

Order of Worship for at Home Use

September 20, 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=RPHro5bh68o>

We are excited to say “welcome back!”

As you have seen in the church communications, we open for worship services this Sunday, the 20th. With the current Nevada recommendations of a 50 person maximum, masks and social distancing in place, we will continue to take reservations each week. Please call the church if you are interested in attending in person next Sunday (702.384.4554) or in the following weeks. However, 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 for all of you that are not ready to return. We continue to worship, united in Christ.

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. Come! Let us worship God together!

May God Bless you!

Pastor Dana

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Introit & Candle Lighting “Fairest Lord Jesus” arr. L. McKechnie
Dr. David Dorway
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jr_E_U6j2ak

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPr2M_AQNxs

As we gather for worship this week we will be gathering in-person as well as online. We pray that however you choose to worship you will be drawn into God's gracious presence and experience the joy of the Lord. We are united in Christ and are blessed to be a part of His family. Let us turn our hearts and minds to God in worship. Let us worship God!

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

Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
His love endures forever!
We will give thanks to the Lord, He is our God!
It is right to give Him thanks and praise!
Let us worship God!
Let us worship God!

Hymn “Amazing Grace” Dr. Lisa Elliott
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pon113OIxZQ>

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, You are the air that we breathe - our life and our breath. It is in You we live and move and have our being. Gracious God, thank You for drawing near to us, calling us Your children, and accepting us into Your holy Presence. Grant us Your grace now, as we come to You. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, Your purpose, Your peace, Your mercies.

Cast out all darkness and anything that we hold on to that is not of You. Help us to leave behind all that keeps us blinded, helps us to remain numb or sets us on paths leading us away from Your will.

As we pray on this day, O God, we come to Your throne broken, weary and worn - living this life half heartedly. This season of life continues to weigh heavy upon us. Before You, Holy One, we recognize our grief over all that we have lost these past months. We are lonely, grieving, saddened and feeling lost. Wrap Your arms around us, and grant us Your tender mercies O God. Take these things and soothe our souls.

In these moments we also know that this season has brought opportunities for us. Some we have grabbed a hold of and others we have not. There are many ways we have failed You, our neighbors and ourselves. There has been much opportunity to join You in the work You are doing in this world, but our own short sightedness, indecision, fear and pain have kept us from taking the steps to which we have been called. Quiet all voices but Your own voice, O God. Forgive us what we have done and all that we have left undone. Make plain to us the tasks which are ours to accomplish, the missions which are ours to take on, and the ways we are to bless those around us and Your kingdom. Bless us with renewed energies and clear vision for the work to which we are called and for which we have been equipped. Help us, Lord, to serve You and love others fully with our whole hearts... hearts that are open and unafraid of what You have set before us. Help us to see clearly which new ways of being we must keep in the season to come, and what of the old ways we must let fade away.

We humbly ask O God that You would bless our world today with Your peace and shalom. Anger and hatred over race, party lines and differing opinions seems only to rise. Levels of frustration increase. Help us to listen. Help us to grant one another grace and love in Jesus name. We ask that You would bring healing and hope to each one of us, and our world, and help us to be Your emissaries and do our part in Your kingdom. Reaching out to be light and life in Jesus' name.

As so much of our country burns with wildfire, we pray for rain and for protection of life and property. We ask for Your hand to be upon all who fight the fires and their families, all who are in harm's way, and the many that have been displaced as almost 5 million acres have burned. We do thank You, loving God, that we have seen acts of love and kindness, miracles of provision and unbelievable bravery in the face of danger and destruction. We thank You for such evidence of Your moving in our midst. And we ask that you continue to provide.

While we fight fires, we are also facing destruction by flooding and hurricanes. Violence both on the streets and in our homes as we continue to suffer job loss, financial hardships, life changes and home schooling and life in partial shut down. So many are dealing with health issues, ailments and illnesses both mental and physical. Help us Great God. Provide healing and hope, miracles and wholeness. We are isolated and lonely and missing the community of faith and all that the church provides in normal times. Put Your arms around us and grant us peace and sure knowledge of Your love and Your provision. Help us to clear our eyes and see Your vision for new ways of loving one another in Your family.

Keep us in Your grace. Provide for us Your help and hope that Your people would no longer suffer, but be healed. Made whole. Raised to new life.

Thank You for Your willingness to hear our prayers, to walk alongside us and to provide light in every darkness we face. We pray all of this in the name of 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

Hymn/Praise

“Jesus Loves Me”

not in video

Special Music

“The Lord is My Light”

Dr. Lisa Elliott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqpV6bDWrdw>

²In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” ⁸Moses also said, “You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.”

⁹Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

¹⁰While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud.

¹¹The Lord said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, “It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.

“In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-tmS2zTZaI>

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

For the children today the question is how much do you need and what will you do with the extra? The children are shown an abundance of masks that were given to the pastor Jim. But a person can only wear one mask at a time. How many does pastor Jim really need? We learn from our story today that God provides for our needs and in fact the gifts of God are miracles. The question is what will we do with the abundance of gifts God gives us. Will we complain and want more like the Israelites or will be thankful and share the abundance of God’s miracles with others?

Now onto the adults! Today we continue our look at the Exodus. Last week we learned about God’s people being complainers and God’s call for us to step out on faith. We learned the need to ask for help when our backs are against the wall. Today we are going to back up the story, today we are looking at God feeding His people with Manna and Quail in the desert when they first begin their journey. This is an appropriate text for today because today we come back together for in person worship after 25 weeks of being closed to in person worship because of the COVID 19 virus pandemic. This we celebrate community with those who are with us and those who are joining us online. It is only appropriate that we look at how God feeds us when we hunger and thirst.

This story takes place almost immediately after the crossing of the Red Sea. The people have followed Moses and God in a pillar of fire at night at a cloud of smoke in the day. They had left the Nile Valley and the great Nile delta where there was water, crops and food. They now find themselves away from home in a dry desert. They are not a people or a community yet. They are freed slaves running for their lives. And now they are hungry and thirsty.

So, once again we hear them complain. But, actually, this is their first complaint. Sure, they cried out for help when they were trapped by the sea and the Egyptians, but this is a real complaint.

This is their early days in the desert. Now, look at how God responds to their first complaint. As soon as the people complain, God says, “I will rain down food. He will give them meat at twilight and bread at dawn!”

He does this so they will know He is their God. It is their first lesson as a people. He is their God and He provides for them in their need. Not only does he provide, but he provides just what they need. Manna in the morning and quail at night. These are things they don't have to carry, these are items of food that take care of themselves.

What is manna? It is an interesting word. Manna in Hebrew means, literally, "what is this?" It is kind of like "who's on first?" They get up in the morning and there is flaky bread on the ground, but it does not last long. It goes bad and draws ants by the afternoon. The people probably ask, "what is this?" Moses probably answers, "yes! What is this."

In Aramaic, the ancient word for Manna describes the bread. The word comes from Tamarisk Mann, a tree that gives a milky substance when punctured by plant lice. This substance turns to light flaky substance that can be eaten and even baked into bread. In the heat of the day, however, it disintegrates, and, in the cold, it congeals to edible flakes. So, in the morning it is there, and can be gathered into a bread-like substance, but it deteriorates by the end of the day.

This was as basic of food as you can get. And quail was just a migratory bird that was a common source of food at that time and in that location. But you know, when you are in need, even the littlest thing can seem like a miracle. I think that as we look at this text this morning we see some of the greatest miracles of God and some of the most common.

You see, the people complain about not having the basics of life. This was one of their defining moments. They were experiencing freedom for the first time in their lives. Not only their lives but for the first time in 20 generations. They did not know how to survive, or how to organize their society, they did not know how to be a people. So, they complain about the very basics of life as if they had been taken from them.

To this complaint God responds with this statement. “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning, you will see the glory of the Lord, You see, the first thing the People of God are to know is that He is God and He provides for us. He does this with a miracle of creation. He uses the simple elements that already surround the people. This too is a sign of who God is and who people are to be. You see, God is present around us. He is present in the sunrise every morning. He is in the beauty of creation, he is in the food you put on your table for dinner. He provides for you all that you have.

The teacher of the wisdom literature of the Old Testament shows us that the people of God were to remember this when he wrote Lamentations 3:21-23 English Standard Version (ESV)

21 But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;^[a]
his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

It is amazing that we fail to see God when He is right here with us. That is one of the significant points of this story. God is working all the time. When you wake up do you realize the miracles that happened last night to keep you alive. Your heart kept beating, your house did not burn down, the oxygen balance in your room was perfect to keep you alive. And then there is the food you eat and the water you drink. This is all God’s design and plan. The miracles in your life, in my life, in all our lives abound.

That is the heart of this story, when the people cannot see God because they are so caught up in their own worries, God provides. In this case it seems he used natural means, but it is no less a miracle. The trees gave sap that became bread and it was everywhere. The quail came to the people, each day. Quail are dumb, but not that dumb. After they start getting eaten you would think they would go somewhere else, but God continued to provide quail.

This is what God is doing for us today. The sun comes up, blessings are everywhere. But too often we cannot see them, or we get tired of the gifts of God. We take them for granted because we see them all the time. We have had enough manna and we are tired of Quail and so we think there must be no God out there, or he doesn't care.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. God created this world in a way that it provides miracles of life for you every day. You have a choice what to do with those miracles? You can recognize God's gifts to you, your miracles. You can receive the blessing of God's grace in your miracles, build on them and work to share those miracles with others. Or you can ignore the gifts God has given you and ignore God. The goodness of God and His miracles are everywhere and they are available to everyone. This is one of the great blessings of our faith. So, will you open your eyes to the miracles in your life? And when you see those miracles, what will you do?

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings and Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lehEINN720>

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn

"He Leadeth Me"

Dr. Lisa Elliott

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

Benediction

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

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

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

"Toccatina on 'Amazing Grace'"

C. Pardini

Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agZ6bGbHwwo>

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, Pennie Everhart, 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, Rebecca Ushiroda, 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