

Order of Worship for at Home Use

October 18, 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=er9REU_K82g

Welcome to worship with Grace Presbyterian Church in Las Vegas! We are so glad that you are choosing to worship with us. We believe that whenever we gather for worship, whether it be in the sanctuary or at home, God is with us. We are the family of God, united in Christ, and so we are called to God's throne room together as we worship.

As you know, churches are now allowed to meet with up to 250 people using up to 50% of their building's capacity as long as they continue to follow social distancing protocols. As a result, we have increased our attendance capacity to 130 for those who would like to attend at the Central Campus. At present we are NOT requiring reservations, so come if you are able. We are also opening worship at the West Campus on November 8th at 10:30 am. with a 50 person capacity. We will continue to offer online worship as well.

As you worship at home, create a comfortable space. Surround yourself with the symbols of our faith. Maybe light a candle to signify God's light in our world, read along in your Bible as it is God's revealed word to us. Above all, open your heart to the very real presence of God as we gather in worship.

Pastor Dana

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude/Candle Lighting "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

D. Schlosser
Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AVlwtWejIw>

Welcome

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBF7kfUfecc>

Call to Worship (Psalm 99)

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAY8UBhkANK>

One: The Eternal God is the King Who rules over all.

All: **The peoples of the nations will tremble and shake.**

One: Let us praise and give thanks to our God, for He is good!

All: **He is holy, perfect and exalted in His power.**

One: We lift our Eternal God in our hearts and we seek His face.

All: **We celebrate His goodness!**

Let us worship God!

Hymn

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" vs 1,2 Dr. Lisa Elliott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xCt37yQcRA>

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, most merciful God, we come to Your throne today seeking help and healing, grace and mercy, love and forgiveness. As You call us into Your presence You also speak to us words of life. And by the light of Your words of life, we come to see our faults and our failures. We humbly turn our hearts back to You and seek forgiveness.

Forgive us for all that we have done and all that we have left undone. Forgive us for failing to honor Your image that You placed within each one of us and in those around us. Grant us eyes to see both the ways we fall short, and the ways we are called and led by the Holy Spirit to step out in faith with love and truth. Grant us strength and energy for our work for Your kingdom. Help us to love others and honor Your image in them, even when we do not agree, or when they choose to live life in ways we find difficult to understand. Holy God, in Your mercy - set us on the right paths. Grant us mercy and grace that in Jesus' name we would be the hands and feet of the gospel, light and life to our weary world. Help us to follow You as You lead and go where You call.

As we pray today we lift up our world. We pray for all of those that work for our safety. Police men and women, firefighters, those who serve in our armed forces. Bless them, and their families. We pray for protection and provision for them. We lift up all who serve in government offices. As elections draw close we pray that those in office would make good and righteous decisions, and that those who follow would be chosen by Your hand.

In our world, God, violence, harsh words and trouble all seem so near...all occur much too often... As the days grow shorter it seems even the world itself is losing light. Grant this world peace, O God. Bless Your people around the globe with Your shalom. Help us to be peaceful and bring light to the dark places around us.

Put Your hands on all who suffer on this day. Heal those who are struggling with illness of mind or body. Bring courage and hope to all who suffer with difficult circumstances, financial difficulties, or family estrangement. As the holiday season approaches, be merciful to all who are lonely, comfort those who mourn, and bring solace to those who are anxious or fearful. God, put Your loving hands upon us. We need Your touch. Your healing. Your grace. Your guidance. Your peace.

Thank You Holy One, for calling us to Your throne - for setting us on right paths, and for Your forgiveness and grace. Thank You for hearing our prayers. Bless us as we continue to worship, and as we pray the prayer that Jesus 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

Hymn/Praise

“Jesus Loves Me”

not in video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C63z5hCd7bc>

Special Music

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

Dr. Lisa Elliott and Katharyne Taylor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIQG5CSmfqM>

Children's Message

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOwFEgFc7vo>

Today the children (and childlike people) are asked if they believe in electricity and wind when they cannot see either. One can experience electricity and wind and one can see their after effects but one cannot see the actual force or source of electricity or wind. Regardless we still believe in these two phenomena because there is evidence. We faithfully fly kites and turn on light switches because our experience tells us that wind and electricity exist and will behave as we expect.

In today's message we are looking at the story of Moses asking to see God and God responding by telling Moses that nobody can see the face of God but he can be seen after He passes by. God is like wind and electricity. He exists and He is present in our world. We see the evidence for God in the effect He has had on the world and in our lives. Faith is knowing that God is with us. Faith is affirmed in what God has already done. Even before we had faith God was at work.

Reading of the Word

Exodus 33:12-23

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N05gRibfww0>

12 Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’”¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”

14 The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

15 Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.”¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

17 And the Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”

18 Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

19 And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

21 Then the Lord said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

Message

“God Passing By”

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVuDn-QKtr0>

This morning we conclude our study of the Exodus. This has been a fun study as we have learned about how a people lost in the desert becomes a nation, an organized community and culture that has lasted over 3500 years. They were a people who had major challenges and the most significant one was the fact that what they were doing was all new. They had never done anything this way before!

The entire story begins with the people suffering and crying out to God. We learn that God had already been preparing the people’s salvation, even before they cried for help. God prepared for the people, a leader. Moses became the priest, prophet and lawgiver for the people of Israel. He did not want to be king, or even a leader for that fact, but he was faithful to the call God laid on him. With Moses at His command, God freed the people from slavery through signs and wonders of plagues and power. God even used death to rescue His people.

When the people of God made it to the desert, God dried up the sea for them to cross, led them by the sight of smoke and fire, provided bread and quail in the barren desert and even provided water from dry rocks. Moses led the people to victory over all who would threaten God’s plan. Through Moses, God revealed his plan for humankind, the 10 commandments, and God showed how He is with His people through the establishment of a moveable church called the Tabernacle.

In the presence of God and His leader, Moses, the people turned away from God time and again. God would give blessing and discipline but the people continued to be unfaithful. Time and again God showed grace and the people showed unfaithfulness and ingratitude. The ultimate offense was when Moses was speaking to God and the people became afraid and turned to other God's making a golden calf to worship. God was angry and Moses interceded seeking God's favor. This is a tumultuous relationship between a faithful God and unfaithful people. But God never breaks His promises and continues to show grace. That is where we are in today's story. The people of God have repented their sin and God has taken them back.

This is the close of the Exodus. In the beginning of chapter 33 God tells Moses to leave the mountain and take the land that has been promised. They are to move to the promised land. This is the moment they all have been waiting for. They were to get their land and to be a people with a future, a nation, a hope.

Before heading out on this trek to take the promised land Moses makes three requests of God.

1. Teach me That I may know your ways
2. Go with me
3. Show me, give me proof that I may know I am doing the right thing.

12 Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' ¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

Moses, when faced with leading the people and stepping out on his own, asks first for what we should all ask. He asks, "**teach** me your ways, that I know you, God" This is where our independence and identity begins, with God. It seems odd to say that, but if we are to be the people God wants us to be then we need God to teach us His ways.

When we step out in faith we have God to know what God is calling. We need to know what to do when we get there. When we step out in faith we need to have a vision of what God wants. We need God to teach us. And that is what he does. He teaches us if we would just listen. This is true for every step of life. When you moved out on your own, you had to know what kind of person or adult you were going to be. Hopefully you chose to learn from God and be a person of integrity and hope as outlined in our scriptures. When you got married or had children, hopefully you found your ethics and moral character in the 10 commandments, his teaching. You see for every step God will teach us if we listen. This is what Moses wanted. He wanted to have a vision and a plan. That comes from knowing God and understanding what He wants of his people.

My first job out of college was serving as the program director of the American Diabetes Association. I ran their camp for diabetic children and I did a lot of fundraising and public speaking for the organization. Imagine that, me speaking in public. One of my jobs was writing thank you letters. My boss, miss Rene, was not the nicest person in the world. She had a certain way she wanted things done. She told me to write thank you letters. I was right out of college. I got As on my writing so I wrote the letters like they were college term papers. Multiple pages, lengthy quotes, statistics and studies that went on and on. Miss Rene looked at my first letter and tore it up, through it in the garbage and sent me to a class on business writing! She said, get to the point and write it on one page. Then she proofread every letter for a month. I was so frustrated that she said she was over doing it. In fact, I said that I could probably do her job for her if she would just give me a chance. Now I work in the church. It is important to let our leaders, God teach us, show us how, even go with us so we learn to be the people they expect us to be. I was forced to learn. She mentored me and I learned, I was the apprentice.

God responds not that He will teach Moses, but that He will go with Moses. You see being with someone teaches more than giving them a text book lesson. This is like an apprenticeship. Moses will learn because God is with Him, showing him how to be a leader. Moses says teach me, God says I will be with you. It is as if He said, I will teach you, I will be with you. The way to learn is listen to me, practice what I tell you to do. I have already given you the commandment, I have given you the tabernacle, the moving church where I will go with you and I have given you leadership. Now I will be with you all you need to do is listen to me and you will learn what I want from you.

Finally, to ensure that God is who He says He is, Moses says; “show me.” You see, true leaders want to follow in God's footsteps. As a result, they want to be taught in Godly ways. This prepares them for whatever the future holds. Secondly, true leaders want to walk with God. It is best to have God with us when we journey. If we are aware of his presence, we can let Him Guide us even in the most difficult of circumstances. If we are going to see God when he makes himself known, we are going to need to have been taught in His ways and understand that He is with us if we are going to be able to see even a glimmer of Him when he shows himself

You can see a sunset that amazes you, but if you know the creator you will see God’s handiwork. You can see a cute child, but if you know the one who knits us together from the smallest particle to the deepest emotion you will see the handiwork of God in even the slightest smile on the child’s face.

Finally, true leaders look for God’s presence with them as they seek to be faithful. Moses is told that he is to hide in the rocks so that he will not see God’s face, rather he will see the light or the glory of God as He passes by. God’s greatness and goodness and righteousness is so magnificent that no one can see God’s face, but you can see His glory if you are close enough to Him! But just being close to God is enough. Moses is touched by God’s radiance and it causes him to shine as an example for all the people of God.

This is how it is for us. We are called in life to things we feel ill prepared for. We leave home, we start relationships, have children, start careers, take jobs, raise families. We know when we start that it is a huge leap of faith. It is in these moments that we have the chance to make decisions that change everything. It is in these moments we need:

1. To learn from God so we are ready for the challenges ahead.
Teach me.
2. To have God with us so we experience his grace along the way.
Go with me.
3. To have God show us His glory so we can know He is with us
and be faithful that His grace is sufficient. Show me.

We are in the wilderness now. We are asked to be faithful when the future is uncertain. This is 2020 and if this year is taught is anything it is that nothing is certain or predictable. Now is the time to ask God to teach us what we need to know for our future, we need to ask God to go with us so that we never lose sight of our call to be God's people in Las Vegas and we need to let God's radiance shine through us in our time of challenge. We need God to show His grace to us that through us. This is what Moses learned to do. It is the example we need to follow.

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O68y-oLyaew>

As we continue to worship, we respond to God's generosity, His love, His word, and His grace by offering ourselves to His kingdom. This is a part of how we worship. We dedicate our time and our talents, our finances, our words and deeds to God in service of His kingdom. God blesses us with many opportunities to give of our time, talents and our resources... Let us now continue to worship and 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/graceplv/-/give/now> . In addition, take some time to dedicate your life, time and talents, to God's service and listen for how God might be leading you today.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision” vs 1, 2

Dr. Lisa Elliott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jG5HQOY8SE>

Benediction

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLEbzWSjz8>

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

“Festival Alleluia”

D. Miller

Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2EigbfNHvw>

**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, Joy Boes, Bernard Busswell, Bill Carlston,
Bob & Joan Clark, Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas,
Pennie Everhart, Joice Franklin, Mary Gafford, Terry Glaser, Charlene Harper,
Pam Kodey, Lara Kolberg, Dorell Koon, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles,
Maggie O'Donnell, Alice Oiler, Dodi Palmer, Taylor Palmer, Mary Phillips,
Russ & Pat Reid, Aminta & Jorge Santanilla, Marty Swartout, Nick Vogelzang,
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
Donna Gibson 9/14/2020