

Order of Worship for at Home Use

January 17, 2021

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=JGNoCLg51bA>

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 turbulent and 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.

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 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" arr. J. Schrader
Dr. David Dorway, organist
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IVO7tMD_6g

Welcome and Call to Worship Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nOUXRnzQV8>

We come from north, south, east and west. We are on-line and in-person. We watch and we read. We are in Nevada and we are in other far-flung places. Yet, we gather together - united - not in politics or in social standing, not in color nor even in nationality...we are united in Christ Jesus. One in Spirit and one in purpose as we gather at God's throne of grace to worship our Holy God.

Our Holy God created the universe, and all that is in it
He is God Almighty. Yet He knows us. From Him nothing is hidden.
Yet, even so God loves us. God leads us into paths of everlasting life.
We come to worship Him. Let us give God all of our praise.
Let us worship God together!

Hymn "I Will Never Be the Same Again" G. Bullock
Rosa Gonzales & Kathy Koch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFOgQrzRylY>

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 God, we come with humble hearts again today. So much around us in these last weeks is heartbreaking. We are angry and worried. We are frustrated and lost. We are weary and worn. We seek mercy and grace. We long for real peace. We want so much for this time of separation, illness, personal, financial and political turmoil to be at its end. We long for new beginnings. New brighter days. Lord, You know the highest and best for us. Help us to turn fully to You in our distress. Hear our cries. Renew our spirits and heal our hearts. Set us on right paths and give us energy for the journey.

Now, O God, in these moments we humbly offer to you the many and varied pieces of our lives... our broken hearts, our weary and battered souls, the troubles of this world... and we pray that You would take them into Your strong, gracious, and life creating hands. Make them beautiful, Lord. Make them worthy of Your kingdom. Make them new and good in Your eyes, not our own.

Holy One, we plead with You today for health, for miracles, for discernment and wisdom. Many are making decisions about their health in these days. So many are suffering with COVID, and so many more with other diseases and ailments both mental and physical. God, please draw near to us. Provide by Your hand miracles of both cure and healing, provide what is needed in medicine and rehabilitation. Holy One, be with those whom we trust with our care. We pray for comfort and healing, we pray for protection and mercy. We lift up the many medical professionals who continue to serve us and are weary and worn out by all they witness. We continue to lift up the policemen and women, firefighters, our teachers and students, as well as our own families and friends.

Move again over the world that You lovingly created, Great God. Grant us Your favor, Your mercy and Your grace. Help us to be energized by Your presence that we might love YOU and serve You with imagination and love and that Your world might be changed and blessed by Your Spirit and our witness to it. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, Who taught us to pray, 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 Jim Houston-Hencken

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

Today I have a game to play, but this game is for the adults in the room. Kids, test your adults with these song questions

1. Who made famous these words “do wa ditty ditty dum ditty do?” - Manfred Mann's Earth Band
2. Who was this question asked of “Hey where did we go, days when the rain came?” -Brown Eyed Girl (Van Morrison)
3. On what street was Mr Cacciatore's? – Sullivan Street (Billy Joel)
4. Who could, “take a sad song and make it better?” – Jude (Beatles)
5. Who comes to me “when I find myself in times of trouble?” – Mother Mary (Beatles)
6. “Ask anyone that she ever knew” and they will tell you about? – Runaround Sue (Dion and the Belmonts)
7. Whose “little town blues are melting away?” Frank Sinatra
8. “A spoonful of sugar” helps what? – the medicine go down (Sound of Music)

So how many did you get right? I bet you did very well. These are all famous songs that are a part of our shared culture and history. These words put to music wrote themselves on our lives. They are easy to remember because they connect us to the past and memories we hold dear.

Today we are beginning a series on the Psalms. Psalms are words of scripture written to be put to music or lyrical verse so they could be used to worship God. The book of Psalms holds some of the greatest teaching in the Bible. This book also tells us of great human emotion and our relationship with God: the good and bad of it. These scriptures were written in verse so that we would be able to remember these important words. Today listen to Psalm 139 and see what God has for you in this song of praise.

Reading of the Word

Psalm 139:1-24

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdT-5IaMCio>

¹ O LORD, you have searched me
and you know me.

² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O LORD.
⁵ You hem me in—behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, ^[a] you are there.
⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
¹⁷ How precious to ^[b] me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand.
When I awake,
I am still with you.
¹⁹ If only you would slay the wicked, O God!
Away from me, you bloodthirsty men!
²⁰ They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.
²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD,
and abhor those who rise up against you?
²² I have nothing but hatred for them;

I count them my enemies.
²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Special Music

“Freedom Is Coming”

From Songs of Protest & Praise from South Africa
Dr. Lisa Elliott, Rich Kimmell, Travis Lewis, Jill Taylor,
Katharyne & Stephen Taylor

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

Message

“God is Everywhere”

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mHLrZHg6e8>

For the next several weeks we are going to be looking at some psalms. We are going to be learning what 3000-year-old words can teach us about ourselves and about God. Psalms are songs, worship litanies, poems or lyrics. They were written with lyrical verse because words put to music or rhyme are easy to remember. It is in the psalms that some of the most ancient and sacred teaching of our faith can be found. This particular psalm is lyrical. Words put to music and used to worship God.

Today’s Psalm is a famous one. Psalm 139. “You have searched me and know my ways, where can I go from your love? I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Great sayings from the Bible all from this one psalm. It is a great psalm of praise to God for what He has done and who He is. It is a song of praise for what God has done and it is foundational theology.

You know the events of the past couple of weeks have shown us that people really are not that good. We don’t behave well when we disagree, we are selfish, we seek revenge, we see that payback is a thing all the while we are short on forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. We seek opportunity in crisis and advantage on our opponent’s weakness. We are slow to forgive ignorance or misinformation.

This is not the way of God; but it seems it is more and more the way of the world!

Well psalm 139 speaks directly to our human nature. More accurately, who we are and whose we are.

This psalm reminds us that we are God's people, we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We are God's people, and He knows us, He created us. He will never abandon us. This is a foreign idea to us Americans who are ruggedly independent. It seems that after 2000 years, the world still seems to stand still, looking confused when it hears the good news that you were created by a loving God who has not given up on you. Today the world has no idea why God or any being would create the world or universe and allow us to live in it. People today think it is more likely that all this happened by accident. When confronted with the idea of God people ask why would God do such a thing? What's in it for God? Why would God create a world and put US in it? Why would God do anything to help a world that people have so messed up? Some people find the idea so unbelievable that they give up on faith altogether. Deep down we all know that we are not perfect and that we have failings and weaknesses. We have hurt one another, and we even have trouble taking care of ourselves. Why would God want us? It is almost too hard to believe that God would want us and work or intervene on our behalf. After all, what have we done to deserve His grace.

So, sadly we think, however, that we can hide from God like Adam in the Garden, but the psalmist says that is not so. God knows our inner thoughts. God is familiar with all our ways. He knows we are not perfect, and He loves us anyway. This is the definition of Grace.

Grace is difficult to understand because it is not something we do or something we earn. Grace is an unmerited gift. And this gift of grace comes from God. You can see grace in the words of today's Psalm. We are created by God as is all the world. We are known by God and this God is with us always. We cannot hide from Him. God goes before us and after us even when we are going the wrong direction, or we are lost in our selfishness. The psalmist knows this and is grateful.

I think the grace and goodness of God is often seen in creation. In spite of decay and death, pandemics and economic crisis the sun still sets with majestic beauty, and you can see it feel its warmth. Even amidst social distancing that political upheaval, lies and violence, people, you, can still have relationships that honor one another and demonstrate goodness to others. This is because we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We have the ability to experience God's creation, love children, teach others with examples of grace and kindness. We can give second chances. We can reach across the aisle and truly listen to those who feel wronged or disenfranchised. These are acts of grace demonstrated by God, but even more so these are acts we can undertake because God created us in His image, and we have the ability to be gracious.

The psalmist who penned this little ditty was in awe of God because he knew as a writer, and artist, the value of being able to experience creation and all that God has to offer. This writer knew that there is a world, a universe to be explored and experienced at every level and it is in our particular creation that we find this ability to experience the world around us. In this experience we learn, we fail, we succeed, and we find grace along the way. Like the author, we should be grateful, and we should show a little grace.

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKCD3HTacMk>

In the midst of all of the joys and struggles of life, God is present. In times of grief and times of weariness in times of joy and celebration and in tragedy God is with us, laughing and weeping with us. When we fail to be the people we know we should, when we sin, God's grace envelops us. God beckons us to live within God's unfolding kingdom, In His love and in His grace. You are invited now as we continue to worship to respond with open hands and hearts to all you have been given. We offer our time and talents our resources and finances and we commit it all back to God. to bless God's kingdom and this world with the riches of God's blessings. 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

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

arr. R. Coleman

Kathy Koch & Savannah Scarlett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvGmJ5xdLIE>

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

Everlasting Father, Holy God, thank you that You are the light of the world, that You guide our steps on your path. Your word says that the earth is Yours, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to You. Now, in Jesus name we praise You, and remember that everything we have belongs to You. We acknowledge that our very lives are Yours. We now offer back to You a portion of what You have given us. May God the Father prepare our journey, Jesus the Son guide our footsteps and the Holy Spirit watch over us, on every path that we follow, that we might be Your hands and feet, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn #630 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” Dr. Lisa Elliott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hf8JCVNKZUM>

Benediction

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6rerB1RMic

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. whose birth we celebrate this week, I leave you with one of his prayers and blessings.

We thank thee, O God, for the spiritual nature of man. We are in nature but we live above nature. Help us never to let anybody or any condition to pull us so low as to cause us to hate. Give us strength to love our enemies and to do good to those who spitefully use us and persecute us. We thank thee for thy Church, founded upon thy Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon thee. Then, finally, help us to realize that man was created to shine like stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace; help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God’s children, Black, White, Red, and Yellow will rejoice in our common band of humanity in the kingdom of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.

Postlude “Standing in the Need of Prayer”

C. Marohnic

Dr. David Dorway, organist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJruL-7pya4>

Acknowledgements

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4lCzR1QuuY>

**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)

Judy Aitken, Alan Bowers, Fred & Mickie Bratschie, Bernard Buswell, 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, Parker Kolberg, Dorell Koon, Richard Lyle,
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 ?
Phyllis McGuire 12/29/2020
Carol Moore 12/30/2020
Andrew Davis 1/1/2021
Kay Stinson 1/3/2021