

Order of Worship for at Home Use

January 31, 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=trpruJPIHu4>

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 "How Firm a Foundation" arr. J. Raney
Dr. David Dorway, organist & Dr. Jerry Reeves, pianist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQtZ2-IvHgs>

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f0_1w3rqbl

Welcome today to worship with Grace at home.
We come for north, south, east and west,
From all walks of life and background experiences,
We are all different, yet, we are united by the bonds of family.
We are the children of God, the community of faith.
Welcome! And let us worship God!

Call to Worship Pastor Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxXVrFm6Ets>

We come to praise the Eternal God
We will thank Him with all of our hearts!
His works are beautiful and full of majesty
We praise His generosity and compassion, given to ALL
Let us gather at God's glorious throne
Let us worship God!

Hymn #3 "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty" Dr. Lisa Elliott
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvwmmfdVczo>

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!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdWvAvMNxT0>

Please pray with me...This week, O God, we have seen what we so rarely see in this dry land. Rain. Snow. Cold weather - cold enough that we reach for our warm socks and coats. For this simple turn of the seasons, we give thanks. For the nourishment of rain for our parched dry land, we praise you. For the snow that has blanketed, at least some of our landscape, we delight in Your goodness.

As we draw near to You today, Holy One, we pray that You would nourish our souls and our faith like you have done the land. We long for refreshment and for abundant life in Christ. Even as we begin to see some relief from the pandemic as some among us get their first round of vaccinations, there continues to be worry surrounding the circumstances and recommendations, and frustration with the difficulty with making appointments. Holy God, help us. Nourish us. Hold us in the palm of Your hand and help us to see and delight in Your great works. As we see, help us to find rest for our souls in You.

We pray today for a blanket of protection to be upon Your people far and wide, and for Your hand to rest upon us to provide healing. So many continue to struggle with COVID and cancer, with autoimmune diseases and as they grieve for those lost. Wrap Your loving arms around all that struggle this day. Help us to settle into Your grasp and turn our eyes to You. We pray that in Jesus name miracles would abound. Sight returned to the blind, the lame made to walk and all who suffer would be healed in mind or body or circumstance.

Holy God, we thank you for hearing these prayers, and those that we each hold in our hearts today. You are Holy, and awesome is the name of Jesus, in Whose name we pray: 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. 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>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmRfGgMCA8c>

Today I would like to ask children and childlike adults to look through sunglasses in a bright space and discuss together how the glasses change the look of things. Next, in a bright space, look at a cell phone screen with the sun glasses on. Is it easier or harder to see the screen? What is different? Lenses change how we see things and what we see. Today's text from Psalm 111 teaches us that the fear or worship of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. This is the Psalmist way of teaching us that we can put on lenses that change our view of things. If we have the lenses of God, the perspective of scripture our view of the world will change. We will see that majesty of God in creation and we will see the hope and grace God brings to us and our world. This is heavenly wisdom.

Special Music

"He Knows My Name"

T. Walker

Kathy Koch, Jen Brinkley & Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4tCbM5HTro>

Reading of the Word

Psalm 111

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4tCbM5HTro>

Praise the Lord.

*I will extol the Lord with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.*

*Great are the works of the Lord;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.*

*Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.*

*He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and compassionate.*

*He provides food for those who fear him;
He remembers his covenant forever.*

*He has shown his people the power of his works,
giving them the lands of other nations.*

*The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.*

*They are established for ever and ever,
enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.*

*He provided redemption for his people;
he ordained his covenant forever—*

holy and awesome is his name.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.*

To him belongs eternal praise.

Message “The Beginning of Wisdom” Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uG7bPC79N68>

Today we continue our study of the psalms. This morning we are looking at Psalm 111. This psalm was written to be a song used in worship. It was also to be memorized by those who heard it. To do this the author wrote the words to this song in an acrostic. In this acrostic each line begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. You know, Like A is for Apple, B is for Baby and C is for Candy. Or like when someone makes a point, they want you to remember. “A, always stay in this room, you are grounded. B, Because I said so, you have broken the rules.” Well maybe that is from my childhood, but you get the idea. Acrostics help us remember. Psalm 111 was a kind of worship puzzle. It was music in a puzzle that helped the worship remember the message.

You know when an author puts that much effort into a work it must contain an especially important message. Really, this is a song, a psalm of significant meaning. I think this psalm is divided into three points the author is making. First, A, the psalmist is thankful for what God has done. Second, B, the psalmist reminds us that the works of God are great, and that God and God’s grace can be seen in what God has done and finally, C, seeing God and what God has done should create reverence and that reverence, or fear of God, is the beginning or heart of all wisdom. After all, says the psalmist, “Fear of the Lord, or reverence for the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

Let me tell you what I mean by all this. When you break it down, this is a simple but amazing song with a powerful message. The psalmist begins by saying he is thankful. Thankful for all God has done.

*I will extol the Lord with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.
Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.
He has caused his wonders to be remembered;*

“Glorious and majestic are His deeds. He has caused His wonders to be remembered.” Is this not true? Everything God has done is glorious and majestic. Creation displays God’s glory. All you need is open your eyes to see this. Even in the smallest of things God’s order and glory are present.

Dorothy Borose says of creation:

“From crystalline caves, to distant galaxies, to the tiny phytoplankton in the ocean that produce more than half of the earth’s oxygen, the world we live in is complex and wondrous. Our own brains have 100 trillion to 1,000 trillion neural connections and more than 100,000 miles of myelinated nerve fibers. For a Christian, a natural awe in creation is the outcome of an awe of the creator. These amazing things we see, including our own brains, are the works of his hands.”

This is amazing stuff. Beautiful and majestic. But that is not all. Creation sustains us, feeds us, gives us life, and allows us to thrive in a delicate balance that is so fragile only a miracle can explain why we are still here. Think about it, it takes a star with the highly unusual properties of our sun — the right mass, the right light, the right age, the right distance, the right orbit, the right galaxy, the right location — to nurture life on a nearby planet. It takes a moon just the right size and proportion to stabilize the tilt of Earth’s axis and generate tides that circulate ocean water and keep it fresh. It takes exactly the same conditions that make life possible to also make our planet uniquely well-suited for viewing and analyzing the rest of the universe.

Looking at how intricately Earth is designed; it quickly becomes clear that nothing about life here is accidental. God has His hand in all of this.

The conservationist John Muir saw the beauty of nature and reflected the sentiment of the psalmist in the living world around him, declaring,

“Every hidden cell is throbbing with music and life, every fiber thrilling like harp strings, while incense is ever flowing from the balsam bells and leaves. No wonder the hills and groves were God’s first temples.”

Folks God is all around us and His works are majestic, and His glory can be seen in what He has done and what He promises to do. This is what the psalmist is saying to us. He is thankful as He worships.

But you might ask, why don’t I see God like the psalmist in psalm 111. Why doesn’t my life make me want to write acrostic songs full of praise and joy? Well, I can tell you, the answer is in this text. Verse 10

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.*

Wisdom begins with perspective. In fact, all learning begins with perspective. That's true isn't it? Your perspective always impacts your understanding or awareness. You know there was a study done where after completing a survey with only a blue pen with blue ink, told repeatedly that their survey must be completed in blue ink with a blue pen in order to be acceptable, people were told that the director had been left his pen in another room and they were asked to retrieve it. In the room there was a red pen but no blue pens. 78% of the people returned to say there was no pen in the room even though the red pen was on a table in plain sight. They were expecting to find a blue pen and when their expectations were not met, they could not see the alternative. Their perspective limited their experience and understanding.

This happens to us every day. Think about it. If you think someone is stupid, you will not trust them even though stupid, in most people is only temporary, or partial. Is this not where we are today politically? We are so divided that we don't like something one politician does so we think everything they do is wrong. Or we like the position of a politician so we think everything they do must be right or supported. We have a biased perspective. Sadly, we are not aware of our bias or our perspective and as a result we may miss some things altogether.

This is what the psalmist is telling us. Fear of God, or reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom. That is, we need to put aside our fear, our disappointment, our anger, and our bitterness that life has beaten into us and look at the world through the lens of scripture. When we see the wonder of the world, we know it points to the creator. When we see the beauty of creation, we know the God who created it. When we see brokenness, we know this is not what God intends. We know God intends healing and grace. This is what scripture teaches us and helps us see. John Calvin, the Patriarch of the Presbyterian tradition wrote way back in the 1500's.

For with Scripture as our guide and teacher, not only does he make plain those things that would otherwise escape our notice, he virtually forces us to behold them, as if he had assisted our dull sight with eyeglasses.

~John Calvin

Folks it is time to put on the spectacles of Scripture and live our lives faithfully. With God's perspective we will see things differently and we will be instruments of hope and grace.

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vSBxid0Ws0>

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 fund-raising, 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 "Thou Art Worthy" arr. J. Schrader
Dr. Lisa Elliott, Rich Kimmell, Travis Lewis, Jill Taylor,
Katharyne & Stephen Taylor

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEoI_cDpZR8

Offertory Prayer Pastor Dana Pope

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

Holy God, today our psalm reminds us that, You, our Lord, are gracious and merciful, You provide food for all who love and trust You. So now as we see clearly all that we have - we ask that You would accept what we offer...and that all of Your people would be provided for by what we share. Help us to give of the fruits of our lives. Our time, talents, resources, energy, wisdom, encouragement... and we ask that You would bless it, multiply it, and that it would bless Your kingdom. Amen.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn "Higher Ground" J. Oatman/C. Gabriel
Praise Team

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_q1y0OPoCM

Benediction Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mz6ZQ5th-QA>

Now my God Almighty who raised Jesus Christ from the dead, give you the spectacles of scripture, the lenses of faith to help you see in our world. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Postlude "Lead On, O King Eternal" arr. F. Bock
Dr. David Dorway, organist & Dr. Jerry Reeves, pianist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkzXR-2OQbs>

Acknowledgements

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7Mq4X81Ceg>

**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, 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, Christian Kolberg, 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
Robert "Bob" Lockhart 1/16/2021
Laverne Willman 1/11/2021