

THE SHOCKING SURPRISE

July 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. 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: Suite in B flat - HWV 434
Prelude - Aria con Variazioni

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Welcome and Announcements

Marlene Doherty

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call To Worship

Give thanks to God and call on God's holy name.

We will tell of God's wonderful works!

Let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

We will sing God's praises!

Give glory to God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

We will remember God's mercy in all our words and actions.

Hymn # 290 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

†

Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Wendy Adams

Rite of Reconciliation

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Merciful God,
We confess we are not always merciful people.
We turn away in anger rather than seek solutions.
We criticize those who differ from us in culture or conviction,
rather than seek understanding.
We can hold grudges for a lifetime.
Forgive us our failures to live out the mercy
we claim from you week by week.
Open our hearts with your great love.
Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

The Peace

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

Hymn # 474 The love of God comes close *

Time with Young Christians Zoe Say

Prayer for Understanding Ian Charter

Scripture Psalm 119: 129-136 (Responsive, sing refrain II)
Romans 8: 26-29
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Sermon The shocking surprise

Hymn # 590 We have this ministry *

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

Offertory Music Offertory on Slane

Doug Denisen

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

Judith Podewils

Hymn # 461 Be thou my vision *

Benediction

Amen # 780 Amen †

Postlude The Solid Rock

William Bradbury
arr: Larry Shackley (b.1956)

We thank guest flautist Paul Xu this morning. Paul is a regular at Grace, having lent his beautiful playing to our music ministry many times in the past.

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Welcome to worship! This week the final touches were put on our organ repairs and I'm pleased to report that the air chests are good as new. Today's music is on piano as there was not sufficient time to practice it on the organ following the repairs!

Our prelude today is from G.F. Handel's Suite in Bb major; it is a delightful set of theme and variations. It follows a typical Handelian approach to varying, elaboration in the right hand then left, a meter change to 12/8 among other tricks to elaborate on the original theme. This particular aria and variations have a connection with later music as it is this piece that Johannes Brahms took his inspiration from for his famous piano work "Variations and Fugue on a theme by Handel" Op. 24.

We finish the service with a piece by the American composer/arranger Larry Shackley. Shackley is an active composer, arranger and orchestrator for radio, church and choral groups. His work has garnered him multiple ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) awards. This postlude piece is a Latin American-inspired arrangement of hymn tune "The Solid Rock" by William Bradbury.

Mission Moment



Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, pastors and church workers of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Western Ukraine, have been serving tirelessly, providing spiritual support to those who remained and warmly welcoming refugees and internally displaced people from Eastern and Central Ukraine. Recognizing the dedication and work of these faithful servants, the Reformed Church in

Hungary established a solidarity fund and invited partner churches to join in providing encouragement and financial support. The PCC, through Presbyterians Sharing, along with the First Hungarian Presbyterian Church in East Toronto, Ontario, responded by contributing to the fund, which aims to support 100 pastors and church staff in Transcarpathia with a monthly financial supplement of \$360 CAD.

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/
- ◇ Fellowship in the Family Room immediately following Worship each Sunday.
- ◇ 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.

Aug 6

The Rev. Sabino Diok

Aug 13 Baptism Sunday

The Rev. Wendy Adams

Please contact Rev. Wendy if you would like to receive the sacrament for yourself or your child.

Summer Sunday School Welcome children! 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. Those 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.

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. We have a volunteer who will 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 to learn more about the many volunteer opportunities at Grace.

Thank You

Freda Pascoe volunteered in the church office this week, so that staff could train on new software supporting our livestreaming worship. Thank you Freda!

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. We are two thirds of the way to the \$60,000 goal—all donations are welcome, from \$5 to sponsoring a window. Please refer to the website www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/ for more information on the Stained Glass Window Restoration Project and how you can become involved.

Barbara Henson

Stewardship Committee

Grace Presbyterian Church

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