

SEEKING: WHO SINNED? FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.



Insight by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
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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

Grant Stephenson

Scripture Psalm 23 (Responsive)

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-17

The Rev. Sabino Diok

Sermon Seeking: Who Sinned?

Hymn # 203 When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee †

Prayers of the People

Sung Lord's Prayer (see over)

Swee Hong Lim*

Anthem The Lord is my shepherd

Howard Goodall *

Prayer for our Offering

Hymn # 721 All who love and serve your city †

Benediction

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

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

Partita in d minor BWV 1004 Gigue

Johann Sebastian Bach †

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

We thank Katarina Bohdan for her contribution to worship this week.

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Personally, I always love when the lectionary suggests psalm 23 in our readings. This well-known psalm has inspired so many composers that there is a veritable cornucopia of musical settings to choose from. The classic choice is by the great Austrian classical-era composer Franz Schubert, however Rutter, Stanford and Randall Thompson all wrote brilliant versions as well. This Sunday we chose Howard Goodall's setting, made famous as the theme song to the British TV show "The Vicar of Dibley". It is a gentle, tuneful setting that lends itself very well to the pastorate nature of the psalm text.



We welcome guest musician, violinist Katarina Bohdan to worship this week. Katarina is part of our student musician program here at Grace Presbyterian. She is playing Bach's *gigue* from the *partita* for solo violin in d minor as our postlude, as well as a few movements from a Handel violin sonata. Bach's unaccompanied violin works hold a special place in the string repertoire. Following the typical multi-movement Baroque form, they are composed of improvisatory-style movements like preludes, as well as dance forms such as the gigue played today. Technically challenging as well as clever in their use of polyphony using only the properties of the violin, these are must-have staples of any violinist's repertoire.

Howard Goodall (b. 1958)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Georges Frederic Handel (1685 - 1759)

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 19 Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Sabino Diok

March 26 Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Wendy Adams

Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

- **Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday, All Ages, at 10:30 a.m.**
- **Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday, Communion 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 Updates

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/updates/



Grace is a mask-friendly space

Grace is a mask-friendly space. This means we respect people's choice to not wear a mask and at the same time, we understand that some people choose or need to wear a mask when we gather together as a community. As a church we value belonging, community, compassion, engagement, and service and so then, promote every person's sense of welcome and belonging here at Grace. Masks are available at the welcome tables. Please also note that fresh air circulates throughout the building and Grace monitors air quality regularly.

Grace's plan for sharing Communion

Communion will be served as a part of worship on Easter Sunday (April 9). Communion will be distributed by Session and Service Elders at stations placed around Grace's sanctuary to reduce contact / touching of the elements by many hands. There will also be Elders who move throughout the sanctuary to reach those who are less mobility. Prefilled packets will also be available for people who are more comfortable receiving the elements in that manner.

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.

Sponsor Spring flowers

Would you like to sponsor a 6" pot of daisies to be delivered to members of our church family who are homebound or are recently bereaved? For more information or to sponsor, please go to www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/ or call the office (403-244-5861).



Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



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!



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



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 Early bird pricing 'til April 16 (40 spots left)

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, and we are in a season of dismantling those stories and questioning them. It is important to acknowledge that there are many stories attached to a collective group and to validate these stories and the storytellers.

Volunteer Opportunities

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.

Delivering Spring Flowers for Easter

The Pastoral Care Committee is arranging the purchase of 60 plants for delivery to those in our congregation who are homebound or have been recently bereaved. The plants will be available starting Sunday, April 2. Please let us know if you are willing and able to help communicate Grace Church's love and support by delivering some plants.

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

Over 25 volunteers helped welcome, prepare and serve pancakes and sausages, and oversee pancake flipping contests at the rescheduled Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party. Thank you for making this community building event so much fun!



Artist Statement

INSIGHT by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by John 9: 8-41

Silk painting with digital drawing and collage

In seven verses, the gospel writer tells us that a man born blind is given sight. But after that, the narrator devotes thirty three verses to the details of disagreement that swell after the healing takes place. I used to find this second part of the story tedious and exhausting. In a world with constant conflict, I'm tired of listening to endless bickering.



However, this second half of the story makes me realize that this encounter is hardly about physical healing or literal blindness. It's about how harmful theology can prevent us from seeing people—truly seeing them. It's about how our narrow imagination can harden into accusation and blame. It's about how we can be threatened by new ideas of shifts in someone's identity. It's about how our doctrine can lead to exile. Ultimately, it's a story about our resistance to change. Can this be a cautionary tale for us?

In this image, hands expressing denial and exclusion press in on the man. In the background, I wrote a barrage of questions I imagine emerging from the crowd: *Why did God heal you? What did you do to cause this? Who sinned?* Alongside those questions, I wove in contemporary statements I've heard spoken in situations when we think a tidy rationale will comfort us: *Everything happens for a reason. God only gives you as much as you can handle. Pray harder.*

I wonder what this story would look like had better questions been asked. What if his neighbors had instead asked the blind man, *"How do you feel?"* What if the man has asked the crowd, *"What are you afraid of?"* What if the Pharisees had asked one another, *"What if it's time to change?"*

Surrounded by remnants of narrow vision, the man has new insight. He looks beyond the words, beyond the crowd, beyond the accusations driving him out of town. Can we seek understanding without denigrating or objectifying humans in the process?

-Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Grace Presbyterian Church

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