

SEEKING: WHO SINNED?
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 2023

10:30 a.m.



Insight by Hannah 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

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 O Mensch, bewien dein Sünde gross BWV 622

Johann Sebastian Bach †

Welcome and Announcements

Janet Hyde

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lina

Introit Lenten Introits

Angela Birkhead-Flight ‡

Call to Worship ²

You are welcome here if you are feeling washed-up, brittle, or worn-down to the bone.

This is a house of hope.

Find rest here if you are feeling the heaviness of grief and feel like hope may be out of reach.

This is where words of promised grace are proclaimed.

Allow wonder to again spark imagination that God can do more than we think possible.

Together, we are in the right place, because this is God's house, where there is a place for all.

Let us be glad in the possibilities grace and love stir,
and be attentive to God's presence.

Hymn # 202 We lay our broken world in sorrow at your feet

Anna Briggs and Kenneth G. Finlay*

Prayer of Adoration

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis

Rite of Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession ²

Jesus, we forget that you know the feelings of grief and sadness. We forget that you too have wept. We forget that you too have lost. We forget that you too have gathered at a tomb, grieving for someone who held meaning in your life and your heart, and felt the sting of loss.

Forgive us for the times we falsely place blame on you. Forgive us for all the times we create distance, imagining that you could never feel what we feel. Forgive us for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us.

Pour yourself into the cracks of our hearts. Bring these bones back to life and bring us closer to you. With gratitude we pray. Amen.

Hymn # 201 We come to ask your forgiveness

Carey Landry*

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

Okwayi Obang

Scripture Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Psalm 130 (Responsive)

John 11: 1-45

The Rev. Wendy Adams

Sermon Seeking: Unbind him and let him go

Hymn # 604 O Christ, you wept when grief was raw

Iona Community and John L. Bell *

Prayers of the People

Sung Lord's Prayer (see over)

Swee Hong Lim*

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 Ah, my dear Lord

Zachary Wadsworth *

Prayer for our Offering

Hymn # 603 Lord of the living

†

Benediction ²

As we leave this place, may God bless us with seeking.

Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person. Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God at all times and in all places. As we seek and as we wonder, may we find what we 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 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 Sarabande in F major

George Frederic Handel †

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

We thank guest musician Jonathan Kennedy for his contribution to worship this week.

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† Public Domain

Music Notes

Matt Kallio

O Mensch, bewien dein Sünde gross BWV 622 - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

O Mensch, beweine dein Sünde gross (O Man, Bewail your Great Sins) is a traditional Passiontide chorale, or hymn, whose melody and text both date from around 1525. Bach's organ treatment of this simple E flat major melody could hardly be more lush -- indeed, BWV 622 is one of the most thoroughly ornamented of all Bach's compositions; the melody as laid out in the top voice of the organ part is coloratura in the best and most original sense of the word. All of the repeats indicated in Greitter's hymn melody by symbols are written out in Bach's prelude, and each of these repeated phrases is given a completely new suit of clothes -- not just ornamentally but also in terms of basic harmony and voice leading -- the second time around.



O Mensch, beweine dein Sünde gross, is the most elaborately decorated piece in the Orgelbüchlein and probably the most chromatically adventuresome as well, especially in the final few bars (the last one is marked *adagissimo* (extremely slow), calling attention to the last line of text: "long on the cross"), of steadily rising chromatic bass line that moves with great conviction towards a shocking C flat major chord, but also to some wonderfully pungent G flat/F flat decoration in the top voice.

Blair Johnson - www.allmusic.com

Ah, my dear Lord - Zachary Wadsworth (b. 1983)

Our anthem today is a special piece. The composer is Calgarian and Grace Presbyterian commissioned this work! It bears the dedication "to Colin Redekop and the choir of Grace Presbyterian Church, Alberta, Canada". How wonderful to have it in our library! "Ah, my dear Lord" is a very interesting work. The Lenten text comes from *The Incarnation and the Passion* by Henry Vaughan (1621-1695). The music uses repeated harmonic progressions to lead us to the penultimate lines of text - an appropriate sentiment going into Holy Week. This is the full text:

*Ah, my dear Lord! what couldst thou spy, in this impure rebellious clay,
that made Thee thus resolve to die, for those that kill Thee every day?*

*O what strange wonders could Thee move, to slight Thy precious blood, and breath?
Sure it was love, my Lord! For love is only stronger far than death!*

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 26 **Fifth Sunday in Lent** **The Rev. Wendy Adams**

April 2 **Palm Sunday, All Ages** **The Rev. Jake Van Pernis**
No church school classes; **Grace Kids and Youth** will be in sanctuary for all of Worship.

Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

- **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 Kids and Youth will begin the morning in the worship service with families. After *Time with Young Christians*, kids and youth will be excused to go downstairs for special Easter activities! Kids and Youth will be coming back upstairs to sit with families and participate in communion all together at the end of the service.

Minister Away

The Rev. Christian Persaud will be away March 26—April 1.

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis will be away April 13—April 15.

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; therefore, Grace promotes every person's sense of welcome and belonging here. 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 bring the elements to people as needed. Communion packets will also be available for people who are more comfortable receiving the elements in this manner.



Spring Flowers—deadline to order is Friday, March 31

Would you like to donate flowers, or provide them in memory of someone? Grace will be delivering flowers to members of our church family who are homebound, recently bereaved, or in need of cheer. For more information, please go to www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/ or call the office at 403-244-5861. Deadline to order is Friday, March 31.

Session Highlights

At its regular meeting on March 13, 2023, the Session

- opened with prayer and reflection on Exodus 17:1-7; reminding us that God goes in front of us and God keeps promises, even in the wilderness
- gave thanks for Jiebieni Nyajwok's leadership in organizing an event in recognition of World Day of Prayer
- expressed appreciation for the training on pastoral conversations for elders, deacons and homebound visitors
- supported plans to reintroduce the option of bread and juice distributed at stations through-out the sanctuary when Holy Communion is celebrated Easter morning
- was advised by the Rev. Maren McLean Persaud and the Rev. Christian Persaud of their plans to preach for calls at Westminster Presbyterian Church on March 26. This information is being shared with the congregation expeditiously
- received updates from Ministry Resource on prospects for temporary ministers in light of the anticipated departures of the Rev. Maren McLean Persaud and the Rev. Christian Persaud in May or June and the parental leave of the Rev. Jake Van Pernis starting in July. Communications to the congregation on these prospects will also be a priority
- agreed to reconsider the ministerial model in light of the above developments, while continuing to search for the Lead Minister
- approved the donation of the trailer originally used for Mexico Mission trips to Umoja, a not-for-profit organization in Calgary providing a culturally appropriate food program, community based tutoring, after school programming and soccer
- agreed with an update to the Roll, which now stands at 390 professing members and 160 adult adherents, for a total of 550 adults
- referred the question of which committees might best support and provide oversight of the Wednesday Bible Study and Grief Circle to the Governance & Planning Committee
- received updates on the chapel renovation discussions and the review of the requirements to restore the front steps
- expressed its confidence in God's continuing guidance as Grace works to fulfill God's mission, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ
- closed with prayer.

Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



Grace Youth - First Sunday Lunch

All Grace Youth (grades 7-12) are invited to gather for lunch together next Sunday, April 2. We'll meet after worship (roughly 11:45 a.m.), just inside the sanctuary from the north doors and return to the South lot between 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

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. This study will be in-person, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in April, exploring the following themes: collective trauma, storytelling, and blessing. The study will also invite thought about collective learnings for Grace and for ourselves. Please register for the study at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/. A limited number of these books are available at the office, and Owl's Nest Books in Britannia Plaza, or Amazon.ca. Order your copy in time for the study!

Preaching Grace—May 5 to 7 Early bird pricing until April 16 (35 spots left)

Preaching Grace 2023 Presents: **Resilience, Hope and Healing** with Dr. Joni Sancken

- Friday, May 5: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. FREE Public Lecture: All our Grievs to Bear: Building Resilience
- Saturday, May 6: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. PAID In-Person Workshop & Lunch: Morning: Words of Hope: Scriptural Resources for Trauma Afternoon: Compassion Fatigue
- Sunday, May 7: 10:30 a.m. Worship



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.



Register at [Preaching Grace 2023](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/).

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 kids and youth.

Pastoral Care Committee Members

The Pastoral Care Committee attends to the pastoral needs of the congregation including equipping lay leaders in fostering relationships and 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 Spring flower plants for delivery to those in our congregation who are homebound, are recently bereaved or are in need of cheer. The plants will be available starting Sunday, April 2. Please let Cindy know if you would like to help deliver some plants.

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

Thank you

A Bible study led by Chandra Mannix, and a Grief Circle co-led by Elizabeth Cressman and Norma Hunchak, with Barbara Henson helping to organize, have been piloted on Wednesday mornings over the last several weeks. Grace is blessed by these leaders sharing their gifts so generously. Thank you!

Artist Statement

UNBIND HIM by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by John 11:1-45

Paper lace over oil paint on linen



As I met with this text, I was drawn to Jesus' call for Lazarus to be unbound. To represent the fabrics used in preparation for burial, I wrapped a canvas in linen. You're not really supposed to do that. The canvas was already stretched and gessoed. It was ready to resist the oil paint medium I was applying. However, the texture of the binding cloth matters for this tactile text. I began to scrape the paint into the woven strands. The linen fabric absorbed the paint as I scraped it on with a palette knife. In the final image, the linen shows through the paint and the paper lace design, representing the bindings.

Jesus' call for unbinding also includes the community. The foreshortened hands of the community, tasked with unbinding his body, reaching in toward Lazarus. They reach through the concentric binding lines so that he can go free. Can these bones live?

In the strength of community, they can. The community made up of Jews, Gentiles, Samaritans, and others all joined one another at the tomb to grieve for Lazarus that day. They came to support Mary and Martha. Jesus arrives as the community mourns together. Jesus cries in his grief. Their collective tears create the backdrop for this paper lace design. This diverse and neighborly community is who Jesus calls on to do the unbinding. Jesus makes sure that the community knows about this miracle so that they can share the news. Can these bones live? Lazarus lives, and Jesus' miracle lives on in the telling.

—Hannah Garrity

Grace Presbyterian Church

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