

Order of Worship for at Home Use

September 13, 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=F4oouJNqtao>

We are excited to say “welcome back!”

As you have seen in the church communications, we will be opening for worship services next Sunday, the 20th. With the current Nevada recommendations of a 50 person maximum, masks and social distancing in place, we will be taking reservations. Please call the church if you are interested in attending in person next Sunday (702.384.4554).

Safety is a priority, so please, if you are in a high risk category or if you are feeling unwell, stay at home and feel better. And, don't worry, we will continue to provide an online service as well, so everyone will be able to continue to worship.

As we gather our hearts and minds for worship, let us prepare our worship spaces, light a candle to remember that the light of Christ with us, and find a space where we are able to be fully present to the Holy Spirit and the Word God has for us this week.

May God Bless you!

Pastor Dana

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Introit & Candle Lighting “Nimrod from ‘Enigma Variations’” E. Elgar
Grace Bedich, Acolyte, Dr. David Dorway,
Organist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cPxssAiN6U>

Opening Announcement Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=an17orCbiuU>

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

Welcome to worship today with Grace@home.

We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us, and pray that your time with us would be a blessing. As we gather today, I encourage you to find a place where you are able to quiet your mind and heart. You might want to light a candle, bring your favorite bible, and prepare your worship space. May God bless us as we come into His presence and unite us in Christ as we gather. Let us worship God.

Call to Worship (Psalm 114) Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQOIMZo-TOs>

The earth trembles at the presence of the LORD.
God is mighty, loving, and full of majesty!
The sea fled, the Jordan river turned back, the mountains moved.
God is with us, He is for us, He is powerful.
Let us worship God!
Let us worship God!

Hymn “I Will Never be the Same Again” Hillsong
Rosa Gonzales & Kathy Koch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3-LLmD07wU>

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=xUx107eO_PM

God, Who turned back the Jordan, Who parted the sea, Who brought Israel out of Egypt and works to set each one of us free...We come before You now humbly, seeking Your presence, Your Spirit, Your face, Your peace.

Great God, with every step we take nearer to Your throne we see more clearly, both Your glory and majesty, and we also see our own unworthiness.

In the desert You provided a pillar of cloud which was both darkness and light. Now as we pray we ask that Your light illuminate our flaws, our failures, both what we have done and what we have left undone and as we see ourselves, our misguided attitudes and our misbehaviors more clearly, we plead for forgiveness.

We know that we have gone our own ways, neglected Your image in ourselves and in others, we have turned away from our gifts and calling, and we have been short sighted in our ways and short tempered with others. Help us, O God, know the depths of our failures as well as the greatness of Your love and forgiveness. We thank You Holy One that You never leave us - instead you forgive us and always provide a new way, another chance, and a path to follow that allows growth by our experiences. Bless us with the ability to take a new step forward today... we pray that we might truly experience Your forgiveness, and the grace of another opportunity to serve You and love others and ourselves in better ways.

God, as the winds have blown through our valley, and we have been relieved of some of the heat that has been covering us, we know that these winds are causing others pain and suffering, fear and danger. Be with them. Block the fires from raging and provide rain and protection over life that all in harm's way would be provided for and held in the palm of Your hand. We pray Your hand would be upon places of worship, camps like Calvin Crest, homes and livelihoods. Be with the firefighters and all who are battling the blazes.

As we pray we continue to lift up to You our hurting and troubled world. Bring peace and justice to our land. Help us find a path which honors Your image in each and every one of Your children. Grant us grace to speak to one another with love and clarity, help us navigate this political season as we come to election time. Grant us Your mercy as we continue to disagree, but also continue to love and be a people of hope and joy.

God, continue to bless us as we pray, bring blessings upon YOur people that we might truly be a people of light, life...the hands and feet of Christ. It is in His name that we pray as we pray the prayer that He taught us, 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 debt 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 and ever. 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=qb-r3uyigus>

Today the children are asked what they should do when they are afraid and feel cornered or have no place to hide. Some say they should run away and others say they should fight back. The truth is, we know that when we fight someone always gets hurt. Fighting is not what God wants if we can find another way. With God there's always a better way than violence. In the end we learn that when we are afraid it is best to do like the Israelites in the desert when they were chased by God. We should ask for help. This morning we learn from God's story of the people of Israel in the desert that when we call on God He helps us.

Take a moment and ask the question, what are we afraid of and how can we ask God for help in this particular situation?

Special Music

“The Red Sea Parted”

G. Nelson & P. McHugh
Quarantine Quintet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjns92vDUqA>

Reading of the Word

Exodus 14: 10, 13, 19-31

Adrienne O'Donohue

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-9zOWmnnqc>

10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord.

13 Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, **20** coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, **22** and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. **24** During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. **25** He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." **27** Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. **28** The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. **30** That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. **31** And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Message

“Back Against the Wall, Nowhere to Run”

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=he83RcePAaQ>

Today we continue our look at the people of God and their great story. This is the story that becomes our story. I have chosen to look at this part of the Exodus narrative because it is a text about the people of God in one of their most challenging and frightening moments. It is an appropriate text for today, in one of our country's most challenging and frightening times.

So, this is the background to our story. The people of God had suffered for generations under the Egyptians. They had also grown in number and they were unhappy. Now they were a force to be reckoned with. They had prayed for deliverance from their slaveholders and God sent Moses. You know the story of Moses. Moses tells the king of Egypt, the only superpower of his time, that he had better let the people of God go or else. Pharaoh, the king, says, go, no stay...err...go...no stay. Each time he reneges, God sends a terrible plague on him and his people. Frogs, gnats, bloody water, hail, the death of all the livestock and pets. Finally, after the king reneges again and again, God kills all the firstborn in Egypt. Even the son of pharaoh dies in the Passover moment. And so, the king finally relents, but he is fighting mad. After the Jews escape, he sends his army to capture the Israelites and bring them back by force! Hundreds, if not thousands of battle-hardened Egyptians on chariots and horses, armed to the teeth are closing in on the runaway Israelites like a chicken after a June-bug.

Now the Jews were thrilled to be headed out of Egypt. But they knew the Pharaoh was ticked off. They were afraid of him. After all, they not only left Egypt, but they took everything they could carry from the grieving Egyptians. Really, that is what they did. As they left the grieving Egyptians were so distraught the Jews took whatever they wanted. They took livestock, jewelry and other valuables from the people who were, just the day before, their slave masters. So, now they were worried that the army would catch them. They were so afraid that they armed themselves for protection. They were prepared for battle.

Well, Moses and the presence of God lead the Jews into the desert where they end up facing the sea with the angry, ripped off, Egyptians right behind them. They faced drowning by the sea or death and persecution by the sword. There was seemingly no way out. Fight and be killed, or wade into the water with all their possessions and some that weren't theirs and die a terrible death. They had their backs against the wall. Literally the sea wall.

An interesting side note here is that the Jews were never a sea going people. In all their ancient literature the sea was referred to as a place of chaos and death. It was the place where demons like the Leviathan dwelled. The sea for the early Jews was not a pleasant place. And in this story, they face the evil of the sea on one side and the evil of their human enemies on the other. There is no doubt; this was a frightening place to be.

There are many parallels in this story for us today. On the personal side, many of us face life situations that seem impossible. Work is demanding too much; we don't have enough time and our families are falling apart. Some of us face health issues that may be too much to overcome. Some of us are fighting physical battles that we may lose. Some of us are struggling to make ends meet financially and there are people who depend upon us, yet we are unemployed or underemployed because of the COVID. The reality is life can be hard and sometimes it seems that we are confronted with the chaos of the sea on one side and the threat of death and enslavement on the other. And let's be honest, some of us will lose the battles ahead. We all will die; some will face ruin. That is life and it is not pretty

And that is just the personal side. Then we have to face the reality of the world we live in. And once again, let's be realistic. Things have not gotten better over our lifetimes. Today a virus rages across our globe, while not as deadly as predicted the economic consequences are unparalleled. In the midst of all this we are being called to look closely at our history and be honest about the mistakes we have made in our treatment of others. Our country is focused on the negatives of our history and little is being done to honor the positive. It is a scary time as things change so fast it is difficult to know the truth!

But that is not all. We are in the midst of a national election. Elections are the cornerstone of our political system that should bring us hope and unity. Yet, this time it seems there is not a single candidate that is working toward unity and healing. Politics has become one group capitalizing on division and even promoting division of our people for personal gain and the pursuit of power.

(Before you call me and tell me that your side of the political fight is not doing this and all the division is caused by the other side, your political enemies, I want to tell you I won't be swayed unless you can bring me examples of how your party is doing something to hear and understand the other side. The riots in our cities claim they are for justice while what they do is threaten and perpetrate violence against anyone and their property who does not agree or think and act like them. That is not unity that is extortion. On the other side of the aisle, please don't tell me that your side cares for everyone because law and order is universal and a strong economy helps everyone if your side is unwilling to listen and work for reform where there is injustice and inequality in our system. Don't tell me your side is better if what your side does in attack and belittle the other side of the political aisle. Unity and justice are brought about by understanding the condition and position of others and working to better our situation for every person.)

But I digress. Life can seem pretty bleak if you take a close look at it these days.

Aren't you glad you tuned in to church today to get such an uplifting message?

Let's continue our story. It is good to know that the Jews are not left to fend for themselves on the seashore. It actually says in verse 10 that the Israelites cried out to God. And, in fact, as we know, it was God who had led them to the seashore and when they were in their darkest hour, when they needed help, the miracles started rolling in. The first thing Moses does is remind the people, do not be afraid, God is on your side.

Think of how many times God tells us not to be afraid and remember He is at your side. At Christmas when God speaks he says, do not be afraid, through Isaiah, God says to the faithful, "Fear not, for I am with, I have called you by name and you are mine, though you pass through the waters you will not drown and as you go through the fires you will not be burned." Through the psalmist, God reminds us that the seas and the mountains flee from the power of God. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans, "If God is for us who can stand against us? Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God almighty."

No matter how bad it gets, God is on our side. It is true that we face evil in our personal lives and in the world at large. We suffer, we die, we fail, and we are victims. Life hurts and it is sometimes ugly. Sometimes our backs are against the wall. That is the world we live in. The world is broken, and it is full of broken people. But in the midst of our suffering we are reminded that God is with us and we shall overcome just like the Jews at the seashore.

So today, I say; "have a little faith, God is by your side"!

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY4BKFHPgAY>

Offertory

"Wonderful Words of Life"

P. Bliss
Kathy Koch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSh_fNSzkeY

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=br6RVL4IC_8

Holy God, we pray Your blessings on these gifts. Our energy, time, talent, resources...and we ask that what we offer would be pleasing to You, and an act of praise and worship. Multiply these things that the impact to Your kingdom and our world would be great, in Jesus name and for Your purposes. Amen.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn

#696 “God Leads us Along”

Quarantine Quintet

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeJqJ79I_J0

Benediction

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEuom0njNHk>

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Postlude

“Hornpipe in D”

J.S. Dixon

Dr. David Dorway, Organist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pT8RKVOF144>

**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 Busswell, Bob & Joan Clark,
Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Joice Franklin, Mary Gafford,
Donna Gibson, Terry Glaser, 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