

Order of Worship for at Home Use
August 2, 2020

Welcome to worship with Grace@Home!

We pray that you are healthy and well as you worship this week.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eZ4kBh-tWg>

As the joyful people of God, battered and bruised by this COVID and cultural storm, anxious to return to the in-person community of faith, we continue to worship our Risen LORD. This is our joy and our purpose. We continue to be separate, but together, as God's family in the mystery of faith. (As I write this I wonder if this isn't a little of what Noah and his family felt at the end of rain as the "drying out" period began in the midst of the great flood.)

This week, as we worship, we turn our attention, our minds and hearts over to God. Even though they may be filled with swirling thoughts, eager anticipation, frustration, and uncertainty, we offer them in worship. We rely on Christ Jesus as He again gathers us into His presence. In these moments, we ask that God's light of truth will shine on us as we pray and deal responsibly with all that confronts us. As the people of God we turn to the One who knows, loves, sets us on right paths, forgives, and never leaves us.

As we begin you are invited to **prepare your worship space.**

We will be entering into the sacrament of communion today. Please 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, and gather at the table Jesus has prepared.

With love and grace, Pastor Dana



We Gather as God’s Family to Worship

Introit “Meditation on ‘Amazing Grace’” arr. F. Swann
 Dr. David Dorway
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkfmEfISg3Q>

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FF7MoYt2cUc>

Call to Worship Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Pastor Dana Pope
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4KIX_M059Q

One: Our Lord is good, righteous, and holy.
All: Let us gather in His presence!
 One: Our Lord hears our cry.
All: Save us, great God, You are our help and our hope!
 One: We seek God’s face and call upon His name.
All: Let us lift our hearts in praise!
Let us worship God!

Hymn “Way Maker” Osinachi Okoro
 Kathy Koch and Savannah Scarlett, violin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPN6Vkptu8Q>

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!

Holy God, we draw near to You today, hoping for answers to our questions and longing for Your shalom to saturate our hearts, our minds, our lives, our families, this world...

*We cry, Great God! When will these trials be over?
Will You not stop all that is coming against us by Your mighty hand?
Please HELP US!*

And then, as we feel Your hand upon us in the silence we ask:

What do You want us to do in these days and moments that would help us, bless You, reach out to our world? Grant us Your wisdom and grace, have mercy on us! Grant us purpose and life even in this barren and dry landscape of drought, doubt, and difficulty.

Holy One, Your Word is life giving. You are the author of life itself. Help us to take the time to soak up Your goodness, may Your word penetrate our souls and truly sink in. Your very presence is a balm to our souls, help us to seek You in every moment, every task and in every thought throughout our days. Your family, the community of faith, is scattered like the diaspora of old. Draw us together, all of us into Your throne room, and give us a greater sense of life in Your kingdom. United one with another made possible through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Help us to connect with one another in meaningful and real ways in this time of separation and distance.

Forgive us God, for taking this circumstance and seeing it as the finite and total reality, when in fact, the only real truth is Your Kingdom, life in Christ, and the joy and freedom found there. Forgive us for our short sighted ways. Help us to turn our eyes to You. We remember that even while in prison Paul proclaimed that our present sufferings are nothing compared with the glory revealed in Christ. Help us to focus on Your glory, on what is unseen, on Your Kingdom and life that is to come.

We humbly pray for Your healing to rain down, Your grace to break through, and Your truth to become our truth. Set us right and make us holy in Jesus name, for our sake and the sake of the world and the Kingdom to come. We pray 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. And 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=NyZXn89wOkw>

Today the children are shown the game "Rock'em Sock'em Robots." This game is an example of fighting and struggling. While the children are reminded that God does not want us to fight with one another, there is a struggle within us as to whether we do good or bad, good or better every day. Like Jacob we wrestle inside with whether we will be followers of God and His goodness or whether we will be selfish and care only about ourselves and what we want. Take a moment and discuss with your children and one another what are the decisions in your life that you are wrestling with today. How would God like you to act in this situation?

Special Music "Oh, How I Love Jesus"& "In Moments like These"
Kathy & Dave Koch, Savannah Scarlett & Family
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGEPSYRK7G4>

Reading of the Word Genesis 32:22-31 Scott Plummer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1RIbB9ERYo>

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

²³After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." ²⁹Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." ³¹The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

Message “Wrestling With God” Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2TFIY9P_fc

So here we go again, the Story of Jacob who gets a new name, even when he does not deserve it. But it's not Jacob who wins the name Israel, it is God's choice, God chooses him and calls him Israel which literally means; “wrestles or fights with God”.

Let's review so we can understand the background of this guy who will give a nation its name. Jacob is born a twin. He is the second child born, yet he is born holding on to the foot of his brother Ishmael. The Bible says they were already fighting in the womb. Since he is the second child, Jacob is not in line to inherit his father's wealth or carry the family name.

So, Jacob grows up as a momma's boy. He is always close to home. He learns how to deal with people to get what he wants. What he wants is to be the first and the best in the family. To get this selfish position he learns how to cheat and steal. He manipulates Ismael out of his birthright with a plate of stew. Later he lies to his blind father to trick the old man into giving him his blessing which includes the promise of the family inheritance.

His brother hates him, and his father is disappointed so Jacob's mom, Rebekah, sends him away to find a bride from her brother's family. So, he goes to Arkansas to get a cousin bride...no that is not true. He goes to Utah...no that is not true. He goes to Paddam- Haram to get a bride. On his way he sleeps on a rock and has a dream about a

stairway to heaven where God is revealed. Jacob has a conversion in this dream and receives God's covenant and blessing. God chooses Jacob even though Jacob does not deserve it.

So now, the faithful or trying to be faithful Jacob goes to his uncle's house. There he meets the love of his life, his cousin Rachel. He makes a deal to marry Rachel but Uncle Laban cheats Jacob and tricks him into marrying the older sister. Next Jacob is tricked into another bad deal in order to marry Rachel. He basically works for 14 years but he does not break custom or his word. The redeemed Jacob seems to have integrity now. He honors and protects both women. It seems the cheater has been cheated and yet now he acts faithfully, albeit for incestuous and polygamous relationships.

But it does not end here. Uncle Laban tries to cheat Jacob again by saying that when Jacob leaves, he is not entitled to the fruit of his labor but rather he may only take the impure genetically inferior animals. These animals do not have spotless color. But now, with integrity and honesty, Jacob uses some genetic breeding techniques that make it so only the spotted and striped sheep produce, and Jacob leaves a wealthy and honest man.

As he heads home, back to the promised land Jacob now has to face his angry, older, and more mysterious brother, Ishmael. The brother he cheated and to whom he has never apologized. It seems that Jacob's past has caught up with him.

This is the context of today's text. Jacob, with all his baggage, prepares to meet his brother who represents all the ills of his past. In this moment Jacob, at night, maybe in a dream, wrestles with God. The wrestling match lasts all night. In the end Jacob has a dislocated hip and a new name, Israel. This is the pinnacle of Jacob's life. It is worthy of note here that Jacob did not beat God in a wrestling match. What Jacob did is not give up in his wrestling with God. God cannot be defeated by humankind, but God honors us when we wrestle with him.

There is much debate and discussion among scholars as to whether this wrestling story is Jacob actually physically fighting with God or is it a metaphor or a dream that changed Jacob. A dream in which God presents Himself. Well, let me tell you, it doesn't matter! Whether it is a symbol or physically true does not change the message or meaning of this story. This is a story of a man who, from birth is imperfect, chooses to sin, encounters God, is changed, tries to be

faithful only to find that life is full of good and bad, and that he must struggle to be faithful every day.

This is our story and it is Israel's story. We all wrestle with right and wrong, good and evil. We are not perfect, and we need redemption. We need to let go of our past, be healed and reformed. Nations, which are merely large groups of people, are not perfect, and they need to heal where there has been evil, and they need to struggle with choosing good in every situation.

Jacob's entire life is a struggle with God. Good and evil crouch at the door of Jacob's life just like they do in yours and mine. Do you see it? This is Jacob's story, our story, Israel's story and the story of our nation and every institution that involves humankind. We are human beings, made in the image of God, broken by sin, in need of God but fiercely independent. We must decide with every action and decision, will we do good, be a blessing, follow God or will be selfish and sinful? This is wrestling with God in the modern world.

And note, in the end, Jacob limps and has a new name. Wrestling with God changes you. You are changed whenever you encounter God. If you are faithful that change is good for you and good for others. When you encounter God you can be redeemed, and past sins are forgiven. On the other hand, if you are not faithful, your sin, your struggle and the consequences continue in your life. It is a lifelong wrestling match.

You know, the name Israel, given to Jacob and ultimately the nation that comes from his 12 sons, means to, "wrestle or contend with God." Their entire history is wrestling with God.

This story is us people. It is us as a nation. We have contended with God as rebels, as capitalists, as a mob and as a democracy. Sometimes we have been faithful and sometimes we have failed. This is our history.

You know, I am sickened by people who want to erase history. Bad history must be learned from so we don't repeat it. That is part of reform and redemption. Good history must be learned from so we can build on it and honor what is good so as to repeat it.

This story of wrestling and struggling with God is ours not only as a nation but also personally. We should wrestle with God every day. We should learn from our mistakes, we should practice our faith and when we fail, we should take responsibility, confess, and heal. Make amends some would say. I would say, be redeemed and move on in the fight.

Lisa Elliot, our Director of Music Ministries, challenged me the other day with the idea that there needs to be more leadership from the church during this COVID-19 challenge. She said we should be asking, “What would Jesus do?” Then she said, “I may not know exactly what He would do, but I know He would not do nothing!” She is right. The church should be struggling with what God wants us to do in this time and the way we should lead.

I say it is time that we be Jacob! We should own our past and reform where reform is needed. I say, “let’s be Jacob and let God change us every time we encounter Him. And I say let’s be Jacob and wrestle with God every day never giving up. Let’s be Jacob and let God change us, even if it causes a limp!

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

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

As we continue to worship, we respond to God’s love for us, and the needs of the world, by blessing God’s kingdom with our time, talents, energy and resources. Today as an act of offering, take this time to turn your heart to God and reflect on how you might be light and life to our hurting world. Ask God for wisdom and inspiration as we navigate this time of heartbreak, separation, grief, injustice and violence. Today and this week turn to God and let us dedicate ourselves to lean into Christ’s peace and offer that to our world. Let us return God’s tithes and our offerings to the church via mail or online giving, using text to give or the following link:

<https://onrealm.org/gracepclv/-/give/now>

Offertory

“Covenant Promise”

J. Martin

Quarantine Quintet, Becky Aldredge, flute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WW3aX4AGHz8>

Offertory Prayer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RSW523timo>

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 bless them and multiply them 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 enough to share with the world. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

The Service of Communion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwBXJiwt2pQ>

Communion Liturgy:

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. A people of peace, light, and life. 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 "Sweet Hour of Prayer" arr. D.

Wood

Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTDA21rC6MA>

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn "Let us Break Bread Together"
Quarantine Quintet and Becky Aldridge, flute
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFeuEGp0WrE>

Benediction Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Sh6ytT3r4I>

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 "Now All The Vault of Heaven Resounds" J.
Mansfield

Dr. David Dorway,
organist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVnKcneFw1Q>

**As you continue to worship this week, please keep the following
people in prayer, and reach out to one another in word or deed.**

In Need of Prayer

Dolores Harris (*Merrill Gardens*)

Louis Romero (*Home Hospice*)

Alice Black (*Skilled Nursing at Las Ventanas*)

Judy Aitken, Becky Aldridge, Bill Carlston, Bernard Busswell, 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, Mike Walsh, 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