

**Order of Worship for at Home Use**  
**Grace Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas, NV**  
**July 5, 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=0OSnNEB0OZM>

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 is 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



As we begin you are invited to **prepare your worship space**. We will be partaking in communion today. You may want to 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.

## We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude "America the Beautiful" arr. J. Raney  
Dr. Jerry Reeves and Dr. David  
Dorway  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpKaeHyTqK4>

Welcome  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXT6NcvWHiY>

Call to Worship Pastor Dana Pope  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fj7LkYF0npc>

*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,  
Let us fellowship with one another,  
and let us break bread and pray in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Let us with glad and generous hearts  
Enter into God's throne room as His children  
Let us praise God and worship His holy name!  
Let us worship God!*

Hymn "Who You Say I Am" Hillsong Worship  
Kathy Koch, Jennifer Brinkley, Dana Pope  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgSr0QQWvkc>

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!*

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDM8I9a8dWw>

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 world. Please, Loving God, grant us peace... but not an easy, counterfeit peace... Our world needs real, deep, shalom, a clear way through our social turmoil to find solid ground on which we all can stand... a place where the image of Christ in each and every human is given honor and a place at the table.

Today we plead with You, O God, to heal us and protect us from disease. COVID continues to worry us, especially as we see more cases, hospitals once again reaching capacity, and too many lives lost. But in addition to that God we continue to battle cancers and neurological disease, and autoimmune diseases among so many others. We plead with You now to reach down and touch the lives and health of all of those suffering with illnesses today.

Holy God, we pray for those known to us that we lift up before You now... asking for You to work in mind or body or circumstance...we pray for health, discernment, provision, relationships to be mended, captives released and deep connections with You. Today we pray for mercy. For Your healing and for Your grace.

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=14WaPuWbv1A>

Today the children are shown flags and asked which one is ours? Which flag is the flag of the United States of America. Along with the children take a moment and think about what our flag stands for. It is the symbol of our nation. Our history and culture is full of blessings and it also has mistakes. What are the blessings of our nation and what are the mistakes?

The children are reminded that as Christians we are all forgiven for the mistakes in our lives and we are given the opportunity to do better. This is called reform. We can be forgiven and reformed. Our American system of government was built on this Christian principle. We celebrate and encourage that which is good in our culture and we reform the mistakes for which we are responsible. The ballot box itself is the ultimate opportunity for reform. Take a moment today, stop the worship video and list the blessings of the United States and then honestly consider the things in our culture that need reform.

Special Music

“Star Spangled Banner”

Kathy Koch and Savannah Scarlett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0GflSOuwOY>

Reading of the Word

Micah 6:8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u3v6DfHjGg>

“  
*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly<sup>[a]</sup> with your God.”*

Message

“Freedom”  
Galatians 5:1, 13-16

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

Freedom. This is the weekend we celebrate freedom. So, what is freedom? It must be a powerful thing. Many in this congregation have made tremendous sacrifices for freedom. Some have fought for it. Some have sacrificed children for it. Many of you have served in the armed forces to protect it and to safeguard it for others. Yesterday we celebrated the birth of our nation which was founded on the principle of freedom, freedom to worship God, freedom to speak our minds, freedom to protect ourselves and be protected, freedom from unfair taxation, or over burdensome government, even, freedom from tyranny. Most of all, the freedom to be who we want to be, to pursue our own dreams and happiness.

Freedom is about choices is not it? Freedom gives us choices. Freedom to do what we want! Freedom gives us the ability to choose who we want to be and pursue that dream without interference. This is the land of the free. Who should have a better idea of what freedom means than Americans who have spent over 244 years struggling for freedom? And the struggle for freedom and our God given rights continues because when slack in our zeal for our freedom and our rights tyranny creeps in and darkness grows.

Today we are reading from a text that teaches us about biblical freedom that comes from God. It describes the type of freedom that is bought through pain and blood and given to us through the cross of Jesus Christ. This is the freedom that all humankind was meant to have and should be guaranteed in our great country.

Listen to the Word of God as it is given to us in Galatians  
5:1,13-16

*“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”*

*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.*

*So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."*

This text defines freedom for us. It is, in many ways, an idea that was born at creation as we have seen in our study of Genesis. And in fact, you can see that throughout history people have fought for freedom because it is what we are created for. People were created free in order that they might use their freedom to be in a relationship with God. We are to freely choose to love mercy, act justly and walk humbly with God says the prophet Micah. Sadly, we, all too often, choose selfishness, greed, and power instead of choosing to be godly. And, when we make the wrong choices, people suffer and when we choose to use our free will for good, people are blessed, and God is honored.

The struggle for freedom is not new. People have fought for freedom since the beginning. Abraham left his home to follow God and create God's people. Moses fought to free the Jewish slaves so that they might faithfully follow God. Jesus taught the oppressed people of Palestine that in Him there is freedom from sin, brokenness, and freedom from anything that enslaves you, said the apostle Paul. Calvin, Luther, and Jon Wycliff all fought for freedom from an oppressive, monarchical church that lost its way and sought to enslave followers of Christ for profit and power rather than set them free.

Americans fought for freedom from an oppressive government during the revolutionary war. Americans fought for the freedom of slaves in the civil war and they fought for the freedom of Europe and the Pacific in two world wars. In the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Americans stared down the tyranny of communism that cost millions of people their lives during the cold war.

People all over the world still struggle and fight for freedom; and honestly, if we believe that we are created to be free, then people should fight for freedom wherever injustice and tyranny reigns. When human beings are trafficked, we should fight for freedom. When there is inequality because of race or gender we should stand up for those who are being oppressed. When there is political discrimination or the victimization of one group over another we should stand up for the rights and freedom we were created to have by God almighty.

Our country has seen great turmoil over the past few weeks. And believe me, I am not saying that we should get involved in violence or the destruction of property. We need to be people of principle and we need to support our country for the things it has done that has blessed this world in ways that are too numerous to count. But one of the great things about our country is that it is built on the idea that reform is always possible. So, where we see failure or brokenness, let's reform. Where we see success, let us celebrate. This is what makes our country great.

Wow, sorry I kind of got off track there. This is a message about freedom. The kind of freedom we were created to enjoy. Let us get back to it.

*“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free”*, says Paul in the beginning of Galatians chapter 5. You see, freedom is about choices is not it? You are a free human soul and you can make choices. This is what sets us apart from all of creation. We are free moral agents. There are consequences for how we use our freedom.

God created us with free will to choose and Christ died to win our freedom back after we had given it away for selfishness, greed, and power. Christ has given us the choice to follow Him. He has given us freedom from the law that said that if you did not live according to the commandments found in the Scriptures you would die in your sin and pay for it eternally. Christ has offered us a way out of the law that controls us. We have a choice to follow Him.

I know this is getting into the weeds with our theology but think about this. If there is now forgiveness for the times we have misused our freedom, then we have the opportunity to reform. We can change, we can do better. As John Calvin said, the “church is reformed and always reforming according to the Word of God.” Our system of governance has this idea of reform built into it as well. We can reform our country without having to destroy it or people who do not think like us.

The ballot box itself was the founder’s idea of reform and accountability. Deep down our system of governance in the US is built on the theology of the Christian and Jewish world view. 1. We are created in God’s image. 2. We have used our freedom in ways that bring evil into the world. 3. God has not given up on us. 4. God has given us reform. We can reform ourselves and still be God’s people. 5. We are called to always be reforming in order to be God’s people.

To be a Christian, and an American for that matter, who is blessed by God and endowed with unalienable rights you do not have to vote republican, or democrat. You do not have to support gun rights or gun control. To be a Christian all you have to do is follow Christ. It is your choice.

So, as Christians, and I say and Americans blessed by the freedom’s this nation enjoys, we are free to choose slavery to our selfish brokenness or servanthood to God which blesses others and our nation.

Listen again to what Paul says it means to live faithfully.

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers, and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15

Folks, I choose freedom. I chose it as a Christian and as an American. I chose to use my freedom to make things better, working toward reform where there is brokenness and celebration where there is blessing in our history.



## We Respond to the Voice of God

Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aUDg\\_kAt5M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aUDg_kAt5M)

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>

Special Music

“God Bless America”

I. Berlin

Stephen Taylor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT3age6Jkqw>

Offertory Prayer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNZh6L8ZUYo>

*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 multiply all of it 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 we have enough to share with the world. Help us this week to be bearers of Your grace, hope and love as our offering and in service to Your kingdom. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*

The Service of Communion

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyhJEQo7gf4>

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 Meditation            “Jesus Paid It All”            arr. G. Sewell  
Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-P2zwzDz9c>

### **We Go with God to Love and Serve**

Hymn                            “Battle Hymn of the Republic”  
Quartet and Dr David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qc3taw0czl8>

Benediction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyIZbjRmQ8A>

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                    “Fantasia on ‘America the Beautiful’”            R. Koury  
Dr. David

Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTXhTIAv9uQ>

## **In Need of 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,

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