

Order of Worship for at Home Use
February 7, 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=3Yvaki9VJFU>

As the joyful people of God, battered and bruised by this COVID and cultural storm, anxious to return to the in-person community of faith, 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.

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 and HOPE in 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.

With love and grace, Pastor Dana



We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude "Pastorale: The Faithful Shepherd" E. Powers Biggs
Dr. David Dorway
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5Rd2eIyyeo>

Welcome Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKIKGXi5K7A>

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. We know that God has promised to be with us even to the very end of the age. During our time of worship we celebrate that God has promised to be with us regardless of if we are at home or in the church. In times of celebration, in times of sorrow and in times of confusion, God is with us.

Today is a communion Sunday. Traditionally, on the first Sunday of the month our congregation celebrated the sacrament of the Lord's supper. As we do so today, I invite you to create a sacred worship space in your home that is quiet and reverent. Maybe light a candle and have your Bible with you. For communion, prepare a cup of grape juice or wine, whatever you prefer and a piece of bread. During the service we will together share the Words of Institution and you may then receive the elements, the bread and the cup.

Now that all is prepared, 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=NxXVrFm6Ets>

One: How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

**All: He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.**

One: Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.

**All: Sing to the Lord with grateful praise;
make music to our God on the harp.
Let us worship God**

Adapted from Psalm 147

Hymn

#63 “All Creatures of Our God and King” vs 1 & 5

Dr. Lisa Elliott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-p54yNOqwk>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fonEBbKcVQ>

Holy God, this morning we come before you and boldly claim the promise that when we pray you hear us. We know also that when we gather to worship you are present. In this sacred moment when we are aware of your presence and promise, we lift our hearts before you. We pray for healing in our land. Heal our bodies and souls. Cast out this pandemic and help your people to rise above the challenge it has brought upon us. Teach us to be compassion healers, attentive listeners, caring providers and generous givers. Help us care for those in need with open hearts. Give us compassion towards those who challenge us during this trying time. God we also pray for those who are struggling to make ends meet. Provide for us resources and opportunity. Let that opportunity be available to all.

God it seems that this is a time of great need for so many and that we ask and ask out of our need. But God we also pray that you will give us hearts so gratitude. Open our eyes to the blessings you have placed in our lives. Thank you for those who serve others. From store clerks to teachers, from medical workers to care givers, we are grateful for all who give of themselves to serve our community. We are particularly thankful for those who stand in harm's way on our behalf. For firefighters, our military, public servants and police officers, we are very grateful and we pray for a special measure of our blessing upon all the servants out there. Make their cause noble and just and equip them for the task to which you have called.

Finally, God, do not let us fall into complacency. Help us to see the work that needs to be done and to lend a hand, for heaven's sake.

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,
for ever and ever. 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=NvwxVFPFdgA>

Special Music

"Beautiful Things"

M & L Gungor

Kathy Koch & Delinda Layne-Larson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNPGFDLkQi8>

Reading of the Word

Psalm 147: 1-11

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQVxD1REMJQ>

1 Praise the Lord.

How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

6 The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.

8 He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.

9 He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

10 His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;

11 the Lord delights in those who fear him,
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Message

“The Language of Heaven”

Pastor Dana Pope

Please pray with me...It is a delight, a privilege to sing praises to You, O God. Help us now in these moments to see our way clear to let loose our praises. Speak to our hearts and set them free as we study Your Word. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be pleasing to You, for You are our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

We continue with our Psalm study today, as we turn to the back of the ancient song book... to psalm 147. The last 5 psalms are very much alike, in that they urge the people of God to be a people with praise ever on our lips.

Many scholars think that Psalm 147 was composed for the Levitical choirs as they sang for the dedication of the rebuilt walls of Jerusalem (which we can read about in Nehemiah 12:27-43). The people were full of joy. Back at home from exile, they were rebuilding the temple. They were again able to worship and to read scripture in the sanctuary. These things were crucial in the national identity of Israel. Crucial to the heart and soul of the people... Yet...

Their joy is not primarily in the things that were rebuilt or re-discovered, not even in the activities and worship they were able to resume, their joy was in their God. *How pleasant and fitting it is to praise HIM.*

If we list everything that the Psalm lists as a work of God, for which we should praise Him, we can count about 26 things in this 20 verse psalm: the first 11 vs:

Builds up Jerusalem / (the church)

Gathers the outcasts of Israel / (His people)

Heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds

Determines the number of the stars and gives to all of them their names

Has abundant power

Has understanding beyond measure
Lifts up the humble
Casts the wicked to the ground
Covers the heavens with clouds
Prepares rain for the earth
Makes grass grow on the hills
Gives food to the beasts and to the young ravens
Does not delight in the strength of the horse or in the legs of a man

One thing we notice first about God in this Psalm, is that the amazing works of God are a study in unexpected, delightful, contrast. The same God that has created and ordered and named the stars...also tends gently to the broken hearts of His people...binding up their wounds. God Almighty, with abundant power, is also understanding...*beyond measure*. God, Who lifts up the humble (cares for the least of these)...also casts out the wicked. Covers the heavens with clouds, to make rain for the earth... both the God of heaven AND the God of earth...Who provides for us in abundance and beauty.

Because of these things...we are called to praise God.

And being a people of joy and praise is important for us...it is a part of our identity. Yet, singing songs of praise can also be difficult for us – especially in difficult seasons. We continue to be largely separated as we worship. COVID continues to be a threat even as the vaccine is administered. Our country remains in turmoil. We grieve, struggle with illness, and long for better, resolution, return. Scripture reminds us that we are not alone in feeling that our praises are heavy at times, our hearts hesitant and we can't find the words...to sing our praise.

Jacob spends his life struggling with God, even physically.

Moses struggled with his leadership role and the people around him as he led them out of Egypt.

David seemed to have it all, yet he struggled with many things...his own unfaithfulness, murder and a cover-up, grief at the loss of 2 sons...

Job was hit with loss after loss after loss. He suffered mightily for over 40 chapters and while he never cursed God, he did curse the day he was born.

The Apostle Paul struggled and in 1 Timothy even called himself one of the biggest sinners of all time.

Yet, they all sang praises to God.

When we sing praises to God in spite or in the midst of our circumstance or pain or season – it is pleasing to God. AND it draws us closer to Him...Who heals the brokenhearted and binds up our wounds. By our praise we are able to enter more fully into the Kingdom of heaven. For praise is the language that is spoken in the place of our citizenship.

Pulsford said: “There is no heaven, either in this world, or the world to come, for people who do not praise God. If you do not enter into the spirit and worship of heaven, how should the spirit and joy of heaven enter into you?” (cited in Spurgeon)

At times, our praises may come with tears. And that’s ok. Truly. When we stop up our emotions or refuse to feel the feelings of the present moment, we close ourselves off and hide ourselves away from the truth of our reality...in effect we are choosing that circumstance or feeling and refusing the grace of God that would speak life into our weary bones. So let the tears flow...for no matter its form, our praises are delightful to God.

The Preacher of Ecclesiastes tells us, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. . . . A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance . . . a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing” (Ecc 3:1, 4, 5) We must learn that no matter the season, or time, it is always time to praise our God.

Psalm 33:1 says *praise from the upright is beautiful*. True praise is **beautiful** to God, to His people as a community, and to each one of us. And that doesn’t mean the sound of our song, it means the intention of our hearts.

We learn today that God delights in those who fear Him, those who give Him reverence and awe and glory. God delights in all who put their hope in His UNFAILING love. God delights in the praises of His people, and when we speak them – or sing them – we lean into God’s goodness.

It is interesting: There are no questions in this Psalm.

There are no what if’s in the Psalm...

The Psalmist has something to praise God for, and He does it without hesitation.

We are called by the Psalmist and by God Himself to come to praise Him and worship.

Our challenge for today is simple in its complexity. We are called to come to God's throne of grace and praise His holy name. with our whole hearts, no matter their state. Offering all of it to our Great and Holy God.

Amen? Please pray with me...

Almighty God, You have set the planets in their courses, and the seasons in their sequence, You have set in motion an unending rhythm of beauty and wonder. Help us now to find a rhythm for our lives, so that as we live each day we may find the strength and power to praise You, as we have seen in your Jesus, Your Son, the wisdom to live according to Your purposes by Holy Spirit, and may we offer back to You and the world a portion of Your great love. Amen

We Respond to the Voice of God

Presentation of our Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOofd_Raw9k

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>

Offertory

“African Psalm”

arr. V. Johnson
Chancel Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyFInI75jyY>

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0gnABlxDaA>

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.

The Service of Communion
Communion Liturgy

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQSwrl1cY-M>

Communion Meditation “Love Consecrates the Humblest Act” arr. R. Hobby
Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIIp6ySyhbE>

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn “Sing Unto the Lord”
Kathy Koch & Delinda Layne-Larson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYqgW5u3Qt8>

Benediction Pastor Dana Pope

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

Peace, I leave with you
My peace, I give unto you
Not as the world giveth
Give I unto you
Let not your heart be troubled
Neither let it be afraid
For peace I leave with you

Postlude “Trumpet Air” arr. L. Smith
Dr. David Dorway, organist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0iEv4tTU-k>

Acknowledgements

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlCuRYG9QCc>

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, Becky Aldridge, Fred & Mickie Bratschie, Bernard Buswell,
Bill Carlston, Bob & Joan Clark, Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas,
Pennie & Wayne Everhart, Joice Franklin, Mary Gafford, Charlene Harper,

Greta Hougnon, Pam Kodey, Christian and Lara 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