

SEEKING: LIVING WATER
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 12, 2023

10:30 a.m.



Wet Stones by Carmelle Beaugelin
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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

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 ^P

Sandy Strother-Stewart

Scripture Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95 (Responsive)

John 4:5-30, 39-42

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis

Sermon Seeking: Living Water

Hymn # 26 As pants the hart

†

Prayers of the People

Sung Lord's Prayer

Swee Hong Lim*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,

for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen. Forever. Amen.

Anthem Sicut Cervus

Charles Gounod*

Prayer for our Offering

Hymn # 671 I heard the voice of Jesus say

†

Benediction ^P

Sending

Let us O God depart in peace

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

Hilfe Gott, das mir's gelinge BWV 624 (Help God, the former of all things)

Johann Sebastian Bach †

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

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^P Adapted from prayers by The Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

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† Public Domain

Music Notes

Today's service is full of great Lenten music! We start off with "Aus der Tiefe rufe ich". Formerly attributed to J.S. Bach, it was later discovered that this chorale prelude was actually written by one of his sons, Carl Phillip Emmanuel Bach. Papa Bach trained all his children in music (both playing and composing) so it is not surprising that some pieces have characteristics of the elder Bach's style. You may recognize the tune as "Forty Days and Forty Nights" which is in our hymnal. The original melody is attributed to Martin Herbst (1654-1681). While the piece does have much of the senior Bach in it, there are tell-tale signs of the (at the time) "modern" classical era harmony creeping in, especially after the first statement of the theme in the solo stop.



Our lectionary suggests music that speaks of thirst and water this week. What a great opportunity, therefore, to sing a setting of Psalm 42 (As the hart panteth after the watery brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God). Our anthem this week, by French romantic composer Charles Gounod, follows the Latin text of the Psalm. A partial translation of the text encapsulates this sentiment:

Lyrics

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes
 awuarum,
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.*

Poetic Translation

As the deer thirsts and pants for flowing
fountains of water,
That's how my soul desires, thirsting and
panting for you, Father.

Our service concludes with a piece from J.S. Bach's "Orgelbuchlien" (Little organ book). In this remarkable work, Bach senior takes a chorale (hymn) tune from every part of the liturgical year and sets it as a short chorale prelude. This tune from the Lenten section of the orgelbuchlein "Hilf Gott das mir's gelinge" (Help, God, that I succeed), is not included anymore in hymnals - a pity, as it is a beautiful tune.

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.

March 12 Third Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis

March 19 Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Sabino Diok

Grace Updates

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/updates/



Lead Minister Search Committee Update

The Lead Minister Search Committee is requesting names of people who might be interested in considering the Lead Minister position at Grace. We will be following up with individuals and moving forward with advertising over the next few weeks. With God's help we will find the person God is calling to Grace. We continue to appreciate your prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Janet Hyde (Co-convener), Clark Hanna (Co-convener), Flora Stephenson, Jennifer Lee, Elizabeth Cressman, Jan Dewar, Greg Retzer, The Rev. Greg Smith (Interim Moderator)

Minister Resource Committee Update

The Minister Resource Committee exists to support Grace's Ministers as they lead Grace's congregation to fulfill its agreed upon mission. When there are times of transition, the Minister Resource Committee works to ensure Grace has strong ministerial resources to meet the congregation's spiritual needs.

We all know that Grace has seen many transitions in the past few years, and 2023 will be no different:

First, we are excited to welcome back the 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, supporting the Spiritual Growth Committee, and preaching as often as once a month. Rev. Maren plans to be at Grace on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and is looking forward to reconnecting.

Second, the Rev. Sabino Diok will continue preaching once a month. We are grateful and see his faithfulness to God's call as a wonderful example of what it means to be a disciple.

Third, the Rev. Jake Van Pernis Associate Minister, Engagement and Service and his wife Kate are expecting a baby in early July. Congratulations!

Rev. Jake will take the standard 35 weeks of parental leave, returning in the Spring of 2024. In preparation for his absence, Minister Resource is meeting with the Engagement and Service Committee to better understand their needs during this time.

We are also meeting with Kate to ensure a smooth transition for Rev. Maren's return.

Finally, the Minister Resource Committee is seeking possible full-time ministers who may be willing to support the congregation until Rev. Jake returns, as well as considering part-time leaders who would cover specific areas that correspond to our ministry model including preaching and Bible studies (like the Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris did), pastoral care (as the Rev. Christian Persaud is doing) as well as our outreach ministries (as the Rev. Roberto DeSandoli did prior to his graduation).

Minister Resource is listening carefully for the lead of the Holy Spirit, as well as following the guidance of the Rev. Greg Smith, Grace's Interim Moderator, and Session, in working to fulfill its responsibilities.

As more decisions are made, the congregation will be informed in a timely fashion.

Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet (Session Liaison), Jim Campbell, Rev. Jake, Rev. Christian, Len Wolstenholme, Rev. Greg Smith (Interim Moderator)

Lent 2023



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

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- ◇ 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 is 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 runs through March 30.

Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

- Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday, All Ages, at 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 7: Good Friday at 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, April 9: Easter Sunday, Communion at 10:30 a.m.

Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



Grace Bethany

Grace Bethany is meeting on Tuesday, March 14 in Grace's Family Room from 1:00- 3:00 p.m. All women of Grace are invited to join for fellowship, refreshment and enrichment. Grace Bethany has been apart for a few months and is excited to "re-boot" connections. Hope to see you there!

Rescheduled Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party: Tuesday, March 14

Grace's congregation along with community members are invited to the rescheduled Pancake Party. RSVP at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/ by Sunday, March 12.



PANCAKE PARTY

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1009 15 AVE SW

ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Preaching Grace Book Study

Join Elizabeth Cressman in exploring *All Our Grievs to Bear: Responding with Resilience after Collective Trauma*, written by Dr. Joni Sancken, this year's Preaching Grace guest speaker. The study will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in April, exploring themes like collective trauma, storytelling and blessing as well as inviting thought about collective learnings, for Grace, and for ourselves. Please register for the study at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/. Copies of this book are available at Owl's Nest Books, Britannia Plaza, or Amazon.ca. Order your copy in time for the study!

The book cover features a light teal background with the title 'all our griev's to bear' written in a lowercase, serif font. The words are arranged vertically, with small black silhouettes of birds in flight scattered around the text. At the bottom, it says 'RESPONDING with RESILIENCE after COLLECTIVE TRAUMA'.

**Preaching Grace 2023 Book Study
with Elizabeth Cressman**

Tuesday evenings in April

Book: *All Our Grievs to Bear: Responding with Resilience After Collective Trauma*, written by Dr. Joni Sancken, this year's Preaching Grace guest speaker

A small square portrait of Dr. Joni Sancken, a woman with dark hair, smiling.

Dr. Joni Sancken, PhD, is professor of Homiletics at United Theological Seminary. An ordained minister in Mennonite Church USA, Joni is also the author of several books reflecting a theological and interdisciplinary approach to preaching.

Preaching Grace—May 5 to 7

Thinking About Resilience, Hope and Healing

Members of the Preaching Grace team interviewed Dr. Joni Sancken, professor and author of many books including *All Our Grievs to Bear: Responding with Resilience after Collective Trauma*. Dr. Sancken is the guest speaker at Preaching Grace this year.

QUESTION:

How do churches form stories? how can we make use of stories to share our lived experiences as a group and as individuals?

ANSWER:

There is a need for different stories. There are agreed upon stories we hold as a culture. We are in a season of dismantling and questioning these stories. It is important to acknowledge that there are many stories attached to a collective group and to validate these stories and the storytellers.



In Community

Service Opportunity - Building Homes in Mexico

For many years, members from Grace Presbyterian Church participated in trips to build homes in Mexico. Marlene and Dan Doherty have continued to participate in these trips and this year are going to help build three homes with the organization Youth With A Mission from April 17 – April 21, 2023.

There is space to join this trip from April 17-21, and Marlene would be happy to share details if you'd like to learn more. Participants are responsible for their airfare to and from San Diego, and for their meals. Please contact Grace's office at office@gracecalgary.org to connect with Marlene.

Note: While this specific trip is not affiliated with Grace, the Engagement and Service Committee is wondering if the congregation would be interested in other possible mission opportunities to lend their hands and hearts in service to neighbours near and far. If so, please provide your feedback through Grace's office at office@gracecalgary.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Rescheduled Pancake Party Volunteers

Many hands make light work! Come join in the fun. Help greet attendees, prepare or serve food, or oversee pancake flipping challenges on Tuesday, March 14.

Grace Kids Leaders

Do you have a heart for sharing your faith with young Christians? The Church School has a few openings for leaders to serve one Sunday per month. Training and support are provided to make this a fulfilling ministry for volunteers as well as Grace children and youth.

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. The Pastoral Care 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 Clerk of Session is an active ruling elder who is responsible for all the Session records and documents, including minutes and correspondence on behalf of the Session. The Clerk works with the Moderator to develop agendas and support the Session elders prepare for meetings. Currently, Len Wolstenholme serves as Clerk and we give thanks for Len's faithful and thoughtful leadership.

Artist Statement

WET STONES by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by Exodus 17:1-7

Conté crayon, charcoal, acrylic, gold gild on paper

On a recent search to remedy dull kitchen knives, I found myself learning about wet stones. Sharpening a knife used to be called “whetting”, so to sharpen a blade was to “whet” it. Stones used for sharpening were called “whetstones”, or a “wet rock”. Natural whetstones are typically formed of quartz, but today can be formed into pumice stones from all kinds of materials. This interesting play on the words “wet” and “stone” led me to ask of this Exodus narrative, “In focusing on their perceived lack, how had the Hebrews’ trust in God begun to dull?”



In Exodus 17 we find the first encounter involving the Hebrews where a perceived lack of water, a necessary resource for survival, is in question. When collective despair and the threat of abandoning the journey to God’s promised land is aroused, God aids Moses in providing water from rocks along the way. This fear of scarcity dulled the once sharpened faith of the community to the extent that they longed for their former life in Egypt where water was abundant but sipped under the oppression slavery. How is it that seeking freedom could cost so much?

Like the Hebrews in the wilderness, our fear of scarcity may cause us to struggle in our confidence in God’s provision as we seek our own promises along our life’s journey. In seeking to quench our thirst, like the figures in this image, perhaps we may find the provision of God in the grace of relief and from unexpected places that sharpen our faith.

-Carmelle Beaugelin

Grace Presbyterian Church

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