

## Weeds among the wheat

JULY 23, 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. Dr. Jean Morris  
Interim Moderator

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis  
Associate Minister, Engagement and Service (on parental leave)

The Rev. Wendy Adams  
Pro Tem Minister

Matt Kallio  
Music Coordinator

Please find Online Worship at:



**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 Nation, 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: Partita in B flat major BWV 825** J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
**Preludio—Sarabande—Minuet I & II**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Jim Campbell**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Ainsley**

## **Call To Worship**

In this place of holiness we come with our fears,  
our doubts, and all the questions of our hearts.

**We come to this place, to hear the words of peace,  
hope, and joy God speaks to us.**

In this place of discovery we come searching.

**We come to this place, to find the One who has been  
looking for us.**

In this place of openness we come knocking.

**We come to this place, to be embraced by the One  
whose heart is never locked.**

Come, let us worship the Lord who forgives all our sins  
and pardons all our iniquities.

Come let us worship.

**Hymn # 411 Stand up and bless the Lord**

†

**Prayer of Adoration**

**Rev. Wendy Adams**

## Rite of Reconciliation

### Prayer of Confession

Holy God, holy and mighty, have mercy on us.  
Before God, with the people of God, we confess  
to our brokenness, to the ways we wound our lives,  
the lives of others and the life of the world.  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.  
Amen.

### Words of Forgiveness

#### The Peace

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

**Hymn** # 422 Sing a new song unto the Lord \*

### Time with Young Christians

**Prayer for Understanding** Colleen Charter

**Scripture** Genesis 28: 10-19a  
Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24 (Responsive, Sing Refrain III)  
Matthew 13: 44-52 Rev. Wendy Adams

**Sermon** Weeds among the wheat

**Hymn** # 675 Precious Lord, take my hand \*

## Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Len Wolstenholme

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

### Offertory Music

**Hymn** #306 Praise God from whom all blessings flow \*  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures high and low;  
praise God in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

## Prayer for Our Offering

Estel Latchman

**Hymn** # 639 We are marching / Siyahamba \*

## Benediction

**Amen** # 780 Amen †

**Postlude** Partita in B flat major BWV 825 J.S. Bach  
Gigue

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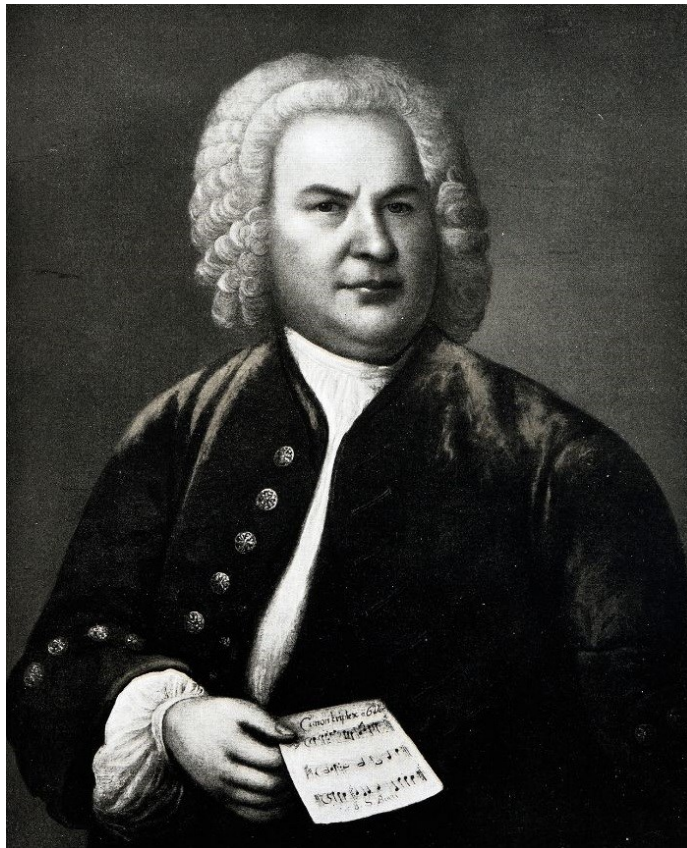
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† Public Domain

## Music Notes

Matt Kallio

This morning, with our organ out of commission for maintenance, we offer our worship music on the piano.



### Partita in B flat major BWV 825:

Originally the 17<sup>th</sup> century name for a single piece of music, the *partita* evolved into a collection of pieces in the late baroque. Often a set of dances, the name is interchangeable with *suite*.

J.S. Bach's Clavier-Ubung (translation: keyboard exercises) contains six partitas. To call them "exercises" in the sense of a student keyboard exercise both vastly underemphasizes the challenge of playing them and shows the high level of expectation from old Johann's students. We hear a gentle and cleverly composed Prelude based on a recurring stepwise ascending ornamented passage, a Sarabande (a slow dance that evolved from Spanish music), plus two minuets. Capping off our partita today is the quintessential way to end a suite— a lively

## Life and Work at Grace Church

[www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/)



### **Worship Services**

- ◇ Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in-person.
- ◇ Livestreamed to watch anytime at [www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/)
- ◇ The South Sudanese community meets Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel.
- ◇ The Anuak community meets Sundays at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

**July 23**

**The Rev. Wendy Adams**

**July 30**

**The Rev. Wendy Adams**

### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

We plan to celebrate The Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, August 13. Please contact Rev. Wendy if you would like to receive the sacrament for yourself or your child.

**Summer Sunday School** is underway! Leaders share lessons, games, arts and crafts, as Grace Kids connect with the biblical stories of Noah's Ark, Jonah, Jesus walking on water, Jesus and the woman at the well and Lydia helping Paul.

### **Grace Leadership**

Have you wondered who is on which committee of Session? Please find a listing as of this month on the website at: <https://gracechurchcalgary.com/about/ourteam/>  
Printed copies are also available at the doors.

### **Photo Directory**

We are preparing a new photo directory here at Grace this fall. The project team has started work and a photography company has been hired. Photos of individuals and families who are part of our congregation, as well as group and activity pictures, will be included in the directory. We encourage everyone to take part. Individuals and families who participate will receive a complimentary copy of the photo directory book. Sign up for photography appointments will be early in October with the pictures being taken October 28 - November 4.

Please direct any questions to the church office. If you would like to volunteer with the project, please contact Cindy Stephenson. Stay tuned for regular updates.

## **Offering Plates**

After several weeks of resuming the practice of passing the offering plates during service, there have been suggestions to simplify our approach. Offering plates will be distributed at all entrances to the sanctuary for worshippers to place their gifts. During the offertory, the plates will be gathered and brought to the front, to dedicate our gifts in response to God's generosity to us.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Children and Youth**

Planning for the regular Church School year starting in September is underway – please prayerfully consider how you might support this ministry with your time and talent.

### **Sound System Operator**

Each Sunday morning, a dedicated volunteer operates the sound system in support of our worship. One additional operator to share the schedule about once every 3 or 4 weeks would be very welcome. The schedule is flexible and training will be provided.

### **ELL Coordinator**

The English Language Learner (“ELL”) program helps dozens of people become more confident in their conversational English, in a safe and encouraging environment. Currently the program runs for 30 weeks on Monday mornings, from September through June. The ELL Coordinator supports volunteer leaders by arranging resources and organizes communication, student registration and facilities requirements with staff. ANOTHER VOLUNTEER HAS ALREADY STEPPED FORWARD TO SERVE AS BACK-UP. Volunteering for the ELL Coordinator position is a way to help make a positive difference in the lives of many people.

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

## **Thank You**

Each Sunday, volunteers share announcements, light the Christ candle, lead the Call to Worship, pray, read Scripture and present our offerings. This lay participation reminds us of the priesthood of all believers, where each of us “may proclaim the excellence of [God], who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light”. We give thanks for the willingness of these believers to share in the leadership of our worship.

## Grace Updates



### Stained Glass Window Restoration Project



In the coming weeks and months, Rubaiyat Stained Glass Studio will be restoring and preserving nine stained glass windows in the Sanctuary and front entrance of Grace Church. Windows will be removed one at a time and reinstalled when repairs are complete. Each window is expected to take from eight to 16 weeks.

Our sincere thanks to those who have already contributed to this project. To date \$23,000 of the estimated cost of \$60,000 has been donated! Please refer to the website [www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/) for more information on the **Stained Glass Window Restoration Project** and how you can become involved.

### Presbyterian Connection

Please help yourself to a copy of the summer edition of Presbyterian Connection, the newspaper highlighting initiatives and people across The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Copies are available at the entrances to the sanctuary and around the building.



## Session Highlights

At its regular meeting on July 10, the Session:

- reflected on Acts 15 and the faithful work of the early church leaders to follow the Holy Spirit and find consensus
- welcomed the Rev. Wendy Adams to the meeting
- gave thanks for the arrival of Madeline Louise Van Pernis
- identified opportunities for additional communications to the congregation about committee membership
- agreed upon clarifications on the ministry model and plans to work with the Rev. Jake Van Pernis to update his position description, engaging the congregation as appropriate
- appointed Cindy Stephenson to serve as Convenor of the Preaching Grace Committee
- approved a mission project for Pastor Olul Owiti and Mrs. Achwor Omot to train and counsel Christian pastors in Gambella, Ethiopia, with a steering committee to address and mitigate personal safety, financial and legal risks
- appointed Carol Latter as Co-Convenor of the Spiritual Growth Committee
- approved the baptisms of three children
- received and considered additional updates from the Lead Minister Search, Finance, Minister Resource, Pastoral Care, Governance and Planning, and Facilities Committees, the Representative Elder, the Pro-Tem Minister, the Interim Moderator, the Rev. Jake Van Pernis, and the Communications Specialist. The Session expressed its gratitude for the faithful work of so many in the ministries of Grace
- closed with prayer, remembering especially those who are grieving, facing health challenges and those who are celebrating



## Engagement and Service Spotlight

### Single Use Disposable Cups

It might seem harmless to stop at your local coffee shop and grab a coffee to go; but have you considered the impact of that choice? Did you know that 500 billion disposable coffee cups are used globally each year? It equates to 20 million trees and 3.7 billion pounds of waste generated each year to produce the cups.

Quite sobering, isn't it? That a simple coffee cup could have such an effect? Every minute, 1 million single use coffee cups are sent to the landfill. Canada discards over 1.5 billion disposable hot drink cups annually.

Robert Swan said that "the greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it". Our choices have an impact. With that in mind, we'd like your help to change the amount of disposable cups we use at Grace.

For the next two weeks, we will have "Idea Boxes" at each coffee station during fellowship hour. Please bring forward your ideas for how we can move away from using disposable cups.

source: <https://blog.gitnux.com/coffee-cup-waste-statistics/>

## Mission Moment



The PCC's partnership with Theological Education by Extension in Malawi began 45 years ago when the Rev. Charles Scott helped establish a lay training program at the request of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Blantyre Synod and other churches. The distance learning program is open to anyone who wants to study the Bible and theology. It has opened doors for women and working church leaders who want to deepen their biblical and theological knowledge and be better equipped to serve. During these challenging times, the Rev. Chimwemwe Mitengo, Executive Director, is thankful for the PCC's continued partnership and support through Presbyterians Sharing.

## **Grace Presbyterian Church**

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