

**WE HAD HOPED
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 30, 2023
10:30 a.m.**



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
Associate Minister, Children and Youth

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

The Rev. Christian Persaud
Interim Pastoral Care Leader

Matt Kallio, Music Coordinator

Please find Online Worship at:
www.gracechurchcalgary.com



Grace Presbyterian Church
Transforming lives through God's grace

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 **#691 My shepherd is the King of love** †

Time With Young Christians **Rev. Maren McLean Persaud**

Prayer for Illumination **Carol Evans**

Scripture **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16** (*responsive, sing Refrain I*)
1 Peter 2:1-10
Luke 24:13-35 **Rev. Christian Persaud**

Sermon **We had hoped**

Hymn **#262 Come to us, beloved Stranger**
Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan Music: John Van Maanen *

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Our Offering

Anthem **Der 23rd Psalm** (Psalm 23) **Franz Schubert †**

Prayer for our Offering

Hymn	#472 We are God's people	†
Benediction		
Amen	#264 Sing Amen	***
Postlude	Toccata	Gordon Young

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

Flowers in the sanctuary this week are placed anonymously to the glory of God

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Music Notes—Fourth Sunday of Easter

Matt Kallio

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. With the focus being on Jesus as the good shepherd, we will be singing and playing much music based on this theme.

Psalm 23 is our psalm for the day. In light of this, we will be singing "*Der 23rd Psalm*" written by Austrian classical era composer **Franz Schubert (1797-1828)**.



Schubert had a genius for many things, but song and melody was definitely one of his fortes. In this beautiful musical setting, Schubert highlights the structure of the poetry in the psalm.

Opening with placid and pastoral broken chords in the piano, the choir sings a sublime melody overtop, setting the mood. When we reach "yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death", watch for a dramatic mood change and chromatic harmonies (a way of showing foreboding, angst or, in sacred works, music crucifixion). We pass through death's dark valley (as well as Schubert's key modulations) to a return of the hopeful opening theme, coming to rest at the end of the piece with a sense of assurance and calm.

Our prelude is *I Know my Redeemer Liveth* from George Frederic Handel's (1685-1759) masterpiece oratorio "*Messiah*". Handel's aria from the *Messiah* is a perennial favorite and most appropriate for the Easter season. The whole third part of the work is devoted to Jesus's resurrection and is a treasure trove of music dedicated to this penultimate moment of the Christian faith.

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.

April 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Christian Persaud

May 7 Fifth Sunday of Easter - Preaching Grace

Dr. Joni Sancken

Dr. Joni Sancken is a professor of homiletics at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio and ordained in the Mennonite Church USA. She is the 2023 Preaching Grace guest speaker, and is the author of several books reflecting a theological and interdisciplinary approach to preaching. Her recent work related to trauma and resilience includes *Words that Heal* and *All Our Grievs to Bear: Responding with Resilience after Collective Trauma*. She lives in Oakwood, Ohio, with her pastor spouse Steve Schumm, children Maggie and Theodore, and dogs Bella and Pax.

Front Doors

With Spring's arrival, Grace will begin to use our main/front doors once more. Starting Sunday, April 30, all are welcome to access worship services using these doors.

Children and Youth

As Church School begins to wrap up the program year, we invite the whole congregation to join us in a special challenge. Since September, Grace Kids & Youth have been collecting Church School offering for Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) *Opening Classroom Doors* challenge. Throughout the month of May, the congregation is invited to join in the challenge by helping the kids and youth fill a backpack with loose change! On Sunday, June 4 we will celebrate our collective offering together.

Sunday School Challenge

Opening Classroom Doors



Education is one of the most critical tools in breaking the cycle of poverty and contributing to the long-term development of vulnerable communities.

About 264 million children around the world do not have the opportunity to go to school. Poverty, conflict, natural disasters and cultural barriers are just a few of the factors keeping girls and boys outside the classroom.

Your participation in the Sunday School Challenge will help open classroom doors in vulnerable communities across the globe, providing children with opportunities for learning so they can fulfill their aspirations and transform their lives.

\$350

helps a child receive a full year of education—brightening their prospects for the future.

We Respond



**Presbyterian
World Service
& Development**

1-800-619-7301 x291

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

WeRespond.ca/opening-classroom-doors

Life and Work at Grace Church

PWSD (Presbyterian World Service and Development)

April 30th is Mission Awareness Sunday in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. On this day we give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development and their 75 years of service with churches and organizations seeking sustainable transformation of their communities, upholding compassion, justice and partnership. Through PWS&D, Canadian Presbyterians have been providing immediate relief and long-term development assistance around the world, with an ever-increasing scope and reach. In 2022, with \$3.7 million received, PWS&D contributed to \$8.2 million worth of development and relief programs – \$2.1 million in development and \$6.1 million in emergency relief programming.

None of this work would be possible without the faithful prayers and generous financial support of Presbyterians from sea to sea. To learn more, please visit

www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/

Grace Updates

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/



Session Highlights

At its regular meeting on April 17, 2023, the Session

- opened with prayer and reflection on Luke 24: 13-35. We were reminded that we all go through journeys in life not always recognizing that God is always with us.
- expressed gratitude for reintroduction of option of bread and juice distribution at stations throughout sanctuary at Communion on Easter Sunday. Also good to see so many (275) in attendance.
- appreciated all the powerful and poignant worship services throughout Holy Week.
- received positive feedback on the Tuesday evening Book Study facilitated by Elizabeth Cressman and the Wednesday morning Bible Study and Grief Circle.
- discussed the presence of a couple who have been standing outside the south and north entrances for several weeks after worship requesting assistance. Explored several options for intentionally planning to address their needs. Language is a barrier in our ability to communicate with them.
- discussed how we can listen to South Sudanese and Anyauk communities within Grace to learn more about and address the challenges in their communities, especially relating to youth.
- reviewed and expressed gratitude to the Ministry Resource Program for ensuring pulpit supply over the coming months to assure stability and a smooth transition as a result of Rev. Jake's upcoming parental leave and the anticipated vacancies of the Associate Minister, Children and Youth as well as the Interim Pastoral Care Leader. Plans for recruitment of two pro tem ministers are ongoing. Ongoing communication to the congregation on a timely basis is a priority.
- agreed that Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet will continue as Grace's Representative Elder at the Presbytery of Calgary Macleod for 2023-24. Session Elders have been asked to discern their interest in serving as Alternate Elder. Governance & Planning Committee will follow up.
- approved stained glass repairs in the sanctuary moving forward to discussion with Finance and Stewardship Committees about sources of funding the repairs.
- approved a plan to improve flow and functionality in the sanctuary by modifying the two front pews that currently block access to the front of the church through the centre aisle.

- agreed with an update to the Roll which now stands at 385 professing members and 162 adult adherents. Approved the revised 2023 Pastoral Care Committee Work Plan.
- approved revisions to several policies in the Session Manual and approved a new operational Social Media Policy.
- received updates on the following:
 - the chapel renovation discussions
 - the need for volunteers in Children & Youth Programs
 - recruitment and training of volunteers to help with live-streaming
 - volunteers to lead Cake Bake
 - potential for a drum-making workshop
 - plans for September 30 event with Stardale Women’s Group for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.
- received update on work of Stewardship Committee.
- reviewed February financials. Offerings and income are up against budget.
- prayed for members of Grace’s congregation experiencing health challenges.
- closed with prayer and the reading of *Wild Geese* by Mary Oliver.

Offering Plates

The practice of giving back to God a portion of what we have received from God appears at the very beginning of the Bible and the concept continues through the New Testament. We give in gratitude and joy, responding to the abundance of God’s love. In keeping with the more intentional conversations within Grace about “stewardship” of our time, talent and treasure, the practice of passing offering plates to receive financial offerings during worship will resume starting in May. Stationary offering plates will continue to be available, as well as automatic withdrawal and on-line giving options. Please see the website for more details.

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/givingandfinancials/

Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



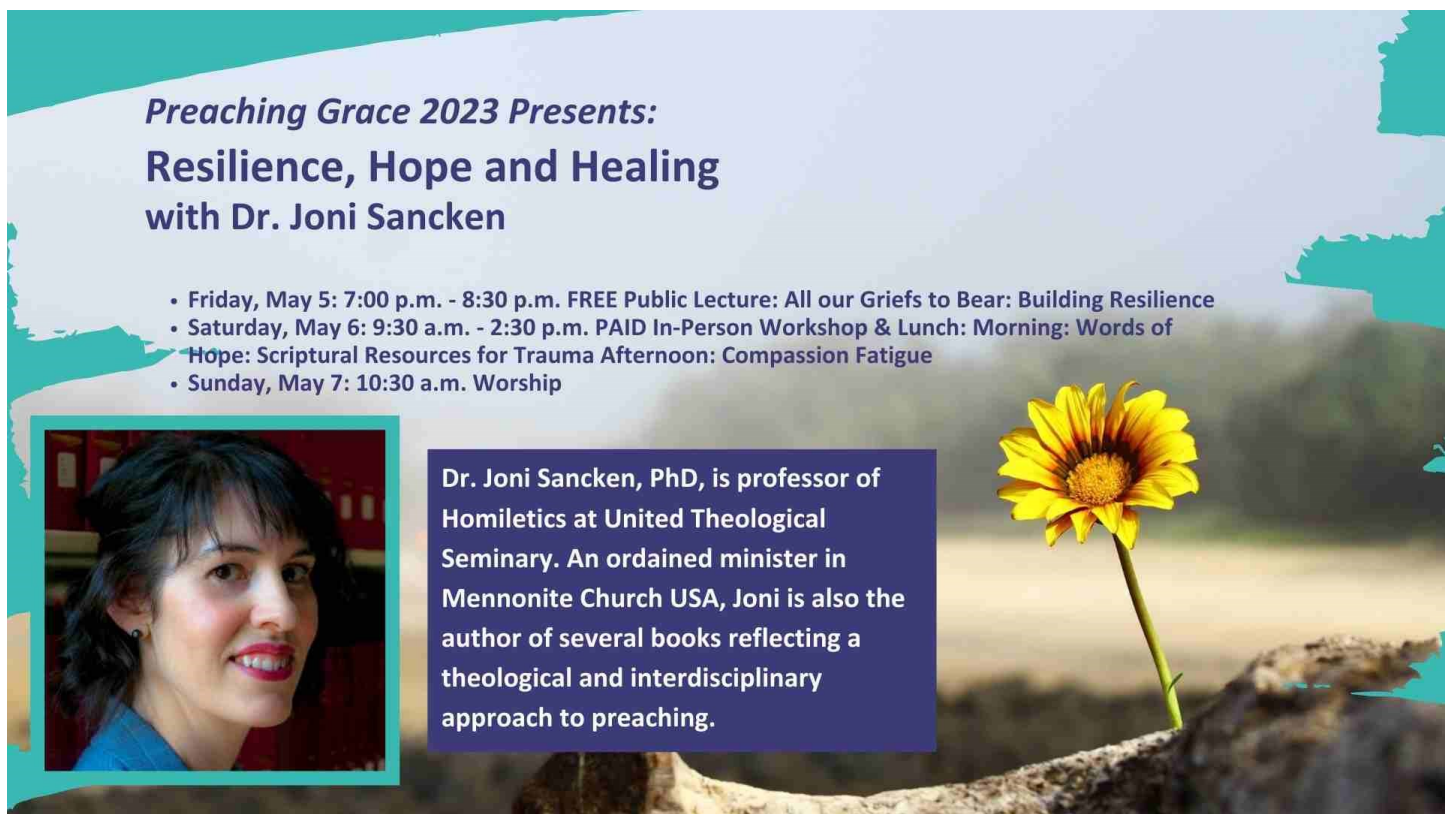
Preaching Grace - Coming next week!

Learn to build resilience, find healing and live with hope. Grace welcomes Dr. Joni Sancken to Preaching Grace next Friday, Saturday, and for Sunday worship.

Register now:

- Friday Free public Lecture: wide capacity online and in-person
- Saturday workshop and lunch: 12 spaces remaining, in person only

Register at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



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.

Save the date! Grace Annual General Meeting and Congregational Lunch **Sunday, May 28, following worship**

Grace's Annual General Meeting will take place after worship on Sunday, May 28 starting with lunch followed by the meeting. We will break bread as a congregation, learn about the impact of Grace's ministries, financials and upcoming plans. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 24 to support the food order.

Volunteer Opportunities

Stewards

Plans are underway to return to our previous practice of passing the offering plates during the worship service. (Stationary offering plates will also be available for those who prefer that). Stewards are volunteers who help pass the plates and count and record the offerings after worship. Key gifts will be attention to detail, numeracy and confidentiality. Comfort with Excel would also be an asset.

(Note: As Grace Church focuses on its vision, mission and values, the role of “ushers” has been divided into two parts: 1. Welcomers and 2. Stewards. This approach recognizes that the roles of welcoming (or greeting) and stewarding (or counting) are different and so we aim to utilize well the gifts and interests of volunteers.)

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.

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

We give thanks for Elizabeth Cressman's expert and caring leadership of the April study of the book, *All Our Grievs to Bear: Responding with Resilience after Collective Trauma*, by Dr. Joni Sancken. Elizabeth helped participants explore the themes of collective trauma, lament, storytelling and blessing in advance of the Preaching Grace weekend. Thank you, Elizabeth!

Grace Presbyterian Church

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