

JESUS INTERCEDES FOR HIS OWN

MAY 21, 2023

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION SUNDAY/ASCENSION SUNDAY 10:30 a.m.



“Living in Balance” by Nathan Meguinis

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. Jake Van Pernis
Associate Minister,
Engagement and Service

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 **Church Sonata in C major K 263** W.A. Mozart
 “The Trumpet Shall Sound” Messiah HWV 56—G.F. Handel
 Bamise Banwo—voice
 Troy Deren—trumpet

Welcome and Announcements **Cindy Stephenson**

Lighting of the Christ Candle **Lina**

Introit **Christ Our Passover** Richard Shepherd

Call To Worship

We gather because we are God’s people.

Day by day, we praise the Living God.

We are a community in Christ Jesus. In praise,
in prayer, in teaching and fellowship, we are
sustained by our Lord.

Let us worship God.

Hymn **#327 Sing praise to God who reigns above** *

Prayer of Adoration **Rev. Jake Van Pernis**

Rite of Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

Collective Reading from The Confession of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

- 1. We, the 120th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, seeking the guidance of the Spirit of God, and aware of our own sin and shortcomings, are called to speak to the Church we love. We do this, out of new understandings of our past not out of any sense of being superior to those who have gone before us, nor out of any sense that we would have done things differently in the same context. It is with humility and in great sorrow that we come before God and our Aboriginal brothers and sisters with our confession.**
- 2. We acknowledge that the stated policy of the Government of Canada was to assimilate Aboriginal peoples to the dominant culture, and that The Presbyterian Church in Canada co-operated in this policy.**
- 3. We recognize that there were many members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada who, in good faith, gave unstintingly of themselves in love and compassion for their Aboriginal brothers and sisters.**
- 4. We confess that The Presbyterian Church in Canada presumed to know better than Aboriginal peoples what was needed for life. The Church said of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, "If they could be like us, they could think like us, talk like us, worship like us, sing like us, and work like us, they would know God and therefore would have life abundant." In our cultural arrogance we have been blind to the ways in which our own understanding of the Gospel has been culturally conditioned, and because of our insensitivity to Aboriginal cultures, we have demanded more of the Aboriginal people than the Gospel requires, and have thus misrepresented Jesus Christ who loves all peoples with compassionate, suffering love that all may come to God through him. For the Church's presumption we ask forgiveness.**

5. We confess that, with the encouragement and assistance of the Government of Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada agreed to take the children of Aboriginal peoples from their own homes and place them in residential schools.
6. We regret that there are those whose lives have been deeply scarred by the effects of the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. For our Church we ask forgiveness of God. It is our prayer that God, who is merciful, will guide us in compassionate ways towards helping them to heal.
7. We ask, also, for forgiveness from Aboriginal peoples. What we have heard we acknowledge. It is our hope that those whom we have wronged with a hurt too deep for telling will accept what we have to say. With God's guidance our Church will seek opportunities to walk with Aboriginal peoples to find healing and wholeness together as God's people.

Words of Forgiveness

The Peace

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

And also with you.

Hymn **#270 The head that once was crowned with thorns** †
vs 1,2,3,5

Time With Young Christians

Prayer for Illumination

Sandy Strother-Stewart

Scripture **Psalm 47** (*responsive, sing Refrain I*)
Acts 1: 1-11
John 17: 1-11

Sermon **Jesus intercedes for His own** **Rev. Sabino Diok**

Hymn **#768 Sometimes a healing word is comfort** *

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 **Chorus-Allegro: Hallelujah** **Messiah HWV 56—G.F. Handel**

Prayer for our Offering **Darlene Sagert**

Hymn **#267 Rejoice, the Lord is King** †

Benediction

Amen **#264 Sing Amen** ***

Postlude **"Benedictus"** **Mass in G major D. 167—F. Schubert**

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

*Thank you to our guest musicians for their contributions to this worship service:
Troy Deren and Paul Scholz, trumpets, Katarina Bohdan and Sora Kim, violins
Rob Maciak, percussion*

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As the season of Eastertide closes, today's service is full of celebratory music. The hope is that this music is meaningful as well as inspirational.

Worship begins with **W.A. Mozart's** "*Church Sonata in C major*" K 263 which features all of today's guest musicians. This work is an Epistle sonata, and would have been inserted into the worship setting between the Epistle and the Gospel (hence the name). Mozart wrote 17 Epistle sonatas for various instrumentations. After Mozart left his posting in Salzburg, these works generally fell into disuse as the Archbishop mandated the use of a choral motet or congregational hymn in their place.



There are two selections from **G.F. Handel's** oratorio *Messiah*. Today's music is from the third part of this work, which deals with the themes of Christ's resurrection. Perfect Easter music! Since this Sunday is Ascension Sunday, it is a great time to present the aria "*The Trumpet Shall Sound*" as well as the famous chorus finishing the second half of the oratorio "*Hallelujah*".

The postlude "Benedictus" is from **F. Schubert's** *Mass in G major*. Amazingly (but not surprising given Schubert's prodigious compositional skills) the whole mass setting was composed in less than a week! Benedictus translated from Latin is "blessed". This is the second to last movement and uses the text "*benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini*" (blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord). Scored for strings, organ continuo and a trio of voices, it is a melodious way to finish our worship today.

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.

May 21

Rev. Sabino Diok

May 28 Pentecost

Rev. Jake Van Pernis

June 4 All ages worship with communion

Rev. Jake Van Pernis

Register for 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. The congregation is reminded to register for the meeting on the church website no later than May 24.

Please note the Calgary Marathon is this day.

Congregational Lunch & Annual General Meeting

Sunday, May 28, 2023
After Worship

RSVP at www.GraceChurchCalgary.com



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Life and Work at Grace Church

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/



Marathon

Please note that Servus Credit Union Marathon is being held May 28 (same day as AGM).

www.calgarymarathon.com/info/road-closures/

Opening Classroom Doors Initiative

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Worship Leaders

Living Faith reminds us that “we have no higher calling than to offer the worship that belongs to God day by day, Sunday by Sunday”. There are many opportunities to participate in the leadership of worship at Grace: praying, reading scripture, lighting candles, receiving our offerings, singing and ringing handbells, and more.

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

Twenty volunteers take turns greeting worshippers each Sunday morning, providing a warm welcome and assisting with questions. The Welcomers help to demonstrate the hospitality that Grace shares. Grace gives thanks for the graciousness and dedication of these volunteers.

Grace Updates

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/



Session Highlights

At its regular meeting on May 8, 2023, the Session:

- opened with reflection on Acts 17:22-31, reminding us that the “unknown God” is never far from each of us
- expressed gratitude for the recent Preaching Grace weekend, and offered prayer and thanks for the ministries of the Rev. Maren McLean Persaud and the Rev. Christian Persaud
- approved the appointment of Carol Evans as Alternate Elder to Presbytery for 2023-2024
- was informed that the Rev. Greg Smith will be stepping down as Interim Moderator for Grace at the end of May. Presbytery will appoint a new Interim Moderator
- approved in principle the concepts for improvements to the chapel, to be further developed by the Facilities Committee, with congregational open houses in June
- dismissed the Ad Hoc Chapel Renovation Committee with thanks
- agreed to recommend the draft 2022 financial statements to the congregation at the May 28 Annual General Meeting
- was advised that the agreements with the *pro tem* ministers have been finalized
- supported conducting a structural engineering review for the front steps
- approved updates to the Roll, which now stands at 379 Professing Members and 162 Adult Adherents
- appointed Mary Jardine as Co-Interim Clerk, working with Joanne Kellough in the next few months
- considered the implications of the World Health Organization ending the global state of emergency associated with COVID 19. No changes at Grace are planned at this time
- received reports on the progress of all the Committees, the Associate Minister, Engagement and Service, the Support Services Director, Volunteer Coordinator, and Communications Specialist
- closed with prayer and a blessing

[Grace Updates](#)

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/



Minister Resource Committee

Presbytery met Tuesday May 9 and voted to sustain the calls to Rev. Maren and Rev. Christian as “true gospel calls” with over 90% support from the Westminster congregation. Please continue to pray for Rev. Maren and Rev. Christian as they move forward. The induction service is planned for May 28 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 290 Edgepark Blvd. N.W., at 3:30 p.m.

Offering Plates

The practice of passing offering plates to receive financial offerings during worship will resume May 21. 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/

Introducing the Pro Tem Ministers

Minister Resource is very pleased to announce that Rev. Wendy has agreed to serve as Pro Tem Minister at Grace starting June 23. Rev. Wendy will be with us full-time through March 16, 2024, covering Rev. Jake’s parental leave. Rev. Wendy and Rev. Jake will have time in June to meet and ensure a smooth transition.

On September 1, Rev. Geoffrey Simmins will join Rev. Wendy to minister at Grace. Rev. Geoffrey has specialized in pastoral care and given his on-going hospital coordinator commitment, will serve at Grace 32 hours a week. It is hoped that they will be introduced to the congregation in June. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Minister Resource Committee.



Rev. Wendy Adams was ordained as an Elder in Grace Church, Calgary, in 1997. She served as Representative Elder to The Presbytery of Calgary-MacLeod from 1999-2004. Wendy was ordained to Ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2007 and called to St. Andrew's church in Armstrong, British Columbia where she served until 2015. She was elected Moderator of the Synod of British Columbia in 2011. In 2017 Wendy was appointed as the Minister of Children and Families at All Saints Anglican Church in Vernon where she oversaw the Sunday School and Messy Church program and assisted with a local refugee family. Wendy also has extensive experience as a leader of Spiritual Retreats and is a certified Spiritual Director.

Wendy is a committed advocate for justice and has served on several Not-For-Profit Boards and Committees. Wendy has served on the International Affairs Committee of General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for 6 years, 3 years as Convenor. Her primary focus was peace and justice for citizens of Israel and Palestine, and the intersection of this issue with the rights of First Nations Peoples in Canada. Wendy has also served as President and director for the Restorative Justice Society of the North Okanagan.

Prior to being in ministry, Wendy worked as a Land Secretary in the oil industry. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree, First Class Honours, Communications Major, from the University of Calgary in 1995. She has been married to her husband Greg for 33 years and they enjoy their role as Great-Aunt and Great-Uncle to their niece's growing family.



Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins is an ordained minister of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care. He has a particular interest in pastoral care and enjoys team ministry.

Recent ministry highlights include having served from 2020 to the present as the Interim Pastoral Care Minister at St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Calgary. In 2019, he served as a Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care for a Methodist-Presbyterian parish in New Zealand/Aotearoa. Geoffrey serves as the Hospital Ministry Coordinator for the Chinook Winds Region of the United Church of Canada. He has developed an orientation program for people visiting patients in hospital.

Before entering ministry, Geoffrey enjoyed a 25-year career as a professor, researcher, and administrator at the University of Calgary. He is a professor emeritus of art and architectural history.

Geoffrey is married to Joan. They are the parents of two grown sons. They are also the besotted grandparents of Ayla, who will be two this June.

Geoffrey looks forward to serving in team ministry with Rev. Wendy Adams and with the members and adherents at Grace.

Grace Events



www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/

Lunch and Learn about becoming a member of Grace

On Sunday, June 4, people interested in learning about membership at Grace Presbyterian Church are invited to a “lunch and learn” in Grace’s Board Room at 12:15 p.m. As lunch is shared there will be the opportunity to learn about the beliefs of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, what it means to be a member of Grace, and how Grace supports and shares its ministries within and outside its walls. Please let Rev. Jake know if you are interested by contacting the office at office@gracecalgary.org or 403-244-5861.

Help Support "A Place To Call Home"

In years past members from Grace have participated in *Coldest Night of the Year* to support KAIROS Calgary. This year a change has been made and an official walk is not happening, but there is still a way to help support KAIROS Calgary through an initiative called, “A Place To Call Home.” Financial donations can be given to this initiative to help pay down the mortgage on the Bankview Apartments which provides homes to a blend of single adults, couples and families who were previously homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

If you are interested in donating to “A Place To Call Home” or learning more about this initiative please go to the donation website:

www.homespace.org/walk-for-bankview

Donations are being accepted until May 31, 2023.

The Confession of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

In 1994, The Presbyterian Church in Canada adopted a confession recognizing the church's role in operating residential schools and the harm those schools caused to Indigenous children, their families and communities.

The Holy Spirit, speaking in and through Scripture, calls The Presbyterian Church in Canada to confession. This confession is our response to the word of God. We understand our mission and ministry in new ways in part because of the testimony of Aboriginal peoples.

1. We, the 120th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, seeking the guidance of the Spirit of God, and aware of our own sin and shortcomings, are called to speak to the Church we love. We do this, out of new understandings of our past not out of any sense of being superior to those who have gone before us, nor out of any sense that we would have done things differently in the same context. It is with humility and in great sorrow that we come before God and our Aboriginal brothers and sisters with our confession.

2. We acknowledge that the stated policy of the Government of Canada was to assimilate Aboriginal peoples to the dominant culture, and that The Presbyterian Church in Canada co-operated in this policy. We acknowledge that the roots of the harm we have done are found in the attitudes and values of western European colonialism, and the assumption that what was not yet moulded in our image was to be discovered and exploited. As part of that policy we, with other churches, encouraged the government to ban some important spiritual practices through which Aboriginal peoples experienced the presence of the creator God. For the Church's complicity in this policy we ask forgiveness.

3. We recognize that there were many members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada who, in good faith, gave unstintingly of themselves in love and compassion for their Aboriginal brothers and sisters. We acknowledge their devotion and commend them for their work. We recognize that there were some who, with prophetic insight, were aware of the damage that was being done and protested, but their efforts were thwarted. We acknowledge their insight. For the times we did not support them adequately nor hear their cries for justice, we ask forgiveness.

4. We confess that The Presbyterian Church in Canada presumed to know better than Aboriginal peoples what was needed for life. The Church said of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, "If they could be like us, they could think like us, talk like us, worship like us, sing like us, and work like us, they would know God and therefore would have life abundant." In our cultural arrogance we have been blind to the ways in which our own understanding of the Gospel has been culturally conditioned, and because of our insensitivity to Aboriginal cultures, we have demanded more of the Aboriginal people than the Gospel requires, and have thus misrepresented Jesus Christ who loves all peoples with compassionate, suffering love that all may come to God through him. For the Church's presumption we ask forgiveness.

5. We confess that, with the encouragement and assistance of the Government of Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada agreed to take the children of Aboriginal peoples from their own homes and place them in residential schools. In these schools, children were deprived of their traditional ways, which were replaced with Euro-Canadian customs that were helpful in the process of assimilation. To carry out this process, The Presbyterian Church in Canada used disciplinary practices which were foreign to Aboriginal peoples, and open to exploitation in physical and psychological punishment beyond any Christian maxim of care and discipline. In a setting of obedience and acquiescence there was opportunity for sexual abuse, and some were so abused. The effect of all this, for Aboriginal peoples, was the loss of cultural identity and the loss of a secure sense of self. For the Church's insensitivity we ask forgiveness.

6. We regret that there are those whose lives have been deeply scarred by the effects of the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. For our Church we ask forgiveness of God. It is our prayer that God, who is merciful, will guide us in compassionate ways towards helping them to heal.

7. We ask, also, for forgiveness from Aboriginal peoples. What we have heard we acknowledge. It is our hope that those whom we have wronged with a hurt too deep for telling will accept what we have to say. With God's guidance our Church will seek opportunities to walk with Aboriginal peoples to find healing and wholeness together as God's people.



Notes

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