

Order of Worship - Home Baptism of our Lord January 10, 2021

Happy New Year, and 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:



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, unsettling, 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's mountaintops and valleys.

As we prepare for our worship this week, you are invited to open yourself to the Holy Spirit as we, together, gather around the font. As we remember the Baptism of our Lord, we also remember our own. Take a moment to put some water in a bowl to keep with you as you worship.

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

Star Word for the Year

Don't forget that if you would like a star word for the year, notify the church office via phone (702.384.4554) or email Leslie at leslie@gracepclv.org. Star Words are a contemporary tradition, which give us intentionality in our prayer life and life in the community of faith. This year, since many of us are not gathering in person, the staff will choose a star word for you (without peeking) and send it to you. These words are an invitation to us to focus on one idea or concept or character trait... you are invited to pray over it, look it up in a dictionary, and then to watch and see how God will speak and lead us in the next year. You may choose to hang your star somewhere that you will notice occasionally. If you have a story you would like to share about a star word, we would love to hear it!

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude

"I Love to Tell the Story" R. Hobby

Dr. David Dorway, organist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FsgAaqeR6w>

Welcome

Pastor Jim Houston Hencken

****not in video****

Welcome to worship with us at Grace Presbyterian Church, Las Vegas. We are thrilled you are worshipping with us. We gather remotely online and in person to give glory to God and come into His presence. God has promised to be with us even to the very end of the age. During our time of worship we celebrate that God is on His throne and God is with us. In times of celebration, in times of sorrow and in times of confusion, God is with us. So, let us worship the living God who is at our side now and always.

Call to Worship

Pastor Jim Houston Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2kEW1PUnp0>

The voice of the Lord is over the waters the God of glory thunders,
The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
May the Lord give strength to His people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Let us worship God
Adapted from Psalm 29

Hymn #11 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zswb3QW0Fgo>

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 Jim Houston Hencken

Oh God, this has been quite a week. Our world seems out of control. There is confusion in our government and uncertainty in our future. The pandemic is surging and we are confused as to who we should believe and how we should respond. Our economy and personal finance is turbulently changing and threatening our future. We are tired of being kept inside, forced to wear masks and limited in what we can do and where we can go.

While all this is happening around us and to us, our personal lives need your attention and grace. Our loved ones are ill and in need, people who serve us as first responders, care givers, merchants and protectors are in danger. Injustice and violence hang in the air.

God, we are tired. Please reveal yourself to us once again. Remind us that you are a God of grace and healing, love and forgiveness. Help us to remember that we are chosen to be part of your team bringing good news and hope to our world. God give us opportunity to serve others with humility and compassion. Let us be examples of grace that brings justice and demonstrates true Christian morality to our hurting world. Help us be healers of body, mind and soul, ours as well as others.

We pray this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ 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.
And 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>

Children's Message

Pastor Dana Pope

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

Special Music

"Amazing Grace and Peaceful Easy Feeling"

Praise Team

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWvc17H1NVM>

Reading of the Word

Mark 1:4-11

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQV8nJBjxAs>

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Message

"The Baptism of the Lord"

Pastor Dana Pope

Today we return to the banks of the river Jordan...and together we experience the baptism of Jesus. Not only do we go into the water with Jesus, but we also have the opportunity to remember and re-live our own baptisms. I want to invite you to participate in the reading of the scripture, and in the message, in a different way now as we imagine ourselves a part of Jesus' baptism. We will be using our imaginations just a little, as we come to the scripture.

Also, I invite you, as we begin, to put some water in a bowl as a visual reminder of the waters of baptism through which you have come... keep the waters near today you as you worship.

Pause for a moment.

Breathe in God's love, and breathe out all that binds your heart from knowing that love.

Breathe in God's mercy and forgiveness and breathe out anything that keeps you from freedom in Christ.

Breathe in God's presence, breathe out all false ideas about Him ...see more clearly Who He is and Who you are in Him.

5 People from across the countryside of Judea and from the city of Jerusalem came to him and confessed that they were deeply flawed and needed help, so he cleansed them with the waters of the Jordan.

For just a moment, picture yourself as a part of the crowd going out to meet John the Baptist. Going to be baptized by John.

Many of us were baptized as infants, so we were carried to the waters, in our white baptismal gowns. Some of us came as teenagers when we were confirmed and claimed the faith we had learned from our parents, others came as young adults, or were baptized with our own children. Others came after years of searching. Remember now your baptism and how you arrived... yet we came to the waters...

Lets think for a moment about the waters. Some of you have stood on the banks of the Jordan. We have seen, dipped our toes in...oceans rivers lakes streams...seen the power of waterfalls. The quiet trickle of fountain and font... All of us use water everyday...to wash, clean up, to drink...Common. But necessary. We need it for LIFE!

Jews in John's day are coming out to the river to hear him and be ritually baptized in the Jordan's cool, cleansing waters. They are looking for God to intervene miraculously in their lives as He has done in the past. What they don't know is that God was about to intervene, for at that time Jesus left Nazareth and went south...towards the river... from the VOICE commentary

9 It was in those days that Jesus left Nazareth (*a village in the region of Galilee*) and came down to the Jordan, and John cleansed Him through baptism there *in the same way all the others were ritually cleansed.*

As we read this scripture, we always wonder why Jesus was baptized at all... His life did not need to be changed. He did not need the reminder of Who and Whose He was... He did not need to be cleansed of sin. He had none.

Jesus probably had several reasons to participate in this ritual cleansing, with his cousin John. It seems that His entering into the waters is a commissioning. A solidification of Who HE was and the ministry He was taking on... in the eyes of all who saw and heard of it. Probably a public proclamation of His intent to minister. We know that He loved humanity. You and me and everyone who came before and after and by entering into the ritual waters He stands with us... even in our sin. As Jesus is baptized, His submission to it, shows us Who He is.

I wonder: How has your baptism informed your identity, in your day in and day out lives? Can you point to or remember ways your ideas of yourself, or your behaviors, or your decisions have been made in ways that go against or go along with your baptismal identity?

Lift up the waters, and remember your baptism... Remember WHO you are.

10 As Jesus was coming out of the waters, He looked up and saw the sky split open. The Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove, ¹¹ and a voice echoed in the heavens. You are My Son, My beloved One, and I am very pleased with You.

As you imagine those moments in the Jordan...imagine Jesus, as He came up out of the waters, what was His expression? Can you imagine seeing the Spirit of God descending upon Jesus – like a dove? What about the voice of God? Between the Spirit of God and the very voice of God, the air itself must have felt energized.

And the words spoken to Jesus. God Himself saying: "My Son, Beloved. I am so pleased with You!" Delight, love, joy, peace, hope... as we do when we come up out of the water, Jesus probably breathed in deeply all of these gifts from His Father.

When you imagine yourself now, and remember your own experience or imagine one that will come...as you come up from the waters, did you hear the words of God to you? "Beloved. Son. Daughter. Mine, I am so very pleased with you..." These words are easy to miss in this life. If you don't remember, or didn't hear, or even if you haven't been baptized yet... God speaks

those same words to you. God speaks His love, delight, joy, peace, hope – and He wants you to hear them and allow them to seep deep into your soul. Take a moment to notice and hear them. John said...Someone is coming who is a lot more powerful than I am—One whose sandals I'm not worthy to bend down and untie. ⁸ I've washed you here through baptism with water; *but when He gets here*, He will wash you in the Spirit of God.

This is the baptism in which we participate...and if we will enter into it fully, it will change us. God's great love for us always does. Breathe it in.

Baptism is not just a ritual, but it is a ritual nonetheless.

Baptism is a naming ceremony, but not just that.

Baptism is a sign that you know God's grace.

Baptism is not the moment of salvation, although it points to that.

Baptism is an acceptance of what God has already done for you. Loving you and claiming you, adopting you into His family.

Baptism is not the only way God claims us, but it is an important and meaningful way.

John Calvin said that baptism is an outward sign of an invisible and inward grace...a seal that marks us as chosen by God. By baptism we enter into the grace of God before we have a chance to act, to decide for ourselves, or even to declare our love for God.

Lift up the waters. Hear the sound, and in it, God's words to you. Beloved. Son. Daughter. I am pleased... Remember your baptism.

God claims us, seals us to His kingdom... God chooses us. Calls us His beloved children. And as we learn to live into this family we pursue a calling on our hearts and lives that witnesses to the love of God in us.

Lift up the waters. Get wet and live more fully into the waters of life.

Friends, remember today and in the days ahead... that baptism is not an event... it is instead of a way of life. Jesus entered into His baptism and never stopped living into the reality of the commissioning it bestowed. We are to do the same...in Christ... with His help, and in His name. Amen.

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Jim Houston Hencken

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0FtFAf_hS0

We are blessed with many opportunities to give of our time talents as well as 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

"Grace"

C. Hamlin

Sextet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FhhIN4YPAw>

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Jim Houston Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YT6iLuzf-BY>

Holy God we thank you for all the blessings you have poured out in our lives. Thank you for our loved ones and our relationships. Thank you for our resource and the time you have given each of us. Thank you for your grace and the gifts of second chances. Out of gratitude we give these gifts and ask that you bless them and use them for the work of our kingdom.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn

"Your Grace is Enough"

by M. Maher

Praise Team

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXaiuZ3mBJk>

Benediction

Pastor Dana Pope

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

And now, may our Lord Bless you and keep you
May our Lord make his face to shine upon you
May the Lord be gracious to you
And give you peace.
Amen.

Postlude

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

R. Hobby

Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zmf0ETnlg1U>

Acknowledgements

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

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Judy Aitken, Fred & Mickie Bratschie, Bernard Busswell, Bill Carlston, Bob & Joan Clark, Tanner Cordon, Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Pennie & Wayne Everhart, Joice Franklin, Mary Gafford, Charlene Harper, Greta Hougnon, Pam Kodey, Lara Kolberg, Dorell Koon, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles, Maggie O'Donnell, Alice Oiler, Dodi Palmer, Mary Phillips, Aminta & Jorge Santanilla, Bruce Simon, Marty & Barbara 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

Audrey Mitchell 12/1/2020

Alice Black 12/23/2020 ?

Carol Moore 12/30/2020

Andrew Davis 1/1/2021