

LIFE PRESERVERS

August 13, 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 C Major** **Bux WV 226** **Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)**
Allemande - Courante - Sarabande I & II

Welcome and Announcements

Len Wolstenholme

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Pauline

Call To Worship

There are varieties of gifts,
but the same Spirit.

There are varieties of service,
but the same Lord.

There are varieties of activity,
but the same God activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given a gift by the Spirit,
to use it for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

Though we have different gifts, together we are called to be the church
with a ministry in the world which is led by the risen Christ.

Come let us worship the Lord together.

Hymn **# 434 For the beauty of the earth**

†

Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Wendy Adams

Rite of Reconciliation

Confession

Forgive us, Lord Jesus Christ.
We repent of our negligence to share the good news,
and pray for your mercy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Words of Forgiveness

The Peace

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

Hymn # 519 Jesus, friend so kind and gentle

†

Time with Young Christians

Anyuak Community Baptismal Song

Sacrament of Baptism

Ochala Omot Obang, son of Aromo Ojlu and Omot Obang

Otak Otong Jr., son of Awt Okw and Otak Otong

Taek Okack Obang, daughter, and **Duwato Okack Obang**, son of Ajulu Opte and Okach Agwa Obang

Aparr Metho Agwa, son of Awli Omot and Agura Ablla Oman

Juana Isaiah Peter Agolory, daughter of Juana Gilloriet and Isaiah Peter Agolory

Kai Rowen Locken, son of Heather Rose Locken and Michael Locken

Kaira Isabella Okagbue Day, daughter of Divine Nneka Aiko Okagbue and Ian Alexander Cornock Day

Baptism is a gift from God.

With visible signs and words of promise, God moves toward us to claim us as children of the new covenant and members of the household of God. In baptism, God acts to unite us to Christ, to deliver us from the power of sin and death, and call us into a new life of growth and service.

The Sacrament of Baptism is not something we do, but a symbol of what God has done for us in Christ. God's grace and our response to it are not tied to the moment of baptism, but continue and deepen throughout life. Baptism is meant for those who profess their faith and for their children. Together we are the family of God.

So let us take courage. The promises of God are for us and for our children. Let us move forward through the waters trusting in the faithfulness of God, secure in the love made known in Jesus Christ. Baptism assures us that we belong to God. In life and in death our greatest comfort is that we belong to our faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.

Who comes to receive the gift of baptism?

On behalf of the session, I present these persons, to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Ladies and gentlemen, putting your whole trust in the grace and love of Jesus Christ, do you desire to have your child baptised?

We do.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God who has been faithful to us in all generations, do you turn away from sin, renounce all evil powers in the world which rebel against God or oppose God's rule of justice and love?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin which separate you from the love of God?

We renounce them.

Will you be responsible for nurturing these persons in the faith and life of the Christian community?

We will, with God's help.

Will you, by your prayers and witness help these persons grow into their life in Christ?

We will, with God's help.

People of God, will you promise to uphold and support these persons in their life in Christ?

We will, with God's help.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

The Act of Baptising

Hymn #619 Aaronic Blessing

†

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace.

Prayer for Understanding

Okwayi Obang

Scripture Psalm 85:8-13 (Responsive, sing refrain II)

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

Sermon Life Preservers

Hymn # 325 Eternal Father, strong to save

†

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 There is a fountain

Trad. American melody
arr: Philip Keveren (B. 1961)

Hymn #425 We praise you, O God v1

†

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

Prayer for Our Offering

Lana Peltier

Hymn # 651 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

†

Benediction

Amen # 780 Amen

†

Postlude Suite in C Major Bux WV 226 Gigue

Dietrich Buxtehude

Many thanks to the Anyuak community and Pastor Olul Owiti for assisting this morning in our worship service.

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† Public Domain

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 Anyuak community meets Sundays at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Aug 20

The Rev. Terry Fach

Aug 27

The Rev. Terry Fach

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.

Youth Lunch

After worship on Sunday, August 20, Grace Youth (Grades 7 through 12) are invited to join Youth Leaders for lunch at a nearby eatery. Meet at the front of the Sanctuary. Return time to the south parking lot is expected around 1:30 p.m. Contact gracekids@gracecalgary.org to sign up.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Joan Thomson at her passing. A memorial service will be held at Grace on August 16, at 11:00 a.m. All are invited to a reception at 2:00 p.m. at Calgary Golf and Country Club.

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jim Nichol who passed away August 2. A memorial is planned for August 17 at 2:00 p.m. at Grace with reception to follow in the Family Room.

Celebration of the lives of Ken and Sheila Grogan will take place with a memorial service at Grace on August 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel with a reception to follow in the Family Room.

Thank You

The Pastoral Care Committee seeks to be responsive to the spiritual and physical needs of those within, and just outside our doors. Currently it includes: Jim Campbell (Session Co-Liaison), Nancy Connors (Convener), Margot Kellough, Jiebieni Nyajwok (Session Co-Liaison), Okwayi Obang, Robin Tomlinson and Shirley Walker. Together with the Deacons, Active Elders and Ministers, they oversee and support programs to help us live into all our values and especially compassion, belonging and community. Thank you.

Volunteer Opportunities

Children and Youth

Planning for the regular Church School year starting in September is underway. If you would like to know what a volunteer role looks like in this area, you are invited to just come down and see. Then please 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.

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

Music Notes

Matt Kallio

As our organ continues to be repaired, music this week includes some great selections for piano.

The suite in C Major by Dietrich Buxtehude would technically not qualify as piano music, but rather harpsichord music; however, not being a purist, I love hearing it on either instrument. Buxtehude was a leading figure in the German baroque influencing many major musicians after him, most notably a 20 year old Johann Sebastian Bach who made a 12-day trek across Germany to meet the older musician in Lubeck (not an easy, or safe feat to accomplish in those days). Buxtehude influenced the young Bach's style profoundly,, especially in his use of the "stylus fantasticus" (a rhapsodic, improvisatory style of writing keyboard music) which can be heard quite clearly in some of Bach's keyboard works, for example, his toccatas or preludes. The suite heard this morning is a textbook example of an early suite, a collection of dances beginning with an Allemande followed by a Courante, and two Sarabands. We conclude with a Gigue as our postlude.

In honour of today's baptisms, our offertory music is the traditional American baptismal tune *There is a Fountain* by William Cowper, arranged in a jazzy style by prolific American musician Philip Keveren. The words (v 4) are:

*E'er since by faith I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die:
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.*

Grace Updates



Lead Minister Search

Many thanks to all for your continued prayers and support. The Lead Minister Search Committee will be holding its regular monthly meeting Sunday August 13 and we welcome any comments, questions or suggestions you wish to share.

Updates include:

- The Committee is in conversation with several interesting candidates and we pray God will guide the Committee and the candidates in this process.
- The Lead Minister Position Description and PCC information have been updated to reflect changes at Grace and we invite you to view the updated Position Description on Grace's website.
- We are very thankful for Rev. Dr. Jean Morris' contributions as Interim Moderator.

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 over 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.



With sincere gratitude,
Barbara Henson
Stewardship Committee

Grace Events



Summer Plans for Grieving in God's Grace

You are invited to join the Grieving in God's Grace group gatherings in August.

If you have been thinking about joining us for a session, but haven't done so yet, this is a great opportunity to check it out for yourself. For more information contact office@gracecalgary.org

Wednesday, August 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall (lower level), and Wednesday, August 30 from 11: 00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Family Room.

We will spend an hour in a group session followed by a time of fellowship as we enjoy lunch together. We look forward to welcoming you.

Elizabeth Cressman and Barbara Henson, Coordinators

In Community

Hunger Crisis in East Africa

East Africa is currently facing a severe humanitarian crisis.

Conflicts, such as those in Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo, are forcing thousands of families from their homes. Furthermore,

extreme climate weather events across the Horn of Africa have created high levels of hunger. PWS&D is currently supporting food assistance responses in Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan, where food baskets, health and nutrition services and food vouchers are being provided to those in need.

However, the need is still great, and we need to scale up our response significantly.

For more information on the life-changing work of Presbyterian World Service & Development, please visit <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/>



Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly.



INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY

WITH RICHARD TOPPING

VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

RICHARD TOPPING

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY I (TH500)

The purpose of this course is to further understanding of major Christian teachings in loving engagement with God and the world in the context of the contemporary church. It covers central themes of Christian teaching (e.g., revelation, scripture, Trinity, creation, sin, Christ, reconciliation, Holy Spirit, church and hope) as well as contemporary critiques and reformulations of the faith in the light of Scripture, tradition, experience and imagination. The goal of the course is doxological: to learn to praise God who is revealed in Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

WEDNESDAYS, 6 - 9PM (PT)
SEPT 13TH TO DEC 15TH, 2023
In-Person & Online

THE COURSE CAN BE AUDITED
OR TAKEN FOR CREDIT

QUESTIONS?
Contact Joyce Huang, Registrar
registrar@vst.edu

VST.EDU

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