

Order of Worship for at Home Use September 6, 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=do206JYyM9c>

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.

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



A quick recipe for unleavened bread:

1 1/2 cups flour

1/2 cup water (may take more)

Salt

Herbs to taste

Mix and knead dough together

until it forms a smooth ball

Divide into 4 parts and roll flat (may need to rest first)

Cook as you would a pancake until done on both sides

Top with salt if you wish

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Introit "Sonatina from 'God's Time is Best'"
Dorway

Dr. David

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0t826vYonM>

Welcome

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXOrSTKU28Y>

Welcome to worship with Grace@home on this Labor Day weekend. We are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us. We pray that you are drawn closer to God by your worship this weekend, and that you feel the love and connection of the family of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Please take a moment to prepare your hearts and minds, as well as your worship space, as we enter into this time together. This week we will be participating in communion, so please prepare your bread and cup as we begin. Let us worship God!

Call to Worship Psalm 145

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwE8uIrrykw>

In our lives we face many obstacles and opponents, yet,

We bow down only to You, Holy God!

Our hearts are drawn to You, precious Lord,

We lift up our praises to Your holy name.

You are mighty, all-powerful and full of majesty!

We come, seeking Your face, Your miracles, and Your grace.

Let us worship God!

Hymn

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Quarantine Quintet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSzq0OMY1eU>

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=jR9aAFro2fM>

In Psalm 145, King David sings his song of praise. As we reflect on his words, let us join our hearts in minds with him, and with all the saints, as we pray together:

Holy One, as we sit in the silence of our hearts we praise Your name, we seek your face, and ...when we are quiet, we even feel our hearts beating with praise of You. Lord, You are great and worthy of all of our praise and attention.

Yet, as we pause before You now, we realize that our attention is divided and we are far too often drawn away from You by things of this world. We are blown off course by circumstances, stopped in our tracks by fear, and we much too often take the easy way instead of the more challenging way of truth in Christ. Holy God, help us to prepare daily for the tasks to which we are called, the path You have laid out before us, and the sometimes difficult ways we are called to love You and one another.

Forgive us for our trepidation and fear, forgive us for becoming lulled into silence or inaction, forgive us our wayward or numbing behaviors that lead us nowhere or to exactly to the wrong places. Forgive us when our tired and dry bones give up our search for You. Set us once again on right paths. Paths of blessing and peace. Paths of renewal and refreshment. Help us to rely on Your strength and Your faithfulness, as well as Your promises and grace and Your abundance mercy...Grant that we might feel Your presence now, in these moments, and the life and healing that comes from Your hand.

Today great God we ask that Your hand would be upon this world and on us as we pray. We seek miracles of grace and healing. We pray for peace and justice in our land. We beg for Your mercies to rain down on so many who need you this day. Put Your hand upon us, upon all who need mercies and miracles, discernment, love, to be found, or to be fed. Be with all who are dealing with the aftermath of fire, flood, or hurricane. Bless our children and teachers and parents as they begin to find their way in this school year. Energize us and lead us into service in Your kingdom in Christ's name, that we might truly be His hands and feet in all that we do and say. Help us to rely on Your strength and wisdom, not our own.

As we pray we rejoice in the knowledge of Your great love for us and for this world. We thank You for hearing our prayers, these that we say together and those that we hold in our hearts and homes. We pray all of these things 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 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

Rhonda Reeves

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tD1LokrhL7Y>

Today we looked at some recipe books that offer directions to prepare delicious food. God gave Moses a recipe of specific instructions to have every Israelite family enslaved in Egypt follow a recipe of very specific instructions to worship and honor God by following this instruction very carefully.

The families sacrificed a first born perfect lamb, then followed God's recipe to prepare and eat the food. God also instructed for the blood of the lamb to mark the outside of their home.

Later that night when disaster from God took place against the Egyptians, God saw the lambs' blood and passed over them, causing no destruction to them. This tragic night caused Pharaoh to release the slaves to leave and go with Moses.

The Bible offers direction for God's people to make sound decisions and right thinking with God. The Bible gives a Godly perspective on peer pressure, loneliness, money, friends, family relationships.

Prayer: Thank you God for hearing our prayers and helping to guide our steps as we honor you. Help us to worship at home in honor of all you do in our lives God. Help us to settle each day and read your Bible, that is filled with the instructions and recipes we need to navigate a peaceful joyous life.

Special Music

"Antiphonal Praise"

T. Fettke

BJ Jamison, Scott Plummer, Pastor Dana Pope & Kathy Koch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFmCp3L5e5E>

Reading of the Word

Exodus 12:1-14

Lois Goodall

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot0XyZ76PbM>

Message

"A Fresh Start"

Pastor Dana Pope

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

We have remembered together in the past weeks how God called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, how they were formed into a people, the tribes of Israel, and then saved from famine and grew into a nation. The Israelites had been living in the land of Egypt for generations, and were enslaved and were treated harshly...yet they grew into such a force that they frightened Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

Israel continuously cried out to God for help and salvation.

God heard their cries.

We have studied the birth and call of Moses, as well as how God prepared him to serve in a very specific way. Moses followed God and went into the court of Pharaoh, on behalf of Israel. He called for the people to be released from their bondage. God sent a message through Moses to Pharaoh saying: *Let My people go so that they can freely worship Me.* Pharaoh, of course doesn't want his workforce to leave, and says no – even in the face of terrible plagues.

The water turning to blood...contaminating the drinking water.

Frogs...a nuisance and difficult to kill, but also considered sacred by Egyptians... which left them with a difficult problem.

Lice/gnats...lice are very contagious, which you know if you have had an elementary age child... gnats... are just annoying and get in everything and everywhere

Flies... would have swarmed and killed animals

Livestock pestilence...more death and disruption in the food chain and financially

Boils...painful sores, no cure – and were both on the animals and the Egyptians

Hail/fire...damage to crops, farms, homes and livestock that remained

Locusts...would have eaten the wheat and any grain left further damage to food supply

Darkness for 3 days.

Still, the answer was no.

I wonder what the Israelites were thinking and feeling in the days of the plagues... watching such devastation come to Egypt, but largely being unaffected themselves. I wonder, were they frightened? Did they feel that justice was coming?

Did they truly believe that their time in Egypt had come to an end?

Were they ready to set out on a journey into the unknown – with a God Who would act so severely on their behalf – to set them free...

The scripture text before us today in chapter 12 indicates a clear break in the history of the people. There is the before, the suffering and the difficulties... and there is an after. *This month will be for you the first month of your year.*

This break, of course, would not have changed their experiences or how they had suffered, but it would have given them a sign post and a noticeable fresh start.

A fresh start.

I can't speak for everyone, but my guess is, we are all longing for a fresh start. A new day to dawn.

I read a meme on FB that said, *I usually don't stay up to ring in the new year, but THIS year, I am going to stay up and make sure that 2020 leaves.*

It's not just that we want to be released from quarantine, that we long for an end to the suffering and difficulties. Because going back to the way things have been for far too long is not enough. We need a new way. A better way to be, to live. A new paradigm. More love. More grace. More light and life.

For Israel the plagues were a sure sign that God was with them, for them, and wanted for them to be free from the bondage of Egypt. Not just free, however, but free to worship Him. With the announcement of the new year, and instructions for how to get ready and BE READY to leave, they must have held onto a real sense of hope for what was to come.

God did not only designate a new year, however... He also gave them instructions... 1. Share with one another. Be connected and work together so that no one carries all of the burden. God said for them to come together in households to pool resources and not waste unnecessarily as they sacrificed a lamb for the Passover meal.

The other day I read an article about a neighborhood sharing app called: buy nothing project. To Buy nothing, give freely, share creatively. I have heard so many people during this time saying that they are cleaning out their closets, and getting rid of their excess. What if we were connected to one another so strongly that we knew who needed those extra items in our drawers... and we could bless them with it! What if we had a system to say, *i am looking for... x y or z...* and we could borrow it from someone who wasn't using it at the time.

The second instruction I want to point out in chapter 12 is that God wanted all of Israel to make it plain Who and Whose they were. They were to put a mark on their doorposts with the blood of the lamb.

I wonder if those we meet, and speak with, outside of the church know by our words and deeds that there is something different about us...that we are marked with the blood of the lamb... Do they see that even in trying circumstances we have hope and joy and life and light...

Q: Are your attitudes and your words indicators of your life in Christ? your belief in a powerful God Who loves you and the world? Do they indicate both who and Whose You are?

I am not saying that we all have to be perfect. but we are to try to be better than we were... we are called to put our trust in God – to recognize our fallenness and get up and try again to pursue God’s will above our own in all trials and circumstances. We are called to encourage one another to live into the identity in Christ that is already within us.

And the 3rd item is to be ready to move when God leads. Often in life we get a little too comfortable. A little too cozy or stuck in place...

This scripture indicates that we are to be ready...eat standing up with our shoes on (they normally would have taken them off after entering the house) and dispose of the leftovers so nothing ties you to this place.

Granted, at this point in history we are ALL ready to move. Back into the sanctuary, back into normal life... but Q: are we ready to move in God’s directions??

Are we ready to be free... to grab hold of that fresh start... but do so with the leading of Holy Spirit and in the fellowship of God the Father? We must acknowledge God’s hand upon us, and lean into His guidance so that when we come out the other side of COVID, when we are finally free... we live fully into the purposes of that freedom in Christ...and not of our own devices.

Fiends, as we come to a close I pray that this time in history will be for us a hallmark of renewal and a fresh start...but not for our sake... for the sake of the Gospel, for the sake of God’s work and purposes in this world. And that as we continue in this life we would all be ready to move into the freedom that God desires for us in and with His kingdom.

Amen.

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CktSd16uhec>

Offering is not fundraising. In worship we offer our gratitude for what God has done in our lives. Blessed with wealth we return a portion of that wealth to the work of God’s kingdom. Blessed with time, we share our time with God and in His work. Blessed with the gifts of the spirit, such as teaching, compassion or hospitality, we offer a portion of those gifts back to God for the betterment of His creation. Offering is an act of worship and an act of gratitude. So now we call for the offering. Prayerfully consider how you have been blessed and what you may return to God for the work of His Kingdom.

We are blessed with many opportunities to give of our time talents and our resources... Let us now participate in God's kingdom by returning 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

“Come, Share the Lord”

R. Tabell
Quarantine Quintet

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3LI0Wu_3Pc

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

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

Holy God we offer these, our gifts to You. Bless the money, the talent, the time and all that has been offered to You in this moment. Use these gifts for the work of Your kingdom. Use these gifts to bring grace to our world. Bless these gifts and use them to provide for worship, service and caretaking all for Your glory. Amen.
The Service of Communion

Communion Liturgy:

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gtr97IRkk5Y>

Beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Supper we celebrate today is the joyful feast of God. A time of remembrance, of communion, of hope. Our Lord Jesus invites all who believe in Him to come and be nourished at His table.

Today, His table is set, not in the sanctuary, but in our own homes. Today, we remember both the time Jesus spent with His disciples, and also the remembrance of the Passover which they were celebrating together.

As we come to the table today, please prepare your communion elements. I have today unleavened bread with some herbs baked inside in remembrance of God's commands to the Israelites to eat quickly and be ready to follow Him as they were released from Egypt.

We come remembering that once again we have turned from God's ways and gone our own way. But as we have confessed our sins and been forgiven, and because of God's eternal covenant of grace, we are accepted back into God's presence...into His family.

We come to commune with this same Christ who has promised to be with us always. Christ is the true Bread which nourishes us and the Vine in whom we must live if we are to bear fruit. The Holy Spirit unites us into one body and in communion with all the saints. So we receive this supper in Christ's love and our affection for one another. We come in hope believing that as surely as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we will be raised from the dead into eternal life. This is the Lord's Table. Come, for all is prepared.

Let us pray. The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty and everlasting God. You created the heavens and the earth; you preserve us with your care;

you revealed the fullness of your love for us by sending Jesus Christ. By his life, death, and resurrection you have reconciled us to yourself. With the heavenly host and with the saints of all times and places, we lift up our hearts in joyful praise, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray that the bread which we break and the cup which we bless may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Accept the gift of our lives that we may live in you and serve your kingdom. Being joined together in Christ, may your whole church be one; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 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, shed 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.

The gifts of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God!

Come, for all is prepared.

Communion Meditation “My Shepherd Will Supply My Needs” arr. R. Hughes
Dr. David Dorway
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19A_io_jrUY

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn “Glorious Day ”
BJ Jamison, Scott Plummer, Pastor Dana Pope & Kathy Koch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhru6uYPA38>

Benediction Pastor Dana Pope
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9BHygUMo_E

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face to shine upon you.
May the Lord be gracious to you,
And give you peace.

Postlude “Celebration” C. Callahan Dr. David Dorway,
organist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyQdK7hbB1w>

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, 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