

Order of Worship for at Home Use
November 1, 2020
Celebration of All Saints Day

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=rvoHZL6oQf8>

As the joyful people of God, 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. In fact, today on All Saints Day we remember those saints that have gone from our sight and into the church triumphant. We will toll the bell for those from our family of faith this past year, and we will remember those dear to us that have gone before. We stand shoulder to shoulder with them at God's throne of grace as we worship.

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. Since it is All Saints Day you might want to use items that also remind you of the saints in your family - a special piece of china or a goblet given to you by a friend. Today we remember and celebrate.

With love and grace, Pastor Dana



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=pC6bBiGGQ8U>

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers. Draw us into Your presence, grant us peace and purpose in Jesus' name...and as we pray hold us in the palm of Your hand.

As we turn our hearts to You, O God, we remember today, all the saints who have entered the church triumphant this past year, as well as those that have gone before. As their baptisms have been made complete in their death, they now stand with You in glory. We thank You for the gift of their lives, for the faith we have learned from them, the witness to Your love and gospel they shared with us and the world. We also lift up those who mourn - all who are especially aware of their absence. Wrap Your arms around each one as they grieve and grant them mercy and an extra measure of comfort. Bless us with the knowledge that when we gather they too are with us in Your presence.

Today as we gather our hearts in prayer we seek Your mercy. We know with certainty that we need Your forgiveness for the many ways we have sinned against You and our neighbors. We have been careless and self-centered, judgmental and stingy. We have neglected the image of Christ within ourselves and we have refused to see Christ in others. Forgive us. Set us once again on right paths, and continue to form us into a people bearing the image of Christ. Open our eyes and ears, that we may see You at work around us and in us, and in one another. Help each of us to join You in that work that we might be a blessing to Your kingdom.

To remind us of what this means today on the video we play a little game of Jenga where the children are asked which block is most important. As blocks are removed it is easy to see the most important block is the one on which the other blocks balance. This is what the Bible teaches us about our lives. When we have God as our foundation or cornerstone, all the other blocks, parts of our lives find the right place in God's plan. When we have God as our foundation we find our rightful place in God's world.

Reading of the Word

1 Peter 2:4-10 Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIoNPrL0rs>

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸ and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Happy All Saints Day! There is a lot of tradition in All Saints Day. Sadly, we overlook it with all the Halloween and Nevada Day stuff going. But historically this is the day that Christians celebrate that we have been called to life and life eternal with God. Because of our calling we understand that those who die in our realm are merely passing to God's presence and we will one day be reunited with them. Today is the day where we celebrate that as God's people, we are all his children and literally, saints, as this word means those who are called by God.

The text today from 1 Peter 2:1-10 is perfect for this day of celebration. To help us understand what it means to live the Christian life, Peter gives us the example of the cornerstone in a stone building. This metaphor is where the real meat of his message is. The cornerstone idea is a quote from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, Isa 28:16.

Isaiah 28:16 ¹⁶So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.

So here is what is going on with this metaphor and what it means in the text. A cornerstone in an ancient stone or masonry building was the first stone laid on the property. It was at the corner of the building. All the other stones were put in line in relation to this stone. If the cornerstone was misplaced the building could be out of line with the property. Not only could it be out of line with the property, if it was not laid straight the other lines of the build would be out of place and, in fact, the building may not be built sound as the wall may not line up.

The other significant thing about an ancient cornerstone is that inscription or memorials would be placed on them. This is a way to memorialize a building. That tradition continues today with plaques and dedication. So a corner stone sets the building in place. It is the beginning of its form. The remaining stones are placed in relation to this stone. The remaining stones are the building blocks defined by the position of the cornerstone. The cornerstone gives the building definition and identity.

This is the metaphor Peter gives the church. Jesus is the cornerstone and he gives us our position in creation and in His family. We are to be the stones that give His kingdom substance.

What does this look like? If Christ is our cornerstone, then he gives us our place in creation. Our place is to follow Him and in doing so to be an example of God's grace and goodness. We know what is required because it is laid out in this book. We are to be people of Grace. We are to show kindness to all. To value life even if it is the life of our enemies. We are to be truthful, honor our commitments, be faithful in relationships. We are to forgive those who fail. And we are to seek forgiveness when we fail. We are to put others first. These are the ways of Christ who is our cornerstone.

You know when You fulfill your calling the world takes note, people's lives are changed, and miracles happen. God has called you to be His people. He has given us a blueprint that tells us our place. It is in this book. The truth is it does not matter who you are, when you respond to God's grace and do His work you fulfill your calling as children of God. In fact, any act of grace impacts our world for good.

Let me give you an example. On Monday I saw a miracle that changed my view of things around me. I saw true goodness in the midst of brokenness and evil and in that moment, I think I was seeing God at work on many levels. I was coming to work at the church on Monday morning. Yes, I work more than just Sunday mornings! Because of traffic and construction I changed my route. I found myself on the new road "Neon Parkway" created by the freeway project. I was at Neon Parkway and Oakey taking the back way into the church. On the corner there were two police cars and two officers. One was kneeling and the other on a radio. I watched the scene unfold as I sat at a red light. With all the narratives about police and violence and social justice I did not expect much and thought maybe I should get my phone out and video this event. What I saw was a homeless woman who looked sick, semi-conscious, screaming and vomiting. I saw one officer move her into a sitting position and talk to her calmly and reassure her help was coming. I saw the other officer call for help then get a blanket for the shaking woman and help render first aid. This all in a barren corner with other homeless people scurrying away. It was one of the most compassionate acts of kindness I had seen in a long time. These two officers were treating a woman in need and treating her with dignity without any bias or disregard for her condition. I thought thank God for people like this. This is how I would want my loved one cared for if they could not care for themselves. This was an act of pure grace that I don't think the woman who received it will ever recognize, but I saw it and I was touched to my soul. God reminded me that people who live up to their calling truly make a difference. They become a part of the great kingdom of God built upon the cornerstone of Jesus Christ.

Peter ends this morning's text with this little encouragement for us:

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood. We are literally called by God, chosen to be part of God's family. Our family with God lasts forever. You are a saint and there is a place for you with the saints that have gone before. This is why we celebrate all saint's day. Not because we believe in the Roman Catholic Saints like Joan of Arc, but rather because we know that all Christians are saints, called to be God's people. We know that those who have gone on to be with God are with God in the halls of heaven and one day when our work here is done, we shall be joined with them.

This morning we want to recognize the saints of our church who have gone to be with God this past year. As the names are read, please take a moment, and thank God for the gift of each of these saints. If we have forgotten a name, please forgive us. We have listed the names of our members and active participants in our church. Sometimes we make errors and if we have done so here, please forgive us.

Remembering Those Who Have Departed and Entered The Church Triumphant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkBKZS3EsxU>

Joe Stockett	11/05/2019
Jean Spiller	
Marge Boelhouwer	12/30/2019
Ray Gaitan	01/03/2020
Jack Crockett	03/17/2020
Clark Trapp	03/18/2020
Randy Iness	03/18/2020
Ruthy Stull	03/19/2020
Ted Phillips	04/01/2020
Violet Cross	04/04/2020
Bill Franklin	05/04/2020
Greg Holt	05/07/2020
Carol Mohr	05/25/2020
Priscilla Taylor	07/04/2020
Harold Sells	07/29/2020
Louis Romero	08/08/2020
Bettye Hodgkins	08/11/2020
Gary Oiler	08/23/2020
Donna Gibson	09/14/2020

For all those dear to us

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaNLKs4vCqU>

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=V4reSuhPqgY>

God loves each one of us, and He has placed a calling on all of our lives. Today as we come to the table we ask that God reveal Himself to us, helping us to follow Him ever more readily, with steady steps of faith. Jesus provides for us nourishment and makes us ready to continue to follow Him in this meal set before us, yet we are not on this journey alone. We join the saints that have come before us as we come to the table that Jesus has set before us. Jesus 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 a Presbyterian table, this is the Lord's Table, our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

Please pray with me...We are amazed, Lord God, that you have made us with the ability and responsibility to praise You and serve You. You made everything in your wisdom and power and grace, and even Your creation cries out in praise of Your holy name telling us of your majesty. You made us good, but we rebel and do things that hurt one another and hurt You, and even so, You claim us as Your children. You sent us Your Son, Who came to be one of us, and Who came to redeem us and heal us from our brokenness. Jesus died and rose again to pay the price to take away the sin and death that we deserve, and to give us new life in Him. We thank You, Lord God, for bringing us into a new covenant with you through water and wine...and we as we praise your name we sing with the angels, saying, "holy holy holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!"

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.

Gracious and faithful God, pour out your Spirit on us now and upon these elements of bread and wine. We pray that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit we pray that you will make us one with Christ, Servants with and for Him, and that we may be one with everyone everywhere that shares in this feast...united as one in ministry. As the bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be servants, to be the body of Christ to the world. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup saying, "this is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. Every time 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.

Come for all is prepared...

When you share the bread and cup you might want to say:
"The bread of heaven" and "The cup of the new covenant."

Communion Meditation "Come Share The Lord" Dr. David
Dorway

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqF7di_Nw0A

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn "Jesus Loves Me" Dr. Lisa Elliott
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udURQN2IpTI>

Benediction Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgy85Q8LHf0>

Postlude "Recessional on 'Ein Feste Burg'" F. Ashdown
Dr. David Dorway, organist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ODIfT6WLAQ>

Video Listing Names of the Departed
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcFaHTiUfpU>

**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, Bernard Busswell, Bill Carlston, Bob & Joan Clark,
Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Pennie Everhart, Joice Franklin,
Mary Gafford, Terry Glaser, 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, Bruce Simon,
Marty Swartout, Mike Walsh, and 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