

# Order of Worship for at Home Use

## November 8, 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=7tw6sSXTRJU>

May God's peace fill Your heart and mind as we enter, with intention, into our time of worship this week. We continue to live in a strange time, yet, God is with us. God is for us. God will never leave us. It is right, then, that we can rest in His presence, seek His face, and rely on His grace throughout all of life.

In these moments of worship, today, we honor those who have served in our armed forces. We seek God's peace for our city, nation and world. We pray for healing and help in this time of hardship. We ask for God's provision as we watch the unfolding of events surrounding our elections.

Again this week you are encouraged to find a place where you can center your heart and mind on Christ, you might light a candle, bring your bible and take a deep breath as you join in our time of worship.

Let us worship God together.

With God's love,

Pastor Dana

## We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude "O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go" L. McKechnie  
Dr. Jerry Reeves, pianist and Dr. David Dorway, organist  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USR7doZ7U34>

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wc6gMyhqMc>

Welcome to worship today at Grace Presbyterian Church. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us this weekend. As we begin you are invited to find a comfortable, inspiring, peaceful place to worship where you are able to connect with your God. It is our prayer that by our corporate worship we would be drawn into God's presence, transformed by His grace and forgiveness, renewed by His great love for us, and energized for service in His kingdom. Come let us worship together.

Call to Worship Pastor Dana Pope  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORaFjn3\\_hL4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORaFjn3_hL4)

Throughout the ages, people of God have cried out for God's grace, mercy, and help.

**We come to worship our God and King, the giver of all good things.**

In our families and in the congregation we lift our hearts

**Because God is good, we love and we serve Him.**

Let us draw near to God and lift our voices.

**Let us worship God.**

Hymn "Today is The Day" Brewster & Baloché  
Kathy Koch, Dana Pope, Scott Plummer, Janice Plummer, Adam Plummer  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DO9Q-NgbRoU>

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=8IIzQp2FTRA>

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you... as we come to our time of prayer spend a quiet moment or two praying for the peace of Jesus to come into your heart, and into the broken places of our world... please pray with me...

On this Veterans Day Sunday we ask that You would bless all of those that have served in our armed forces both foreign and domestic. Put a special blessing on each one that has put their own plans on hold and is now fighting for our country and our freedoms. Provide for them and bless their families. Put a hedge of protection around those that are in harm's way, bring them back to their families whole and healthy. We ask for a special blessing on our country today as well. As the people have cast their votes to elect our officials, we pray Your peace, Your will, and Your hand be upon us. Grant those elected the strength to do what is right in Your eyes, hands and hearts that are open to Your Word and ears to hear Your voice and calling. Bless them with health and discernment to do what is just and right. We thank You that they too serve the people and country.

Great and Holy God, we ask that You would grant us Your peace in these days. Turn us away from division and violence, hatred and anxious living. Help us to be a people known for that which the world does not understand or recognize. A different way of being. Your way of being. A way of service that shares joy, peace, mercy and shalom. Grow in us hearts that love Your Word, Your Son, one another and ourselves. Bless us with opportunities to serve You with imagination and intelligence and wisdom...help us to speak truth in love and live lives of grace. Forgive us our many failings to do these things and set us on right paths with more opportunities.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f87TpErYQEM>

This is Veterans Day Weekend. What do you know about Veteran’s day? Of course, you know that it is the day we all stay home from work, maybe celebrate with friends all while social distancing of course.

However, did you know that Veteran’s day was originally created in 1919 to celebrate the soldiers that served our country in world war I? then it was called armistice day. In 1954 President Eisenhower proclaimed November 11 veteran’s day to honor all those who served their country. Veteran’s day is to be distinguished from Memorial Day which honors those who died in the service of our Country. This day, Veteran’s Day honors those who stepped up and gave of themselves in the service of our great nation. Veterans are those who rose to serve the call of their country. Having done so is the mark of a patriot, a self-sacrificing act to protect and serve our country and by doing so serve our fellow citizens. I know some of you are saying, “well not all veterans volunteered. Some were drafted, forced into service by law”. Well, veterans did not run away or object or find some other form of deferment. When our country called, they served, even if they were drafted; and, for that, our country owes them a debt of gratitude.

Did you know that the Las Vegas Veteran’s day parade is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest parade celebration of our Nation’s Veteran’s in the country? It is second only to the parade in New York City. We should be proud of our city and of our vets.

In honor of Veteran’s Day, I have chosen a text from the Gospel of John that I would like us to look at this morning. It is a text that teaches us about the value of self-sacrifice.

*<sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends*

*<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.*

John's gospel is unique in the Bible. He is clearly a witness to the life of Jesus, and rather than emphasize the chronological history of Jesus' time on earth, John emphasizes the purpose and themes found in the work and teaching of Jesus. Two of the central themes for John are love and gratitude. John reminds us that Jesus taught that the greatest gift in all of creation is love and the love of God is embodied in Jesus himself.

Love is the greatest gift and the only reasonable response to the gift of love is gratitude. These are the two great themes of John's writing, Love and Gratitude. Of course, John sees these themes in the love of God and the gratitude of Humankind for God's gracious love.

Max Lucado tells a story of an old man who would come to the beach in Florida every Friday night. You may have heard this story before. That is because it is not my story. It is a true story; and it is a good one! It seems that an old man would come to the beach every Friday night with a bucket of shrimp and he would feed the gulls. Have you ever been on a beach where somebody feeds the gulls? It is awful! Nevertheless, this guy would come every Friday to the beach and boat dock. He did so week in and week out, year after year. Do you know why he fed the sea gulls? He did so to say thank you.

The man was Major Eddie Rickenbacker. This guy was amazing. He was a man's man, a philanthropist, a hero, and servant. Many of you will remember his name. Especially you air force veterans.

Rickenbacker was a WWI ace. He shot down 25 enemy planes protecting American Soldiers. For his bravery, he won the Congressional Medal of Honor. After the war, he worked for and eventually owned Eastern Airlines. As an American Patriot, he volunteered his services to the Army in WWII. He was in a passenger in a plane headed to meet with General MacArthur, carrying a secret message from the President when his plane crashed. Rickenbacker stepped up once again and led the survivors for 25 days while they were adrift at sea, avoiding the hazards of the sea and Japanese gunboats.

*Here is how Lucado recounts the story.*

*All eight crew members escaped into the life rafts. They battled the weather, the water, the sharks, and the sun. But most of all, they battled hunger. After eight days their rations were gone. They ran out of options. It would take a miracle for them to survive.*

*And a miracle occurred.*

*After an afternoon devotional service, the men said a prayer and tried to rest. As Rickenbacker was dozing with his hat over his eyes, something landed on his head. He would later say that he knew it was a seagull. He didn't know how he knew; he just knew. That gull meant food...if he could catch it. And he did.*

*The flesh was eaten. The intestines were used for fish bait. And the crew survived for 25 days.*

*What was a gull doing hundreds of miles from land?*

*Only God knows. But whatever the reason Rickenbacker was thankful for God's grace. As a result, every Friday the old captain walked to the pier, bucket full of shrimp and heart full of thanks.*

Every Friday, Eddie Rickenbacker said thank you by feeding the gulls. He was wealthy, successful, and well loved. He could have easily thought he deserved his salvation. After all, he saved that crew, he employed hundreds of people and he made a difference in the world for good. He was a hero. Yet he knew that God had saved him, and he vowed never to forget and always to be grateful.

I think not many of us know that we have been saved. We have blinded ourselves to the danger around us and we take for granted the gifts we have been given. Often, we fail to realize that we are adrift at sea and in mortal danger of losing everything. However, if we would just slow down and stop thinking of ourselves as the center of the universe, we would realize how lucky we are to be here. We would realize that God has blessed us when we probably should be cursed.

John tells God so loved us, the world, that He gave his one and only son. Whoever believes in him shall not perish but have life eternal. John tells us that Jesus said that there is no greater gift than when one person lays down his life for another. You see, life is important to God. Your life is important to God. This is why He blesses you when you do not deserve it. He gives you an opportunity to serve Him and serve others. He gives your health and life. He blesses you with people who love you. He gave you your children, your family, and your friends.

You know it is this idea of gratitude that leads us to honor our veterans this day. They gave of themselves in service to our country, an idea that is bigger than all of us. That gift has blessed us as a people. For that we should be grateful as we should be grateful to God for all God has done.

And yet, what have we done for Him? Many of us have betrayed Him. We do not stand up for God with our integrity or lifestyle. We cheat others, we break relationships, we think of ourselves as better than others and we fail to help others.

Yet, God loves us so much that He would lay down His life for you. His love is so great that He would bow down from heaven and scoop you up out of the cesspool you have made of your life and take you into his home as a child. Just like the parent who adopts the helpless broken child. God reached down into your broken world and said you are mine. I love you. I will never leave you. I will die for you if that is what it takes. God loves you.

For the love of God, all He wants is you to be thankful and show that gratitude by caring for others. This is what friends do. They remember each other, they are grateful for the friendship given them and then they live into it the gift. After all, greater love has no one than they lay down their life for another. God has done this for you, so, for heavens' sake, show a little gratitude. And show a little gratitude for those who have sacrificed for you and for our country.

Happy Veteran's Day.

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

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

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

We are blessed with many opportunities to give of our time talents and our resources...this is not about funding the church or fundraising, it is an act of worship. We respond to God's Word, His love for us, and His mercy by giving of ourselves. We give all sorts of things, including our hearts, our finances, our time and our gifts. 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

"My Peace"

K. Routledge

Kathy Koch, Dana Pope, Janice Plummer, Scott Plummer, and Adam Plummer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anTcwa4Ah84>

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbw3JkAPYVI>

Holy God, grant that we would be a blessing in Your kingdom. Use us, all that we offer, our energy, time and talents, to bless others to Your holy purposes. Multiply these gifts and provide us with opportunities to share the love that You have so generously bestowed upon us. Amen.

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

Closing Hymn

"America, the Beautiful"

Quartet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6U7EiUinDIk>

Benediction

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eIGUle-gN8>

And now may God Almighty who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and who promised to be with you always, be working in you that which is acceptable and pleasing in His sight.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Postlude

“Postlude on ‘America the Beautiful’”

J. Dixon

Dr. David Dorway, Organist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FrBocPDn8g>

Acknowledgements

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kwCOSLGbfU>

**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