

Order of Worship for at Home Use
October 4, 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=m2zoofx0yAE>

As the joyful people of God we continue to worship our Risen LORD. This is our joy and our purpose. Although we continue to see division in our world (increasingly it seems, as the election comes ever closer) as the people of God we remember that we are united in Christ. Our trust is not in the powers of this world, but in our loving and All-Powerful God. (Thanks be to God!)

This weekend we will have a food drive as we celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 4th. On Saturday from 11-1 we will be gathering food to take to Lutheran Social Services at BOTH locations. Please drop your food off at that time. It will be prayed over as we celebrate at the table in worship.

Also, this week has seen changes in the recommendations by our Governor in Nevada, and we are excited to see more people in worship beginning this week. We will continue to follow safety protocols with masks and social distancing, but we will be able to increase our numbers, in person, as we gather. Of course, we will continue to worship with many online, knowing that in the mystery of faith we are united in Christ, one body - the joyful people of God.

As we begin you are invited to **prepare your worship space**. Light a candle, find your bible, and create a space where you are prepared to meet the Divine.

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



We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude "This is My Father's World" arr. R Hobby
Dr. David Dorway
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBiW8kWRXD8>

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

Welcome to worship with Grace@Home. Today as we worship we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. As you know, yesterday we held a food drive to supply those without through Lutheran Social Services. As a part of our communion today, as we gather around the table that Jesus sets for us, we will share the bread and cup, and we will pray over that which we will share with the world. If you have not already done so, prepare your worship space by lighting a candle, gather your bread and cup, and settle your hearts as we come to God in worship. Together we are the body of Christ sent out to the world. Let us worship God!

Call to Worship inspired by Psalm 19 Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXnVjef-5NE>

The heavens declare the glory of God
We come to worship our God!
The skies proclaim the work of His hands
We give Him thanks and praise!
Let us worship God!
Let us worship God!

Hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" vs. 1&2
Dr. Lisa Elliott
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yviYzioHSE>

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=dWSXFiBnEIE>

In the name of Jesus, we lift our hearts before our great God. Please pray with me... Holy One, as we come before You today we offer our words, concerns, praises and even the silence to You. We pray You would speak to us now in this time of stillness.

Coming before You again today, we acknowledge the ways we have failed You and gone in our own directions. Help us to turn back, reconcile with You, and with one another. We so often excuse ourselves for causing harm in the name of progress or even righteousness, killing another's dream with our own pessimism, or damaging relationships or systems with harsh words that are born of our own frustration and impatience. Help us O God. Grant us forgiveness and mercy. Help us to offer that same mercy and forgiveness to others. When we lack patience, grant us extra measures. When we lack vision, help us to see with the eyes of Christ. When we lack energies for the work You have laid before us, renew us Lord and set us moving in Your directions.

As we walk ever closer to our country's election in November, help us, Your children, to be a voice of hope and peace. Place Your hand upon us and guide us in Your way. Provide the right words for us to speak. Words that would bring light and life into our troubled world.

Gather us under Your wing of protection. Provide for all who serve our armed forces, police men and women and our firefighters - as well as their families. Provide wisdom and energy to all of those who work in our government, and all who have taken up the mantle of teaching. We pray You would gather all of Your children, that together, united in Christ, we might truly be light and life, Your hands and feet, to our world.

We also ask for Your bounty and shalom to be upon all who struggle with sickness today. We ask for Your Spirit to move and provide healing and hope, miracles of medicine and miracles of intervention and complete and total healing. Comfort all who mourn, stand with those who feel alone, and send Your children to touch the lives of all who struggle. Place today a name of one of Your children whom you would like each of us to reach out to today and in the days ahead.

God, bless our world through our energies and attention. Move in our hearts and in this world, and fill us with Your love. We pray all of these things in the name of Jesus, Who taught us to pray, saying: Our Father, Which 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

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

Special Music

“O Divine Redeemer”

C. Gounod
Dr. Lisa Elliott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uqz4uPTzIXY>

Reading of the Word

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

20 Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

¹⁸ When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.” ²¹ Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Message

“The Big 10”

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

Children’s Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9iG-k7PMuE>

Today the children are asked to think 3 in rules in their lives and share them with someone in the room with them. Rules are important for all people because they help us behave and they define our values. We all have rules. But when there are too many rules and we cannot remember them all it is impossible for us to obey and the rules become both tyrannical and meaningless. Did you know that in the United States on average each state passes 800 automobile laws per year. That’s 400,000 new laws per year in the US and that’s only state motor vehicle laws. If you add congressional statutes, criminal law, tax laws, civil codes we live under the control of millions of laws and rules.

This is not what God wants. In order for us to be a community, a family of faith, God has given us His law which is illustrated in the 10 commandments. Quite simply the 10 commandments teach us to love God, care for ourselves, love others and respect property. Jesus summarized God’s laws with two simple rules:

1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, strength, mind, and soul; and,
2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Today, in this crazy world, we seek to be God’s people, His family by loving God and our neighbors.

Sermon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfVrJ2v7Ck4>

Well, there you have it, the big ten. The ten commandments. Some of the most well recognized scriptures in history. Let me ask you a question. How many of you learned the 10 commandments when you were children? Maybe from your parents, or in Sunday school. Ok, how many still remember them today. It is easy to forget things we don’t want to remember isn’t it? But you know, for the people of Israel, our spiritual ancestors, the story of the Exodus and the receiving of the Law was a defining moment.

Why was it a defining moment? Because it was then that they became a people. No longer were they just a family, they were now a nation, and it was God's activity that made them who they were to be. The law became their game plan for the future. Their game plan became their identity. They were to be the people of God, just as we today are to be the people of God.

The only other moment in history that I can think of that is even close to this moment was when the US Revolutionary War ended at the Battle of Yorktown. Washington could have been crowned king, but he knew kingdoms were a thing of the past. Government by the people was the way of America's and the future. To make this great nation happen, we needed a binding identity. That identity is found in our law, the constitution, our foundational law.

For the people of Israel, their constitution, their founding law, and identity as a nation, was and is the 10 commandments given by God Almighty. It is a covenant with God promised to by both God and the Israelites.

When we look at the 10 commandments. We must remember them in the context in which they were given. They were given as part of an agreement with God's people. That is God chose his people to be in community with him and to do that the people are to be a nation of priests. The law of God is an agreement that the people would have a relationship with their creator and that relationship requires that they care for others.

This week, as we move on to look at the law as it is summed up in the ten commandments, we must ask ourselves, how does the law accomplish the covenant of being God's people who love God and serve others? So as we begin, I submit to you that the law of God, as it is summarized in the 10 commandments accomplishes the covenant with God and God's people by creating a community that is God centered and people focused. That is, in God's community God comes first, but it is God's desire that we care for others. We are to be a nation of priests that serves God by caring for others.

You know, when God deals with people, God most often does so through other people. Look at the scriptures, God calls Abraham and Sarah, God calls, Ruth, and Esther, God calls the prophets of old like Jeremiah, Isaiah, Micah, and others. God calls David and Solomon. When God wants to reveal Himself, God speaks to Moses so that the message won't be lost. When the people of God still don't get it, God becomes human and lives the message. That, folks, is what we call the incarnation, God becoming flesh...human.

Our God is all about community, healthy community and God's handprints are all over the new community that is developed in these commandments.

The first 3 commandments begin with the notion of who we are and whose we are. We are not in this alone. We are God's people. "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt. You shall have no other gods before me." Isn't that good news? It is God who saves us. We don't need other gods. Your money cannot save you. Your car, your house, your husband or wife cannot save you. You cannot save yourself. If we had to do it alone, we would all fail. Adam and Eve proved that and every human being since has confirmed that we need God if we are going to get any better.

Even more important is the idea that God calls us to one another to be a community in our salvation. We are to care for one another and love one another. We are to be an alternative to the destruction that selfishness brings. Our community is, in fact, our strongest witness. The rules of our community, our ten commandments give us our identity and our community. We are God's people, He is our God and He wants us to care for one another and His creation. That is what God's rules are for. They are to help us love God and care for others

We cannot live together if we don't have rules. Anarchy may sound like a good idea, freedom from all restrictions, a rule free society, but that only works when you live alone. Even then, some rules apply. Without rules you will die. You cannot live in this world without rules. If you don't believe me, try to live without the rules of gravity, or modern science. The rules of math always apply when you balance your checkbook. If you don't live by the rules of math then someone else, who does, the bank, will take your money and control your life. Rules are not a bad thing. Good rules foster order and make for a community that runs well and people are able to work together.

But too many rules create tyranny when we are created for freedom. Think about it. God created us to be free and with our freedom, freely chose relationship with God and one another.

The Ten Commandments created a community with God that would last for eternity. God created his people and established a relationship with them by teaching them, through rules, what was best for them. Clearly, from the Ten Commandments and the entire Bible, one can see that God desired that people have a relationship with God first and that they care for others as a way of showing God their love and faithfulness.

I submit to you that the law of God, as it is summarized in the 10 commandments accomplishes just that; a relationship with God and God's people by creating a community that is God centered and people focused. That is, in God's community, God comes first, but God's desire is that we care for others. We are to be a nation of priests that serves God by caring for others.

Our God is all about community, and a healthy community. God's handprints are all over the community of faith and as a result our world. In fact, truly healthy communities, even in today's world, have God's basic laws or rules as their defining characteristics. Look closely at the 10 commandments. If you do you will see that the community that God desires that we live in first recognizes Him as a power greater than ourselves. We are to first know that we are not God, commandments 1-3. You should care for yourself, commandment 4. You should care for family; it is the social structure God gave you, commandment 5. You should care for the community, others. You shouldn't hurt one another or kill each other, you shouldn't lie or break your vows, you should honor private property and respect what others have not steal or covet, commandments 5-10.

Folks, these things are right. They make sense, they are universal truths, and they are good for society. Not because we have tried them or they seem reasonable. These rules are good because God said so and He created us. Who would know better what is good for us than the one who created us?

I know that there are those who say we should make our own rules to live by. After all, we suffer the consequences of breaking the rules, so we should make them. Well, that is baloney.

When we follow the basic rules of God it is all we need. But when we try to make the rules ourselves there are never enough rules to control people.

Since 2010 on average each state enacts 800 driving laws each year. That is over 40,000 per year! That means since 2010 we have added 400,000 vehicle laws in the USA. That is just state driving laws, add to that criminal and civil codes, tax laws and federal regulations and the number is almost incalculable.! Congress has passed over 300,000 statutes. 6 million words of law have been written by congress since WWII. We have millions of laws in this nation! What does this say about our culture that we need millions of laws, regulations and penalties to govern and control us? It means we have no idea who we are and how we should behave. We need to be controlled by law. This is wrong!

We don't need complicated laws and regulations, we need grace and guidance. The 10 commandments are simple laws that define our priorities. Nobody is perfect and cannot live up to them all the time. But these laws call us to be better. They remind us that we are not God, we should love our creator, honor our families, treat one another with respect and care for property as it is part of God's creation. In essence, we should as human beings, love God and love our neighbors as ourselves

These are the defining values of the Christian faith and should be for all of creation. On this day we stand with Christians everywhere and honor these values not the values of the world that say, if it does not go my way I will kick you in the head.

Today we share our grace with one another and we honor God. It is world communion and we are the community of God together with people of every culture, every place and every background who seek to follow God. We are together the family of God, the people of grace and those who have God's law written upon our hearts.

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBNrqb5luZs>

As we continue to worship, we respond to God's love for us, and the needs of the world, by blessing God's kingdom with our time, talents, energy and resources. Today as an act of offering, take this time to turn your heart to God and reflect on how you might be light and life to our hurting world. Ask God for wisdom and inspiration as we navigate this time of heartbreak, separation, grief, injustice and violence. Today and this week turn to God and let us dedicate ourselves to lean into Christ's peace and offer that to our world. Let us return 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>

The Service of Communion

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF2C56ayEIU>

Here at the table we enter into a genuine and amazing relationship with our Loving God. Christ invites us all to this Holy Feast. To HIS table. As we gather this morning, on World Communion Sunday, we remember our sisters and brothers in Christ. Christians in Asia, the Middle East, South America and Europe. We remember our brothers and sisters in Christ just outside of our own doors, right around the corner, who are struggling to provide for their families and put food on their tables.

Christians around the world gather to celebrate life in God's family. They gather in church buildings new and ancient. They gather in homes around dining tables and coffee tables, single families or groups drawn together in Jesus' name. They are Presbyterians, Methodists, Catholics, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Baptists and many others... All believers in Christ Jesus who said...

I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Friends, this is not our table, this is the Lord's Table, our Savior invites all who trust Him to share the feast which He has richly prepared. Please pray with me:

Loving and Gracious God, the God of all creation, in Your wisdom you made all things and sustain them by Your power. You called the galaxies into being and you formed us in Your image.

We are made to love and serve You, but we forget too easily. Set us now on right paths, direct our hearts and minds into truth, service, light and life.

We abandon Your commands and allow sin to overtake us... we ignore Your image in ourselves and in others, we violate the creation that You have commanded us to protect, and we put our plans ahead of Your will... but in Your mercy You do not reject us, instead, You call us and welcome us, call us back and You claim us as Your own.

We praise You, Holy God, and we sing once again with the angels, *Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.*

You are holy God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. He took for us the weight of our sin, and carried for us our guilt. He shared our life in every way, and though tempted, remained without sin to the end.

In His dying and rising we were delivered from slavery to sin and death, and brought into a new covenant by water and Spirit.

We remember Your mighty acts, Triune God, and we ask that You pour out Your blessing on this bread and this wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Bless as well these gifts which we bring of food to nourish others in our community. Put Your hand upon each package and can of food that it would be used to not only nourish the body but nourish faith and belief in You, Holy One, and ultimately guide and nourish each soul with life in Christ Jesus.

By Your Spirit, Great and Holy God, unite us with Christ and with every believer around the world that is baptized in His name, that as this bread is Christ's body for us, send all of us out to be the body of Christ for the world, working in Your holy kingdom. 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 again.

These are the gifts of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God!

When sharing the bread you may use the words: “the bread of heaven” or “the body of Christ broken for you.” When sharing the cup you may use the words: “the cup of the new covenant” or “the blood of Christ shed for you.”

Communion Meditation “Let Us Break Bread Together” arr. W. Held
Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lw6dNV8DsS0>

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn “Let Us Break Bread Together” vs. 1&2
Dr. Lisa Elliott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxKFeZTmO1w>

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

May God Almighty who raised Jesus Christ from the dead be working in you that which is acceptable and pleasing in His sight. May He be equipping you for good works. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Postlude “Doxology Postlude” P. Stearns
Dr. David Dorway, organist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TS1QqLcvJTo>

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, Bruce Simon, 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