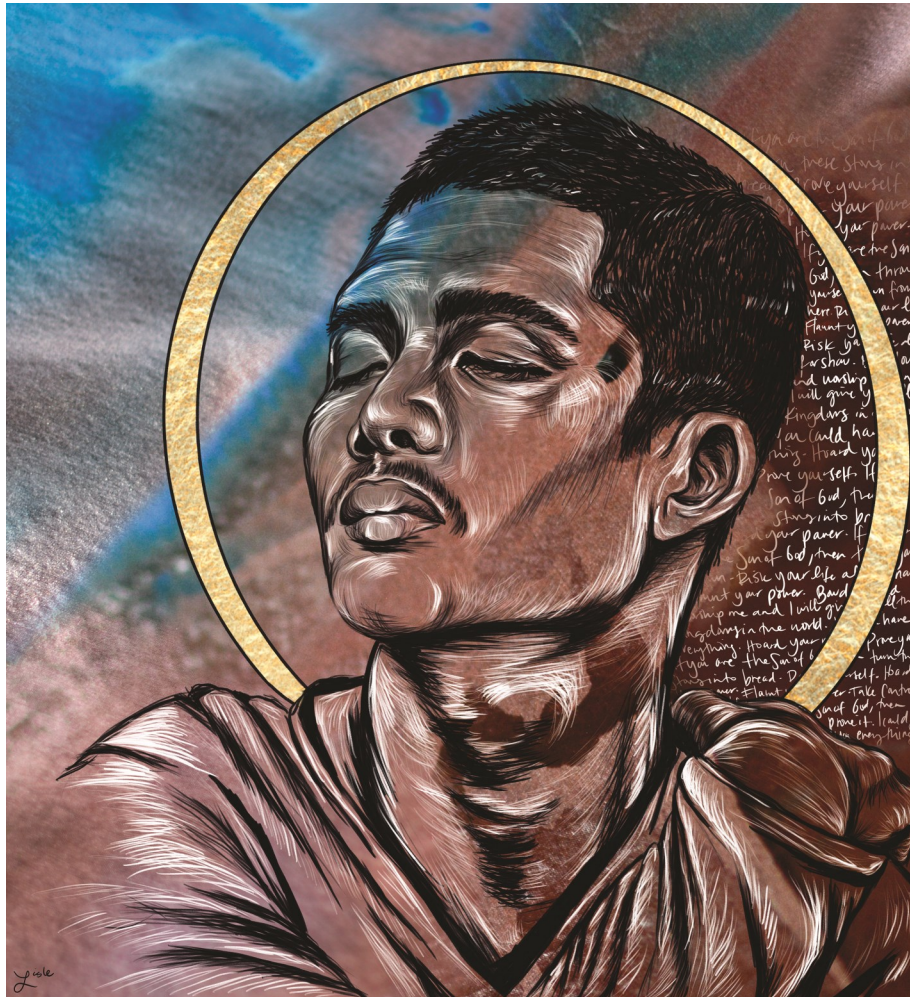


SEEKING: WHOSE CALL WILL WE FOLLOW?
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 26, 2023
10:30 a.m.



Tune In by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Inspired by Matthew 4:1-11 | A Sanctified Art LLC

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
Music Coordinator

Please find Online Worship at:
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 **Trio Sonata in e minor for two flutes** HWV 395 G.F. Handel †
Largo - Allegro

Welcome and Announcements

Len Wolstenholme

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Stephen

Introit **Lenten Introits**

Angela Birkhead-Flight ‡

Call to Worship*

Look—

There is hope to be found here.

Listen —

God calls you by name.

Know —

God's love abides.

Many things are clamoring for our attention, yet we are called to sense

God's presence —

God is moving with care and love.

Let us be glad in God's presence and rejoice in worship!

Hymn **# 528 Jesus calls us here to meet him**

Iona Community *

Prayer of Adoration

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis

Rite of Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession*

Holy God, too often we treat your call as something we can tune in and out of when it is convenient. Our minds are full, many things grab for our attention so we tend to move towards what is easiest and most comfortable ignoring voices being silenced... and ignoring your voice.

Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for how we move towards what is easy and comfortable, neglecting your call.

Turn us toward you. Allow us to know your presence as we seek you, your call, and your heart. With earnest hearts we pray. Amen.

Hymn # 201 We come to ask your forgiveness

Words of Forgiveness

The Peace

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

And also with you.

Time with Young Christians

Prayer for Illumination

Elaine Bruce

Scripture Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 4-7

Psalm 32 (Responsive)

Romans 5: 15-17

Matthew 4: 1-11

Sermon Seeking: Whose Call Will We Follow?

Hymn # 197 Forty days and forty nights

†

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Swee Hong Lim*

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal - lowed be your name. Your

Chords: D, Em/D, Gm6/D, D, A/C#

king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give

Chords: Bm, E7/G#, Em/G, A

us to-day our dai-ly bread and for - give us our sins, as

Chords: D, Em/D, Gm6/D, D, A/C#

we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Chords: Bm, E7/G#, Em/G, A

Save us from the time of trial and de - liv - er us from

Chords: D, G/D, Em

e - vil, for the king - dom, the power and the glo - ry are

Chords: A, D7, G, A/G, F#m7, Bm, Em7, A

yours now and for - ev - er. A-men. For - ev - er. A-men.

Chords: F#/A#, Bm, A/C#, D, Gmaj7, A, D

Anthem Lord who throughout these forty days

Gabriel Faure/arr: Mark Schweitzer*

Prayer for Our Offering

Hymn # 647 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

†

Benediction*

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass. Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God at all times and in all places. As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for. In the name of our loving God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who is always seeking us, go now in peace. Amen.

Sending

George Whelpton †



Let us, O God, de - part in peace, who in your name are

gath - ered here. Dis - close the bright - ness

of your face, and be for - ev - er near.

Postlude What wondrous love is this?

Southern Harmony/arr: Larry Shackley†

Offering plates are at each side of the dais for your convenience.

Thank you to Rose Baltrusaitis scholars flautists Paul Xu (2021) and Ava Retzer (2022) for their contributions to Worship this week.

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- † Public Domain
- ‡ St. James Music Press.

Music Notes

Trio Sonata in e minor - G.F. Handel (1685 - 1759)

The **trio sonata** is a genre, typically consisting of several movements, with two melody instruments and basso continuo (keyboard instrument or bass instrument). Originating in the early 17th century, the trio sonata was a favorite chamber ensemble combination in the baroque era. The genre originated as instrumental adaptation of the three-part texture common in Italian vocal music in the late 16th century. The earliest published trio sonatas appeared in Venice Salamone Rossi's *Il primo libro delle sinfonie e gagliarde* (1607), and in Milan with Giovanni Paolo Cimi's, *Sonata a tre* for violin, cornett and continuo in the collection *Concerti ecclesiastici* (1610).



Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days - Gabriel Faure/arr: Mark Schweitzer

This morning's anthem arranged by Mark Schweitzer uses two well know tunes, Faure's *Pavane Op. 50* and the Lenten hymn tune *Morning Song*. Schweitzer layers

the Pavane accompaniment and melody with the choir singing these words:

*Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, and close by Thee to stay.*

*As Thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
oh, give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to conquer sin.*

*As Thou didst hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy Word.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through Thy Passion-tide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death, Jesu! with us abide.*

*Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering overpast,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!*

Life and Work at Grace Church

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/



Worship Services

- ◇ Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in-person.
- ◇ Livestreamed to watch anytime at 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.

February 26 First Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis

March 5 Second Sunday in Lent, Communion

The Rev. Christian Persaud

Ministers Away

The Rev. Christian Persaud will be away from Grace from February 23 through 26. For pastoral requests during this time please contact the office at 403-244-5861.

2022 Tax Receipts

2022 income tax receipts were emailed on Friday, February 17 to those who have a current email on file. The balance of the tax receipts was mailed during the week of February 21. (If you would like to update your contact information please call the office at 403-244-5861 or e-mail office@gracecalgary.org.)

If you contributed to Grace through Canada Helps, Canada Helps generates that tax receipt. You can obtain the receipt from Canada Helps by logging on to their website.

Grace Updates

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/updates/



Session Highlights

At its regular meeting on February 13, the Session:

- opened with prayer and reflection on Jeremiah 29: 11-14 and our confidence in God's promises
- celebrated the community building of the recent Open Mic event and the number of new faces in worship
- was reminded of the pastoral care training to support elders planned in March
- met with the Treasurer to discuss preliminary 2022 financial results which are trending positively versus 2021 and versus budget. More details will be shared as the results are finalized
- considered the challenges that face the Church across Canada, in the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, and in our search for a Lead Minister. Further discussions will continue over the next months
- was updated on meetings with the ministers and committees to plan for the Rev. Maren McLean Persaud's return in April and the Rev. Jake Van Pernis' anticipated parental leave in June through the spring of 2024
- agreed to use proceeds from Cake Bake sales in 2021 and 2022 to fund the community ministries supported through the Engagement & Service Committee
- approved an update on the Roll which now stands at 390 professing members and 161 adult adherents
- appointed Joanne Kellough as a liaison to strengthen the connection between the Session and the work of Preaching Grace. Early registration for the May 5-7 event is encouraged
- approved revisions to the Confidentiality policy to better address privacy requirements
- appointed Carol Latter to the Spiritual Growth Committee. Lent and Easter programs are planned
- approved the requests for two weddings
- referred a draft Social Media Policy to the Governance & Planning Committee
- received reports from all of the Committees on their dedicated work
- closed with prayer and a benediction

Minister Resource Committee update

Grace is excited to welcome back Rev. Maren McLean Persaud, Associate Minister, Children and Youth on Sunday, April 2 after being on parental leave. She is returning to her 0.75 role encompassing work with children and youth, support of the Spiritual Growth Committee and preaching as often as once a month.

Further details on Minister Resources will be shared in the March 1 newsletter.

Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



Another Step On The Journey Of Truth, Healing And Reconcili-Action



During and after worship on February 26, a painting titled *Living in Balance* by Tsuut'ina artist Nathan Meguinis will be introduced.

Nathan, (also known as Buffalo Boy, Travelling Rock, and Kind-Hearted Man), was selected to create a painting symbolizing truth, healing and reconciliation. A video Artist Statement was also created.

All of the congregation is warmly invited to enjoy traditional bannock and saskatoon berry cider during our time of fellowship in the Family Room after worship, and to view the video and painting more closely.

In Christ, the Truth, Healing and Reconcili-action team: Elaine Bruce, Mark Durieux, Mary Jardine, Bruce Perrault (convener), Cindy Stephenson and the Rev. Jake Van Pernis.

***Living in Balance* - Artist's Statement**

We Dene live a life of beautiful balance with the world around and with other Indigenous Nations.

- ◇ The colour red represents Mother Earth. All the abstract human figures are red to show our connection to the earth with each one having a white outline which is our spirit.
- ◇ The braided sweetgrass circle represents lasting unity.

- ◇ The prayer prints tied on the tree represent our prayers and these flags are hanging from a poplar tree which represents life. Each colour has a meaning: Red – Mother Earth; Green – Plant Life; Blue – Air and Water; Yellow – Sun and Protection; and White – Soul and Spirit.
- ◇ The buffalo represents caring for family and all indigenous Nations who have been resilient and rebounded from being driven from known ways of life.
- ◇ The symbol above the poplar tree represents the North Star. The North Star is the guiding star and as people we are called to be North Stars guiding others into living in balance.
- ◇ The background colours are in a blanket pattern. The orange represents Truth and Reconciliation, and the blue represents water and air which need to be protected and not polluted.
- ◇ The thirteen feathers represent the thirteen moon cycles in the year, which is the calendar the Tsuut'ina people follow. We live in balance when we are working to care for one another and for the earth all the days of the year.
- ◇ The seven teepees across the top represent the seven Nations of Treaty 7.

My artwork is showing people of the earth coming together in prayer and peace.



For more information about Grace's continuing journey and work towards justice, please see the website at <https://gracechurchcalgary.com/community/reconcili-action/>

Lent 2023



seeking:

honest questions
for deeper faith

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This year Grace will be using the theme of **Seeking: Honest questions for deeper faith** produced by *A Sanctified Art*. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. Throughout the turbulence of the past few years, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. Throughout Lent we will be asking what are we seeking, and what is God seeking?

- ◇ Self-guided daily devotional - Lenten Devotions: *Inward work for outward living*
Copies of this devotional are available by e-mail to office@gracecalgary.org
- ◇ There will be a Lenten group study in person on Thursday mornings at 10:30am in the Family Room led by Rev. Jake Van Pernis and Rev. Christian Persaud. This study will begin on March 2 and go through March 30.
- ◇ Information for services in Holy Week will be available in March.

This Lent, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to stay curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.

Volunteer Opportunities

Cake Bake 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.

Pastoral Care Committee Members

The Pastoral Care Committee attends to the personal aspects of congregational needs, from equipping lay leaders in fostering relationships, to ensuring members feel connected to God and to Grace. This Committee would welcome the participation of a few more members who have passion for this ministry of caring.

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

Thank you

The Lead Minister Search Committee was appointed by the Session late in 2021 and has been busy updating the position description and congregational profile, advertising across Canada and internationally, soliciting potential candidates, interviewing applicants, and discerning their fit with Grace's needs. The Committee members are Elizabeth Cressman, Jan Dewar, Clark Hanna (co-convener), Janet Hyde (co-convener), Jen Lee, Greg Retzer, Flora Stephenson, and the Rev. Greg Smith (Interim Moderator). Through-out this time, the Committee has remained faithful, prayerful and confident in the Spirit's presence in their work. We are very blessed by their commitment and wisdom – thank you.

Grace Presbyterian Church

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