

# Least Likely to Succeed

January 29, 2023

10:30 a.m.



Photo credit: Chanwit Whanset on Pixabay

## Vision

Transforming lives through God's grace.

## Mission

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we grow disciples of Jesus Christ to love our neighbours and effect social change.

## Values

Belonging, Community, Compassion, Engagement, and Service

The Rev. Greg Smith  
Interim Moderator

The Rev. Maren McLean Persaud (on leave)  
Associate Minister, Children and Youth

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis  
Associate Minister, Engagement and Service

The Rev. Christian Persaud  
Interim Pastoral Care Leader

Kate Van Pernis  
Children and Youth Coordinator

Matt Kallio  
Interim Music Coordinator

Please find Online Worship at:  
[www.gracechurchcalgary.com](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com)



**Grace Presbyterian Church**  
*Transforming lives through God's grace*

## Order of Worship

In a spirit of respect and truth we honour and acknowledge that we live, work, play and worship on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Stoney Nakoda Nations (Bears paw, Chiniki, and Wesley), the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

**Prelude**      **Song of Prayer—Madrigal**      Kevin McChesney  
**Dona Nobis Pacem**      arr: John A. Behnke  
**Cantabile in F major**      Alexandre Guilmant (1837—1911)†

**Welcome and Announcements**      **Mary Jardine**

**Introit**      **O Come Let Us Worship**      Richard Shepherd‡

**Call to Worship**      **The Rev. Greg Smith**

Praise God who honours the unseemly.  
Praise God who calls the unlikely:  
**God, who raises up the lowly,  
And humbles the high and mighty.**  
Raise your praises to our upside-down God,  
Who looks past the proud and obvious  
**And raises up the lowly and invisible.**  
Let us worship God.

**Hymn**      **# 799 God is here! As we your people meet v. 1, 2, 4**  
Fred Pratt Green†

**Prayer of Adoration**      **The Rev. Christian Persaud**

### **Rite of Reconciliation**

**Prayer of Confession**  
**Words of Forgiveness**  
**The Peace**

May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**Hymn**      **# 398 When the spirit of the Lord moves in my soul**      ++



**Please Note:** Given the prevalence of influenza and respiratory illnesses, Session supports wearing a mask in the building. Masks and hand sanitizer are available at the north and south entrances to the sanctuary and throughout the building. Please be diligent at coffee hour as well. Session reviews this recommendation monthly .

**REMINDER:** Grace Church wishes to be a safe place of worship for all. Please avoid wearing scents to in-person gatherings so those with chemical sensitivities may also attend.

## Music Notes

*Canzona in G major* - Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

The **canzona** is an Italian musical form derived from the Franco-Flemish and Parisian chansons. It is an instrumental form that differs from the similar forms of riccicare and fantasia in its livelier, markedly rhythmic material and separation into distinct sections. At first based on the Franco-Flemish polyphonic songs (chansons) that gave it its name, the instrumental canzona was soon independently composed, not least of all by Gabrieli in his brass canzonas and by Frescobaldi in his keyboard canzonas. As a form, the canzona would influence the development of fugue (easy to see in its imitative writing). Ensemble canzonas are the direct ancestors of the 17th-century *sonata di chiesa* (translated literally as "church sonata").

*The Beatitudes* - Arvo Pärt (1935-)

*"Time has a deep meaning, but it is temporary, like our lives. Only eternity is timeless."*

Pärt's early music inhabited the complex, twelve-tone world of twentieth century modernism. Then, in the late 1960s, he entered eight years of compositional silence, creating little more than musical fragments jotted in a notebook. When Pärt began to compose again in 1976, a radically new style emerged, rooted in the contemplative mysticism of chant and early polyphony. In a technique known as Tintinnabulation, the simplicity of the triad takes on spiritual significance. We're confronted with pure sound, as in the overtones of a bell. This simplicity, which emerges out of violent chaos in his 1968 Credo, is fundamental to Pärt's music.

We hear all of this in Arvo Pärt's 1990 setting of *The Beatitudes*, based on the text from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in the Book of Matthew. This is one of the first choral works in which the composer uses the English language. Mirroring the text, the music takes on the quality of a meditative recitation. As each clause moves a chromatic step higher, we get a sense of gradually rising tension. After ascending a fifth, the process reverses in the final bars, with a fluid sense of "unwinding" in the organ. The piece ends where it began.





## Life and Work at Grace Church



### Worship Services

- ◇ Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in-person.
- ◇ Livestreamed to watch anytime at [www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/)
- ◇ The South Sudanese community meets Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel.
- ◇ The Anyuak community meets Sundays at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

### January 29

**The Rev. Greg Smith**

The Rev. Greg Smith is minister at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, here in Calgary and has been appointed as our Interim Moderator, actively working with Grace's Lead Minister Search Committee and Session. Greg previously served at churches in Ontario.

### February 5 Presbyterian World Service & Development Sunday Okelo Aballa

Okelo Aballa is a certified candidate for ordination in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity at St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver School of Theology (VST). Okelo has been a leader in the Anyuak Worshipping Community for the last 16 years, which became part of Centennial Presbyterian Church in 2016, where Okelo also serves as an ordained elder. Okelo is part of a family of seven, with one son and four daughters. Okelo is originally from Ethiopia, and came to Canada in 2002.

### Committee Convenors and Session Liaisons Lunch N Learn

Committee Convenors and Session Liaisons please be reminded of a lunch meeting in the gym scheduled following fellowship Sunday, January 29. Convenors, if unable to attend, are asked to please arrange a committee alternate.

### Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes can be requested and/or replenished by contacting the office at 403-244-5861 or [office@gracecalgary.org](mailto:office@gracecalgary.org).



## Grace Updates



### Wednesday Morning Study

*God's Grace in Scripture* (10:00 - 11:00 a.m.), is an interactive Bible study based on the scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, and, *Grieving in God's Grace* (11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.), looks to grow understanding and care for those experiencing grief.

Participate in either, both, or just come for fellowship (11:00 - 11:30 a.m.). All are welcome! Join us when you can. No RSVP required.

**Parking:** Please use the north parking lot and west Chapel entrance. Accessible parking is behind the west entrance. Remember to register your vehicle when you arrive.

For more information, email Barbara Henson at [office@gracecalgary.org](mailto:office@gracecalgary.org).

The Bible study/grief circles team: Barbara Henson, Elizabeth Cressman, Chandra Mannix, Norma Hunchak

### Dr. Ruby Walker Library

Grace's Library Committee encourages the congregation to check out the wire racks for two additions: *500 Prayers for Young People* by Martin Saunders and *How Comfortable Is Your Church?* by Rev. Major John Fraser (Associate Minister at Grace from 1982 to 1992.)

### Grace is hiring! Admin Support

Grace Church is recruiting for an additional part-time Admin Support position. A detailed job description is on our website at [www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news). Application deadline is Monday, February 6, 2023.

## Grace Events



**Grace Youth - First Sunday Lunch – next Sunday after Worship** All Grace Youth (grades 7-12) are invited to gather for lunch together next Sunday, February 5. We'll meet after worship (roughly 11:45 a.m.), just inside the sanctuary from the north doors and return to the South lot by 1:30 p.m.

### **Open Mic—Friday, February 10, Call for Performers**



The poster features a red heart with a vintage microphone inside it. The text is in white and pink on a red background.

*Valentine's*  
**BELTLINE OPEN MIC NIGHT  
at Grace**

Calling all performers: Poets, writers, drummers, musicians, dancers and more... sign up to perform!

Sign up at [www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/events/](http://www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/events/)  
FRIDAY, February 10, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY  
Grace Presbyterian Church, 1009 15 Ave SW

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party – Tuesday evening, February 21**

Grace congregation and community members are invited to a simple pancake dinner in Grace's gym in preparation for the season of Lent. Please RSVP at [PancakePartyRSVP](#) before Thursday, February 16 if you plan to attend.



The poster shows a close-up of a pancake with butter and syrup. The text is in teal and black on a white background.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE PARTY**

FEBRUARY 21, 2022 AT 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1009 15 AVE SW  
ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED: [WWW.GRACECHURCHCALGARY.COM/EVENTS/](http://WWW.GRACECHURCHCALGARY.COM/EVENTS/)



## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Open Mic Welcomers**

The next Grace Open Mic will be held the evening of Friday, February 10. It would be great to have a few volunteers come around 6 pm to help welcome performers and attendees for this fun event.

### **Sewing Help: Beanbag Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday**

We are hoping to use fabric beanbag pancakes for flipping challenges at our Shrove Tuesday party. If you're interested in helping, please pick up a kit (instructions and fillings) from the table outside of the north door to the sanctuary. Completed pancakes can be returned to the receptacle at the Volunteer Office no later than Sunday morning, February 19. Contact Kate Van Pernis at [gracekids@gracecalgary.org](mailto:gracekids@gracecalgary.org) with any questions.

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party Volunteers**

Many hands make light work! Come join in the fun on February 21 and help greet attendees, prepare or serve food, or oversee pancake flipping races.

### **Cake Bake Committee Convener**

The Cake Bake is a wonderful part of Grace's history and ministry. The organizing committee is seeking a new member (or new members) who would be willing to help continue this tradition by convening or co-convening the committee. Training will be provided by the retiring convener.

### **Audio-Visual Assistants**

Grace continues to live-stream Sunday morning worship (and other events, as appropriate) and so we are hoping for several volunteers to help operate the new Audio-Visual equipment. Training will be provided.

Please contact our Coordinator of Volunteers, Cindy Stephenson at [volunteers@gracecalgary.org](mailto:volunteers@gracecalgary.org) to learn more about the many opportunities to volunteer at Grace.

## Thank you

Our worship is regularly enriched by the voices of lay leaders, reading prayers and scripture. Thank you to those volunteers who help us to offer the worship that belongs to God, day by day and Sunday by Sunday.

### **Grace Presbyterian Church**

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