

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

July 12, 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=zPubTMnESGs>

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 Voluntary on "Thaxted" A. Travis
Dr. David

Dorway
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwN9s-A_JNQ

Reopening Announcement Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsW9YMzIeDQ>

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxh3pF1LeIY>

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 119)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M7UNHL1Uek>

Holy God, Your truth is a shining light
Guide us onto clear pathways of love and grace
We come to renew our lives in Christ
Help us to commit ourselves fully to Him
In God alone we walk in abundance
Let us worship God!

Hymn "Lord I Lift Your Name on High"
Kathy Koch & Family
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WI6NQuj5Hbk>

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!

God of Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Rebekah, we come before You on this day, with hearts of gratitude, broken hearts, and healing hearts. We know, O God, that as we gather at Your throne we stand with all of the saints that have come before from every time and place. All, Your children, blessed, broken, named and claimed, called and loved. We rejoice in THAT knowledge as we seek Your face. Help us today to turn back to You... and help us to trust You. Grant us the grace to fully rely on Your provision and abundance. Guide us, and in Your mercy, help us to live this life - everyday - walking faithfully in Your way and will.

Holy God, as we remember Jacob and Esau - as we read their story - we see evidence, once again, of brother fighting against brother. Help us to be a people, contrary to our nature, of righteousness, peace and grace. Help us to stop the warring against one another and instead stand at the foot of the cross knowing that we are standing on level ground. Equal in Your eyes. Beloved. Chosen. Called. All of us servants in Christ.

Grant this day, healing for Your people, our country, this world. Rain down Your blessings that this world would be made new, restored, and put right in Your eyes. We pray today for so many who are hurting, longing for healing, desperately needing Your grace. Show us, as Your children, how to reach out in Christ's love and bless others with the power of Holy Spirit and the love of God almighty. Grant us Your energy and wisdom, grow in us a desire for all things of You, and plant in us Your vision for our work in Your kingdom. Bless us that we may be a blessing to all of those we meet.

We thank You, Holy God, for all of the blessings of this life, but most especially, 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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C63z5hCd7bc>

Children's Message

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

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

Today the children are challenged to look at a pineapple and think about what is good about a pineapple and what is bad about. It is good to eat, the inside, but the outside has sharp points and is rough. Even the inside core is inedible because it feels and tastes like wood! The pineapple has both good and bad in it. To experience the good you must get past the bad. People are like this also. We are created in the image of God with God's goodness given to us. Yet we are not perfect. We make decisions that hurt others and we do things that hurt ourselves. We, as human beings, are both good and bad. We are like pineapples.

Take a moment and discuss with your children, or the childlike people in your home, some of the good things you see in people. Also take a moment to discuss some of the bad things you have experienced from others. Discuss how to forgive people for their bad and how to appreciate their good. Finally, discuss for a moment, what people might do to heal or turn from the bad things in their lives and how they might choose to practice good.

Special Music

“Awesome God”

R. Mullins

Kathy Koch & Savannah Scarlett

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

Reading of the Word Genesis 25:19-34

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICSLmwb0A-Y>

¹⁹ *This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac.*

Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram^[a] and sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ *Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord.*

²³ *The Lord said to her,*

*“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,*

and the older will serve the younger.”

²⁴ *When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb.*

²⁵ *The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau.^[b] ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob.^[c] Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.*

²⁷ *The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.*

²⁹ *Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.^[d])*

³¹ *Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”*

³² *“Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”*

³³ *But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.*

³⁴ *Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.*

So Esau despised his birthright.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpYheqWZ91I>

One of the stories with which I struggle most is of Jacob’s relationship with his brother, Esau. Talk about a dysfunctional family, the patriarchs of Israel are a mess. This is family, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Esau are a mess. And yet in the end, Jacob receives the name, Israel, the name of the people of God, (actually it means, “wrestles with God”). On two occasions, Jacob (with his mother’s initiative in the second instance), manipulates a situation to steal a blessing and birthright. First Jacob gets a starving Esau to give away his birthright, his inheritance for a bowl of soup; in the second story, Jacob blatantly deceives his father on his death bed by dressing up as Esau and lying to his father so his father will give his final blessing to the younger son. All this was for Jacob’s personal own gain. He was not a hunter; he needed that inheritance to stay alive.

When Esau, the tough hunter/warrior discovers the second betrayal, he vows to kill Jacob. Jacob, no fool, again with his mother’s coaching, flees. Twenty years pass, and Jacob is on his way back from his self-imposed exile. He sends messengers to try to appease his brother, only to learn that his brother is coming to meet him with 400 men, while Jacob himself is traveling with his family. Jacob is rightfully terrified, giving rise to the wrestling match with God. In all this is going on with Jacob and God we often forget what happens next in the story. Jacob and Esau meet, Jacob coming in fear, and ready to forgive. Esau runs to greet his brother, embraces him, kisses him and cries. Esau’s hope is that the two brothers will continue their life’s journeys together. Jacob though, not so much. This time Jacob tells Esau to go on ahead, and he will catch up, but then heads off in another direction, like so wayward Knights in Monty Pythons’ Holy Grail. You see, Jacob the betrayer is not able to trust others, at least not quite yet. (Interestingly, in this whole story, Jacob never apologizes to Esau for the deceptions, and Esau never apologizes for the threat.)

What kind of family is this? Jacob and Esau are born fighting and they never let up. One is stronger and the other is more manipulative. Two boys to be so proud of. But really, with a mother that takes sides, and manipulates her husband so her favorite child, the momma’s boy, might win the sibling rivalry, who could expect anything more?

Really, why is this story in the Bible? Is this the kind of story we want non-Christians to read? “Hey here is our family tree. We have God’s blessing because we stole it.” That is what this story seems to be about. Let us take a closer look and see if we can make some sense of this story.

First let us look at the characters of this story. The main players are Jacob and Esau. There is of course Isaac and Rebekah, but their roles are minor in the story. Isaac was the patriarchal father and it was his job to pass on his leadership, family responsibility and his wealth to the oldest child who would take on the clan leader duties. Jacob was wealthy and powerful, so the responsibilities and wealth were great in this particular inheritance.

Rebekah was the mother of the twins. Like all mothers she loved her children as best she could. Sadly, she played favorites. Maybe because Isaac was a homebody, always there and Esau was always out hunting, fishing, playing in the dirt. I think Rebekah knew Esau could take care of himself, but Jacob, he was soft, sensitive and without the right resources the world would eat him alive. So, she watched out for Isaac in the only way she knew how. With the ways of a manipulative wife over a powerful man. Imagine a powerful man manipulated by a beautiful woman. I am glad that does not happen anymore! I am glad human nature has overcome that temptation! We humans have not changed that much from the bronze age.

Now we also have the twins in our story. There is the older boy who was rugged, energetic, loved the outdoors. He could kill the food, drag it home and cook it. Then he would be back out at night hunting. He was powerful and impulsive. Dad loved this guy. Nothing could stop him.

Jacob was of a different character. He was a homebody. He liked to stay home and take care of the animals, maybe do a little planting. But even that was not much use because the family would always be on the move. So, Isaac helped mom. She loved him. He probably could not have survived by himself because he was not strong and did not really hunt. He needed others to survive.

In this family it seems that the two sons were polar opposites. One was the rugged fireman who everyone liked, well at least liked to look at. He has street smarts and was cool. Then there was the nerdy work from home programmer type, Jacob. Smart as a tack, able to work with others, could organize the cupboards and balance the books in his sleep, but not so ruggedly independent. This guy was the thinker. He, Jacob, was the religious one. He understood how things worked but did not get his hands dirty making them work. Esau did not have time for this type of thinking. Losing your head in the clouds will get you eaten by a lion if you are not careful in Esau's world. But in Jacob's world thinking is what kept you alive and food in your belly.

These guys both have their strengths and their flaws. They have good and bad in them. Esau hunts until he is so hungry he would give away his inheritance, his birthright and his faith for a cup o noodles. Anyway, he probably did not care about the responsibilities of running a tribe or a nation for that matter. He had great ability, but little faith and little understanding of things. Jacob, on the other hand, could not find his way out of a cave, even with a map. He could not feed himself or his family, but he knew how things worked and he could get others to do it for him. Sometimes this meant bending the rules and telling a few lies, but hey, if you win in the end, what does it matter. After all, he was trying to be faithful, well faithful with a few lies here and there. Good and bad in both of them and yet God honors His covenant with their family regardless of their antics.

You see, throughout this story God works in spite of all their failings. That is how God is. He knows that in all of us there is good and bad. God stands ready to redeem the bad, honor the good and lead us into righteousness if we would just follow him. Ultimately Jacob surrenders to God and takes the mantle of patriarch. With all his warts and flaws God still uses him to be the father of a family that will ultimately bring Christ to the world. they will not be perfect, but they will be God's people.

So, who are you? Are you a Jacob or are you an Esau? Will you trade away your faith when you face trial? Or will you break the rules to try to get what you want no matter the cost?

You know, today people are looking for heroes. We want someone who will heal us, we want a politician who will tell the truth and lead us. We are looking for someone or something better than what we have. We want a history that does not have warts and mistakes and we want people of virtue who never are out of step with social media and whatever is currently cool.

Let me tell you, these people do not exist! You will not find perfection in anyone. You will not find them in church, you will not find them in politics, in Hollywood, on the streets, or on social media. Look all you want, but these people do not exist.

If you look hard enough, however, and have a little faith you will find God. God does exist and He does still call us even in our brokenness and use us for good. He will use you and me if we are just faithful. God will heal the broken, forgive the sin and bless the good. But if you are looking for perfection in people, you will miss grace when it is right in front of you.

Jacob, by the grace of God became a patriarch, not because he was good enough. What could you be if you just let God show you His grace?

We Respond to the Voice of God

Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMysVTJ9mhk>

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

"Grace"

C. Hamlin

Sextet, Jill Usry-Taylor, Becky Aldridge

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

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXHWtiKb1LM>

God, Who gives life and breath, 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 by all we offer. Help us in these moments, and in the days ahead, 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

"Be Thou My Vision"

Sextet, Jill Usry-Taylor, Becky Aldridge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5iUPJMF6vg>

Benediction

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yG8FIgtbcik>

Now may God Almighty who raised Jesus from the dead be working in you that which is acceptable and pleasing in His sight.

May He be equipping you for good works

*May God redeem your brokenness and bless you with
grace that you might faithfully be part of God's plan to
redeem our world, our community and our city.*

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Amen

Postlude "God Be With You" Dr. David Dorway
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJlh9gzeIJ4>

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,

Pennie Everhart, Louis Romero, 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