

Order of Worship for at Home Use

August 30, 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=1MVHmPXdBtI>

With hope in our loving God we continue to worship and look to the future with hope and trust. Please continue to join us in prayer for all who are suffering, those who grieve, and the many who are dealing with anxiety and illnesses.

We praise God that while we are separated, we are also united in Christ.

Worship is both what we do and who we are. Therefore, we continue to do so with intentionality and reverence. Today as we gather, I encourage you to light a candle and create a silent space in your heart and in your home, or wherever you might be this weekend. Enter into worship with the intention of hearing a word from our Lord, and feeling the unity and communion of all the saints as we gather together at God's throne.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Pastor Dana

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Introit & Candle Lighting Two Variations on "Aurelia" J. Linker
Dr. David Dorway, Ivan , acolyte
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLb1pRdOB6c>

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEMRwAH_ljo

Welcome to worship, today, with Grace Presbyterian Church. We are so glad that you have chosen to join us as we - together - worship our holy God. As we enter into our time of worship, I encourage you to prepare your worship space as well as your hearts and minds for our time of gathering as God's children at His throne. Let us enter into worship in spirit and truth, seeking God's face and His glory in Christ.

Call to Worship (Psalm 105: 1-6, 45) Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QciZKUUH1kc>

Come! Let us give God thanks for all of the things He has done!
We worship Him!
Tell about His wonder, sing His praises, and remember Who He is!
**We sing about His mercies, seek His strength,
and we will not forget His mercies nor His calling!**
Let us worship God!
Hallelujah! Amen! Praise the Lord!

Hymn "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"
Quintet + One, Becky Aldridge, Flutist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TzEBPypRHk>

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=UHC4kaDuZNc>

Let us pray together: Holy God, as we continue to navigate these last days of August, we come before You dusty, weary, worn, ready for change, for a new sense of purpose and place. This season has been a challenge, yet, as we walk this landscape we see that You have been walking alongside us, even carrying us all along the way.

As we turn our hearts back to You we lay down all that we carry. One by one You lovingly take our concern, fears, pain, as well as our joy and praises and victories. Thank You most loving God, that Your heart is for us... Your heart breaks for us and for all that You have made. And You also smile with us and laugh in our delight.

As we lift up all of those fighting the fires that surround us, all of those who are in harm's way, or have evacuated or lost their property or livelihood. Grant Your favor, mercy and grace. We also ask for Your grace-filled rain to drench our thirsty souls, as well as our dry and fire ravaged land. We ask for nourishment to come in ways that we can absorb, taking in Your goodness and life-giving refreshment. As Your children, Father God, we humbly ask that Your hand of providence and grace would be upon us, those we love, and our neighbors and world. We need Your help Your power to grow into the grace-filled people You made us to be. We ask that in Your mercy, we would be blessed with opportunities to love others, bless this world, and speak truth and light into the dry dark places surrounding us.

Holy God, by Your hand this world was made, and as we pray we ask for Your Spirit to move with power and might over all that You created. Grant wholeness and healing to those that are suffering, grant holy knowledge and understanding to all who are struggling and searching, grant miracles and an awakening in our spirits that we might come alive in Christ, the world might see You in all we do and say. Help each of us to be a witness of love and light to all that we meet.

Thank You O God, for allowing us to come into Your presence once again. Hear our prayers as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ 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

Children's Message

Rhonda Reeves

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66_0fhRJ1-Y

Today we are learning about when Moses, who while tending sheep saw a burning bush. As he got closer he heard God's voice and he listened. God told Moses he had plans for him, but Moses didn't think he was ready.

God gave Moses gifts and talents from even before he was born. He told Moses "I'll be with you". Moses then trusted God. Will you trust God? What gifts has God given you?

Special Music

"I Want to Be Like Jesus" by Chisholm & Ives

"Lord Be Glorified" by Kirkpatrick & Ives

BJ Jamison, Scott Plummer & Kathy Koch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApDaE05QfHg>

Reading of the Word

Exodus 3:1-15

Ivan Wright

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDOt-T6tosc>

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the

Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

12 And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

13 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

14 God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

15 God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

Today we continue our look at the Exodus, God's people escaping a repressive government, fleeing to the desert, setting up a system of governance and faithfully trying to follow God's guidance in their time of need. Last week as we began our study looking at how God acts in our lives. We saw that is a God that is working in our lives and our world, even before we are aware. We learned how Moses, was born in difficult times after the people of God had been forced into slavery, we saw how God protected him and even miraculously prepared him for a life of leadership and service by having him adopted by the Emperor who would become his rival. We saw how God was working for His people even before they called for help, because that is how our God works. He is all powerful, all knowing and not bound by time. God has not changed. He is working in your life, he has been working in your life and He will continue to work in your life. Even when you face evil you will see God working in your life, and when the time is right, when you are ready, He will reveal himself to you.

Think about it. We are currently in one of the most challenging times in US history. We could all be saying, where is God, how could God allow this to happen? We could all be frustrated with God because we live in a free and broken world where viruses and riots happen and economic hardship crushes communities. Or we could see the hand of God in this. We could see that despite our brokenness, God has raised up people of compassion, churches that are finding new ways to be the hands of Christ in a hurting community. This week I heard of a church that has opened its doors to developmentally disabled children and they have become a show piece in their community. Our Session is working on a way to responsibly open our doors to children who need internet access during this time of distant learning. Our Children's program just took gifts and school supplies to children who are about to start the school year at home. All these things and so many more across our nation are happening in the name of Jesus Christ. It is a new way to do church, but we will be faithful even as the world changes around us.

This is Moses' story; it is the story of God's people in the Exodus and it is the story of God's people today. Faithful people adapt and respond with Grace in unexpected circumstances, simply because they are being faithful to God's call.

Moses was born, saved, adopted, and raised by the Emperor's daughter before his people cried to God for help. God was already at work before the people knew they needed it. By the time, our story for today starts, Moses had fled Egypt after defending an Israelite slave and killing an Egyptian violent taskmaster. Moses was hiding in nearby Midian. Can you imagine all this wasted talent? He was the adopted grandson of the Emperor of the largest empire on earth, and he was hiding as a sheep herder in exile. The prince of Egypt was herding sheep with nothing more than a cotton robe and a walking stick; and this is when God calls him. When his people need him, God reveals His plan to Moses. God does so in the miracle of the talking, burning bush.

So, Moses is in Midian, tending sheep. His people have prayed to God for help. In this moment, a bush appears to be burning but not being consumed. Fire, flame, but no ash or smoke. Moses approaches the bush and it begins to talk. The bush calls Moses by name! It says, "Moses, this is holy ground, take off your shoes!" Even God has house rules. Do not soil God's ground with dirty shoes. Come to God clean and blameless, prepared for the task to which you are called. If you are part of the medical world fighting this virus or the authorities calming the riots, bring your faith but leave your racism and hatred outside! We are here to help not be the problem. Take off your shoes and come in clean.

It is as if God is saying, "Moses, bring your training and your upbringing, but remember this is holy ground." This is a holy calling. Serve God by serving the people! In response to his calling Moses asks the only appropriate question; "who are you and how do I tell the others about you?" Don't you know that Moses probably thought he was going crazy. Bushes did not burn by themselves without destruction and they certainly did not talk to you. Let alone tell you to take off your shoes!

Well, here again we learn something about God. God does not act like you expect Him to. He has a plan and when He calls you are supposed to listen. Be part of the plan. We call that faith. You are supposed to listen. But that is our problem as human beings, we are better at listening to ourselves than we are to others. We are especially bad at listening to God. Because of this God often must act dramatically in our lives to get our attention. He speaks from burning bushes or He makes noise in our lives so that we will simply pay attention. Often God acts in ways that gets us back on track, or sets our priorities in order once again. Sometimes he does so by using the consequences of our fallenness. That is to say, sometimes God speaks to us in crisis.

Again, think of the crisis in our country. Think how different this crisis is from others in the past. This virus affects all of us. The social unrest is a nation calling for all of us to look into our hearts and to heal where we have been broken. People are not waiting for the government, or someone else to fix these problems. This moment in our history requires each of us to act and to act faithfully. Waiting for others to be responsible or to fix this is not what we are called to. We need to faithfully step up. We, each of us, need to be responsible with our behavior. We need to not act in ways that put others at health risk, and we need to not participate in the news reports, people or anything that dehumanizes any human being. We are people of the Christian faith and we know that people are created in the image of God and should be treated as such. This is true both in terms of their health and their safety as human beings regardless of color or uniform.

Today as a nation the news and the world would have you believe the most important thing that is going on is the election. We are so caught up in politics, corruption and questioning the news that we have lost our way. But now comes the crisis of civil unrest and public health and suddenly we are all called to something new. A new plan and a new vision of being people of grace in the midst of great turmoil. This is our calling and it is God reminding us of how things are supposed to be. We are to be neighbors and we are to find new ways of being the hands of God in our broken world at this particular moment.

This is Moses' story. He fled Egypt, but God called him back with a burning bush of a miracle. At that moment in history, that moment in Moses' life, he had to choose. He had to decide if He would follow God. He could have remained a shepherd who was running away from his calling, or he could be faithful and see where God would lead him.

I think we are in the same boat as Moses. We have been touched by God and reminded He is the great "I am." Now will we be faithful? Will we trust Him? This is the question that is posed in the burning bush. This is the question for our church today. Will we be Sunday Christians or will we be faithful, even if it means following God in the desert?

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

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

Today as we continue to worship we are invited to participate in God's kingdom by our gifts. Sometimes we are asked to give in ways we do not expect. God asked Moses from a burning bush to serve Him. Moses felt unqualified and unprepared. Today as we search our hearts we realize that we too sometimes feel that way. Yet God calls us to step out of our comfort zones and serve Him, love Him and love others. Today we are called to give. Give of our hearts, our minds, our resources and our energies. Let us continue to worship by offering God's tithes and our gifts to His kingdom... Let us now participate in God's kingdom by returning God's tithes and our offerings. <https://onrealm.org/gracepclv/-/give/now>

Offertory

“Go Down, Moses”

M. Burkhardt
Quintet + One

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQC6Fb6hqJg>

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhiIfB6GBMY>

We are willing to answer Your call to service O God. Help us to be faithful and generous with all that we have and are. We pray that what we offer is pleasing to You, and that You would bless the money, and resources, the talent, the time - our very lives that all would be used for Your glory. Put Your hand upon these offerings that each one would bring grace, peace, light and life to our world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn

“Blessed Assurance” by F. Crosby

BJ Jamison, Scott Plummer & Kathy Koch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tI5jtppt3VA>

Benediction

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39IPWANYqFM>

And now may God Almighty Who raised Jesus Christ from the dead be working in you that which is acceptable and pleasing in His sight. May He be preparing you and equipping you for good works that you might be His hands in ministry making a difference in our world. Amen.

Postlude

“Finale”

J. Linker

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)
Alice Black (Skilled Nursing at Las Ventanas)

Judy Aitken, Becky Aldridge, Bill Carlston, Bernard Buswell, Bob & Joan Clark,
Carol Daniel, Phil Debo, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Joice Franklin,
Mary Gafford, Terry Glaser, Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken, Pam Kodey, Lara Kolberg,
Dorell Koon, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles, Pennie Everhart, Maggie O'Donnell,
Alice Oiler, Dodi Palmer, Mary Phillips, Russ & Pat Reid, Aminta & Jorge Santanilla,
Marty Swartout, Mike Walsh, Sharon Wilson, 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
Priscilla Taylor 7/4/2020
Louis Romero 8/8/2020
Bettye Hodgkins 8/11/2020
Gary Oiler 8/23/2020