

# Order of Worship for at Home Use

## September 27, 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=2LDIVi1utKU>

We open for worship services this Sunday. 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 is 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      "When Morning Gilds the Skies"      J. Barney  
Kathy Koch & Savannah Scarlett  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MVY0ndNgzo>

Welcome      Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uZK3Ct9NHM>

Welcome to worship with Grace Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas. Whether you are worshipping with us in person at the Charleston campus or at home, you are part of our community and we are thrilled you are worshipping with us.

Church and worship do not just happen in sanctuaries and cathedrals. Worship happens where people come into the presence of God and give him, thanks, praise, glory and honor. You are invited to worship with us and encouraged to make yourself comfortable. Surround yourself with the symbols of God. Light a candle, have your bible nearby and find a quiet place where you can experience the very real presence of God.

Next Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> is World Communion Sunday and we will be gathering with Christians around the globe to worship God and celebrate one of the sacraments. In our tradition, the Reformed Christian Tradition there are only two sacraments, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. With Christians everywhere we will celebrate this holy tradition next Sunday. With COVID-19, however, receiving the symbols of grace, bread, and the cup are difficult as we social distance for health reasons. Because of this difficulty we are going to be sharing God's grace in a different way. On Saturday October 3, from 11 am. until 1 pm. at both campuses, we will be collecting non perishable food. We will also collect food on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, during worship at the central campus at 10:30 am. Following worship, we will take the collected food and distribute it to people in need. We do this as a sacramental act, caring for others. While this is not a recognized sacrament like baptism and communion, it is sharing God's grace from our abundance. We do this to honor God for his blessings in our lives.

Join us now in worship as we seek to be God's people.

Call to Worship      Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqOA3EdXsq0>

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Let every tongue confess the good news:

**Jesus Christ is Lord: Glory be to God!**

Let us worship God.

Hymn

“Shout to the Lord”

Hillsong

Kathy Koch & Savannah Scarlett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ByAm4OYIt4>

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 Jim Houston-Hencken

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

Holy God we thank you for your grace and your generosity. You provide for us before we know we are in need. You know our needs and protect us from the things that are mere desires. God forgive us when we are impatient or greedy. Forgive us for our failure to be satisfied when you have provided so much.

God we are aware that in our abundance we have failed to share with others. Forgive us when we are stingy and want to keep things for ourselves because we are afraid. Teach us faith.

God, in this moment we pray for those who you have sent as a blessing in our world and in our lives. God bless the firefighters, the first responders, those who serve our nation protecting us from adversaries both here and abroad. We thank you for those who provide for us and those who help. We lift before you the people who serve us in grocery stores, teach our children, deliver our food and other necessities, and those who care for us when we are ill or infirmed.

God in this time of election in our country which is causing terrible division and hostility, teach us humility, peace, and grace for others. In this time of racial divide help us to listen and let us be instruments of grace to all human beings.

We also pray for protection for your people, the church. Bless this congregation and Christians everywhere. May we be faithful witnesses, caring neighbors, truth seekers and compassion friends. In doing so, may we be a witness to your grace for the world.

We pray these things in the name of our Lord 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. 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                      "Joyful, Joyful, We ADore Thee" L.V. Beethoven  
   "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"                      J.S. Bach  
   Kathy Koch & Savannah Scarlett  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kr9HHDspgUA>

Reading of the Word                      Exodus 17:1-7                      Pastor Dana Pope  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCVwbnTZN\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCVwbnTZN_M)

**1** The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?”

**3** But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

**4** Then Moses cried out to the Lord, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

**5** The Lord answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **6** I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Message

“Water Will Come”

Pastor Dana Pope

Please pray with me: Most Holy God, speak to us know Your words of life. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be pleasing to You... You are our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

As today we begin the question rings in our ears: Is the Lord among us?

Today, as the west coast needs water to put out wildfires, and the east and gulf coasts deal with too much water, hurricanes and flooding... the Las Vegas Valley pray for rain to wash the smoke out of the air and make up for a very dry monsoon season... we read about the Israelites who are THIRSTY.

Moses has led the people out of Egypt, across the red sea, and into a desert where they camp at Rephidim... a place full of rocks and notably without water to drink. The people begin, scripture tells us, to quarrel, grumble and test God. They ask and accuse Moses, saying “Why did you bring us here to die of thirst?”

All too often, we too are a people who grumbles and quarrels. A people who ask “why” and test God. So we can’t really blame the Israelites, can we? In truth, not much has changed in all these years.

It seems the human condition is to focus on the wrong things and see things the wrong way. We much too easily become dissatisfied and look for someone to blame. We tend to see the bad much more easily than the good. Without input from the correct outside sources, we often get it wrong. Just as we learn when we are children to walk and talk and feed ourselves, we must also – throughout our lives – learn to trust God and walk in faith.

Scripture tells us that people get it wrong... call evil good and good evil... our focus is much too often on ourselves, our families, the world and all that is wrong out there... instead of on God. You might remember the old children's song: Be careful little eyes what you see...

John Calvin talked about it this way... the only way we can see God and creation in the correct way is to look at them through the spectacles of scripture. The eyeglasses we are to use to see in the right way, is the very Word of God. Our vision will be distorted if our eyes and hearts are not set on the right thing.

The people were focused on their thirst, the hardships of the present, even the good parts of the past, the fact that they had plenty of food and water (of course forgetting the awful abuse and slavery). And we too, often do the same. We don't have to look far to find bad news these days as the election draws near, tempers flare, we long for a normal which may never really come again... maybe part of it is a symptom of our separation, not being around others makes our eyes stay attuned to the wrong things. We look at the desolation of the desert and the availability of good throwing rocks.

But make no mistake, there is danger in that. We cannot un-say the things we have said in anger or irritation or sadness. We are in danger of breaking and damaging relationships which will be difficult to repair when we are back together.

Moses doesn't give up when he is the verbal punching bag, he cries out to God, saying: "What am I to do with these people!?" I think this is an appropriate cry for us as well... What are we to do with these people? With our broken, weary, hurting, grieving world – that seems to continue to lash out and spin in anger...

I think, like Moses, we are called to step out and continue to be vulnerable, to live in the community of faith, trusting that our God is just ... there... standing by the rock of Horeb. God tells Moses, *strike the rock, water will come!*

If our eyes are focused on the trouble of the world, if Moses' eyes had seen only the ready availability of rocks to throw... and not on God... he might well have run away, stayed in his tent and closed himself off. But Moses, with his eyes on God and a cry for help on his lips, did what God asked of him. He struck the rock and the people drank ... were refreshed and given precious water.

The focus of our hearts and our eyes must be on God, or we revert to grumbling and complaining, we remain angry or stuck and we forget that our God is right there, He has provided over and over again, and He will not leave us. But if we look to God... we will see AMAZING things that He is doing in our world and in us. Some miracles and others amazing graces and traces of goodness.

Ashli Blaine...a 19-year-old helicopter pilot in California is up in the air carrying water over the fires to extinguish them. Her dad taught her to fly, and “how to be a good person.”

John Kinney...an electrician was called over to fix a lady’s light fixture...he fixed the light, but he also noticed that the house was falling down around her. He called his friends, and went back to work on her house for free...she ended up with a full pantry, new windows, landscaping, plaster and floor repaired... her neighbors came to help, and community grew

In Kenosha WI, a farmer planted 2 million sunflowers... to make people smile

And just this week...a church member called me to ask... who might need some help at this time. Saying, we have a little extra... How can we share our finances with someone in need?

God’s love and goodness is all around us. Even in this present state of affairs, God is Good.

Mary Oliver, poet, says that the *instructions for life* are as follows: “Pay Attention. Be Amazing. Tell me about it.”

Our challenge today is to examine our hearts and minds, our actions and words. Are we living well? NOTICE, pay attention, to what you are paying attention to. Are you more apt to fix your eyes on the good or the bad in the world? Are you looking at the God who is just there...by the rock...?

Is there anything that you need to apologize to someone for? How are you being called to begin to mend a relationship which has been victim to frustration, anger, distance, unkind words or lack of care?

What are you trusting most right now? Is that trust well placed? Are you looking at yourself and the world – God – through the lens of scripture?

How can we step out in front, into the gap, where there might be danger, but where we also might share the good news of the gospel and the love that God has for our world?

As the church of Jesus Christ, we are called to fix our eyes on, trust and have faith in, our great and holy God. How will each one of us do that with intention and grace today and in the days ahead?

Please pray with me... Holy God, help us see our failures, learn from them, ask for forgiveness and walk with intention the rock from which water will come by Your amazing power. Help us to walk in Your way and shine the light of Christ in our dark world. Amen.

## **We Respond to the Voice of God**

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHRcrZcDF8M>

## **We Go with God to Love and Serve**

Closing Hymn

”What a Friend We Have in Jesus” Scriven & Converse  
Kathy Koch & Savannah Scarlett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmcwPL8LaIo>

Benediction

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RVCmz4X-14>

Peace I leave with you My peace, I give unto you.  
Not as the world giveth, give I unto you.  
Let not your heart be troubled,  
Neither let it be afraid,  
For peace I leave with You.

Postlude

“Blessed Be Your Name”

B & M Redman

Kathy Koch & Savannah Scarlett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfMNU4aBygw>

**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, Bernard Busswell, Bill Carlston, 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, 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