

UNLEASHING HEAVEN

August 27, 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
Interim Minister

Matt Kallio
Music Coordinator

Please find Online Worship at:



Grace Presbyterian Church
Transforming lives through God's grace

Rite of Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess
that we have strayed from your purposes.
You set a path for us to follow, but we conform to the ways of this
world.
You give each of us gifts to use for the work of your kingdom,
but we wait for others to do what needs doing.
Forgive us for taking the easy way out,
and renew in us the eagerness and energy to serve. Amen

Words of Forgiveness

The Peace

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

Hymn # 648 I'm gonna live so God can use me †

Time with Young Christians

Prayer for Understanding Carol Latter

Scripture Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138 (Responsive, sing refrain I)
Matthew 16:13-20 The Rev. Terry Fach

Sermon Unleashing Heaven

Hymn # 635 Brother, sister, let me serve you

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 Variations on Lobe den Herren Christa Rakich (b. 1952)

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

Dave Caldwell

Hymn # 757 Come sing, O church, in joy!

Benediction

Amen # 780 Amen

†

Postlude Toccata in g minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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PCC The Presbyterian Church in Canada

† 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 27

The Rev. Terry Fach

The Rev. Terry Fach has been the Campus Chaplain at Ambrose University (Calgary) since 2013. He was planter and pastor of a church in Calgary for sixteen years, and before that taught philosophy and theology at Ambrose. Educated at Canadian Nazarene College and Oxford University, he is married to Ruth, and they are the parents of two adult daughters.

Sept 3

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins

Upcoming Dates for children and youth at Grace

- Sunday August 27: Last day of Summer Sunday School
- Sunday September 3: All Ages Worship
- Sunday September 10: Commissioning of teachers and helpers
First Sunday of Church school

Thank You

The Finance Committee manages and stewards Grace's financial resources and reports regularly on the financial position. The Committee is tasked with developing and overseeing implementation of a comprehensive plan that aligns with the strategic priorities of the Session. Currently, David Caldwell (Convener), Heather Christie-Burns, Bob Ernter, Alan Facey (Support Services Director), Rob McDonald (Treasurer), Iain Robertson (Session Co-Liaison), Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet (Session Co-Liaison) and Bill Stemp bring their expertise and commitment to this work. Thank you.

Volunteer Opportunities

Children and Youth

We almost have a full complement of Church School leaders to start the fall. Please consider helping with this ministry one Sunday per month. The curriculum is easy and there is lots of support to make it fun.

Grace Satellite Food Bank

The Grace Food Bank has been operating at capacity on Thursdays and so we have been asked if we could expand this service to the community to also operate on Tuesday afternoons. Please let us know if you might be interested in this much needed ministry.

English Language Learner (ELL) Program Leaders

We're delighted that the English Language Learner (ELL) program begins October 16, co-coordinated by Daniel Met and Mary Jardine. There is need for at least one more class leader to be able to offer a beginner class. The commitment is Monday mornings, 9:30 to 11:30, at Grace. There are many resources and the experience of helping newcomers practice their conversational English in a safe and non-threatening environment is very rewarding.

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

Good morning, Grace Presbyterian!

Today's music includes two beautiful baroque gems and one modern, based on baroque style. Our prelude is a chorale partita by Georg Bohm. His work was highly influential to other German organists at the time including Johann Sebastian Bach, who greatly admired the older musician's style. Besides his inventive preludes and fugues, Bohm is particularly known for his development of the chorale partita, a form he is credited with inventing. It combines the German chorale prelude with the Italian variation canzona to create a multi-movement work that takes a hymn tune (chorale) as its theme and varies on it in clever ways. Today's chorale partita uses the tune *Wer nur den lieben Gott lasst walten* (translation: He who allows dear God to rule him).



Our offertory *Variations on Lobe den Herren* is subtitled *homage to Pachelbel*. Here, American organist Christa Rakich creates some lovely variations based on our opening hymn tune *Lobe den Herren* (Praise to the Lord, the Almighty). Rakich is a brilliant organist, having performed extensively throughout North America and Europe as well as holding positions as organist at Westminster Choir College, University of Connecticut as well as Harvard University. In today's variations she cleverly uses idioms from Johann Pachelbel's style to good effect.

Finally, we finish with an actual piece by Pachelbel, his *Toccatà in g minor*. The etymology of the word *toccatà* comes from the Italian *toccare*, meaning "to touch". The *toccatà* evolved from an improvised piece that allowed the player to try out (or "to touch") the instrument. Usually this involved some fast figurations and scale work to test the mettle of the instrument in question. Thus, the *toccatà* morphed into a brilliant, grand piece with an improvisatory flair.

Grace Updates



Minister Resource Update

The Rev. Wendy Adams started her term June 23, 2023 and will complete her time at Grace March 16, 2024.

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins will start September 1, 2023 and continue at Grace until June 30, 2024.

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis is scheduled to return to work March 17, 2024. From that time until June 30, he and The Rev. Simmins will work together to complete ministerial responsibilities.

The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris began June 1, 2023 as Interim Moderator. Her responsibilities are primarily to Moderate the Session, work with the Search Committee, oversee the work of the Interim Ministers, ensure a ministry plan is in place and the pulpit is filled.

2023 – 2024 Ministry Expectations and Responsibilities

The expectations for this interim ministry shall be to encourage the congregation to move forward and live into its mission. It is further expected that the two Interim Ministers will work collaboratively when their respective terms of service overlap, to fulfill the responsibilities outlined below.

General Responsibilities include:

- preaching and worship planning with the Music Coordinator three times/month
- welcome and worship planning with any Visiting Ministers
- celebrating the sacraments
- conducting weddings and officiating at funerals
- resourcing the Spiritual Growth Committee
- conducting and providing oversight of Bible and book studies
- oversight of the Music Coordinator and the Nursery Supervisor
- provide emergency pastoral care

Both Ministers will be required to:

- develop a work plan to fulfill said responsibilities
- provide monthly reports to Session
- attend meetings of the Minister Resource Committee
- communicate with the Interim Moderator
- work collegially with the Support Services Director to ensure integration of ministry and staff work undergirded by effective operational management and a positive staff culture
- fulfil other tasks as assigned by Session

The Rev. Adams will be required to:

- resource the Youth and Sunday School Team
- resource the Engagement & Service Committee
- attend regular and emergent meetings of Session
- provide a report at the end of the interim ministry agreement

The Rev. Simmins will be required to:

- provide pastoral care
- resource the Pastoral Care Committee including expanding the Deacon program
- resource Preaching Grace
- teach about the contemplative tradition generally and Christian meditation specifically
- provide a report at the end of the interim ministry agreement

Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Thursday, July 27 marked the 110th anniversary of the dedication of Grace Presbyterian Church. To mark this significant milestone, the Stewardship Committee, with the support of Session, initiated a campaign to engage the congregation in the repair and restoration of nine stained glass windows that were identified as requiring urgent restoration and preservation. In total, there are fifty-three individual stained glass windows throughout the church. The Project was launched on July 1, and on Sunday, August 20, we exceeded our goal of \$60,000. Our sincere thanks to the generous donors who supported this project.

Over the next several months, Rubaiyat Stained Glass Studio will be repairing and restoring the nine stained-glass windows, one at a time. Any excess donations will be held in trust for future stained glass window restorations.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

2 Corinthians:9:12

With sincere gratitude,

Barbara Henson

Stewardship Committee



Financial Update July 31, 2023

Financial Update July 31, 2023 (select financial information)

	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD
	July 31, 2023	July 31, 2023	July 31, 2022
	\$	\$	\$
Total Receipts	351,897	405,633	370,450
Operational Disbursements	739,513	944,034	801,263
Deficit from Operations	(387,616)	(535,401)	(430,802)
Surplus (Deficit)	77,346	(289,984)	(647,744)

The complete financial report for July is available on Grace's website.

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/givingandfinancials/

Grace Congregation Photo Directory

We encourage everyone to participate in the exciting new photo directory project which we are undertaking here at Grace this fall. This is a wonderful way to get to know one another and our church better. Photos of individuals and families will be taken here at Grace beginning on October 28 and you will be able to make a photography appointment beginning late in September. Please call the church office if you have questions.

Grace Events

Summer Plans for "Grieving in God's Grace"

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

11:00 am to 1:00 pm, Family Room



If you have been thinking about joining us for a session this is a great opportunity to check it out.

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

For more information contact office@gracecalgary.org

Elizabeth Cressman and Barbara Henson

In Community

Mission Moment



In Malawi, Alifonsina Banda, a 26-year-old mother, took part in vocational skills training through the PWS&D-supported *Every Girl Empowered* project. Despite the long-standing perception in her community that electronics courses are not for girls, Alifonsina challenged herself and enrolled in the electronics course. Since completing the class, she has repaired phones, installed satellite dishes, and worked as an electrician, earning a sustainable income from her business. “After the course, I had the most wonderful festive season in my life. I may not be able to remember how much money I made, but I had a client almost every day,” she shares. In the future, Alifonsina plans to open an electronics shop to sell spare parts and is thankful that the *Every Girl Empowered* project has given her a lifelong opportunity to improve the financial opportunities for herself and her family.

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

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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