacob, the patriarch of the Jewish people. I know what you are thinking after hearing this text, “hey this is a terrible story. This guy goes to another country to find a wife because he wants someone who is from his extended family. Jacob gets to his uncle's farmland and meets his younger daughter and falls hopelessly in love with her because of her doe-like eyes. He does not like the older daughter...image shaming... because her eyes are dull. He works seven years so he can earn or buy the younger girl (Rachel) but is tricked into having honeymoon sex with the wrong girl. How does that work? Anyway, now he is, according to tradition, married to the wrong girl. So, he cuts a deal so that he can marry both women”. And, you are thinking, “why is this story in the Bible and why is this our third week looking at this schlub, Jacob?”

Well, let me tell you, Jacob is a critical character in the Bible because he is, in essence, you and me. Not actually, but he represents you and me. In our study of Genesis Jacob gets more time than anyone else. 4 Sundays we study Jacob. That is right, next Sunday we will finish our study of Jacob before we turn to his 12 sons who became the heads of the 12 tribes of Israel, and in particular, Joseph.

Anyway, back to Jacob. As you know, Jacob was a scoundrel and a cheat who stole his birthright and inheritance from his father and his older brother. Then he runs away to his uncle's place to find a wife while hiding from his angry brother. While traveling he has an encounter with God that changes him. Because that is what happens when we encounter God, He changes us. Jacob is a changed man, but he still lives in a particularly difficult time in history with customs that are not our own. Jacob has been given a covenant with God that says, God will be his God and Jacob will have descendants and land and from Jacob's line, his family, the world will receive its messiah. But Jacob must be faithful.

So, Jacob lives in his cultural context. He lives in the context of his time. He marries by paying the bride price for his wife only to be cheated by his own family, his uncle. It seems that the former cheater has been cheated, he has received a taste of his own medicine. You see on the wedding night, Laban, the father of the bride switches daughters and Jacob has sex with the wrong girl. Again, how does this happen? I do not know! There must have been drinking at this wedding. Truly weird times. And why does Rachel not stop this dysfunctional mess? Anyway, Jacob either breaks custom or he cuts a deal. He has been cheated and if he now abandons Leah, she will be a stained woman and turned out by the family with no one to take care of her in life. That was the crazy custom of the day.

Jacob does not abandon her even though it is marriage by fraud. Jacob has compassion and integrity by the standards of his day. This is, after all the new Jacob who was changed by God after his dream of the stairway to heaven. So now, Jacob honors Leah and also cuts a new deal for the love of his life. Sadly, polygamy was a thing back then. Since people did not live long in this part of history and family was all there was, customs had to be different if a family were to survive. Honestly, you cannot judge the bronze age by 21<sup>st</sup> century morals. You have to judge Jacob by his actions within the customs of His day if you are to understand the message of his life. That is how we learn from history. We know its contexts and learn from the events and actions of people in their time. If we want to judge the past by contemporary standards, we will fail to learn historical lessons that should define us.

So, anyway, Jacob the cheater has been cheated. What goes around comes around. The question in the moment is what will the new Jacob do? Is He is a new man, touched by God? Should he revert to his old ways, abandon Leah, and run off Rachel? He would be justified, but that would just further the cycle of cheating and lying in this family. Jacob chooses to take the insult and live out his bargain. He fulfills his side of the deal and then faithfully works another deal in this twisted culture of polygamy and tribal infighting. Jacob protects the honor of Leah and still is able to marry his love Rachel.

This truly is one of the craziest stories in the Bible. This guy does not deserve to be the patriarch of the Jews or even called Israel. By our standards he does it all wrong. But God chooses him in his time. God does not make the crazy morals of history, but sometimes he redeems the mess of history we make. You see, as humanity progresses, appropriate behavior and morals change. But if we are willing to learn from history, recognizing there is no perfect time or perfect people, we can see character develop in spite of the dumb things people do.

Jacob was a mess, but he was God's mess. God used Jacob in his moment in history, in his context, to begin the redemption of the world. It begins with the faithful actions of Jacob, one broken man, chosen by God to do God's will in a particular moment in history.

Jacob is pretty much like us. He is a broken man who makes big mistakes. But God calls him anyway. He calls him and uses him in his historical context. Today God still comes to the world and He still calls us in our historical context. Maybe it is better said, "God still comes to us in the mess we have made of our lives. God still calls us to something better." So, what does God call you to this day, and what does He call you away from this day? These two questions can change your life and maybe human history.

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

Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4q497PGxGBI>

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

"I Choose You"

D. Govenor

Quarantine Quintet with Becky Aldridge, Flute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YT8TNUfLuQg>

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5K5LBngL0GE>

*God, Who gives us life and breath, purpose and joy, we thank You now for all You generously bestow upon us. In these moments we offer what we have back to You, our energy, time and talents, and these Your tithes and our offerings - multiply all of it for Your purposes. We ask that in Your mercy You would help us to lean into Your vision for each of us and for Your church, that in the days ahead, we would be inspired and led to work for Your kingdom faithfully, and be a people of light and joy... bringing Your 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

“Seek Ye First”

Quarantine Quintet with Becky Aldridge, flute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eJrmSkCcdg>

Benediction

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

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

There is a saying in Scotland that “the fabric between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of earth is tissue thin. It is often our busyness that keeps us from seeing the difference.” May God grant you the wisdom to slow down and walk all your days in His kingdom.

Postlude

“Postludium”

arr. C. Callahan

Dr. David Dorway

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

### **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*)

Louis Romero (*Home Hospice*)

Alice Black (*Skilled Nursing at Las Ventanas*)

Judy Aitken, Becky Aldridge, Bill Carlston, Bernard Buswell, Bob & Joan Clark,

Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Pennie Everhart, Joice Franklin,

Mary Gafford, Terry Glaser, Mary Phillips, Pam Kodey, Lara Kolberg, Dorell

Koon, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles, Pennie Everhart, Maggie O'Donnell, Alice

& Gary Oiler, Dodi Palmer, Russ & Pat Reid, Aminta & Jorge Santanilla, Marty

Swartout, 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