

MORE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR

September 24, 2023

10:30 am



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 (parental leave)
Assoc. Minister, Engagement & Service

The Rev. Wendy Adams
Interim Minister

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins
Interim Minister

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 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 Cantantibus Organis

G.P. Palestrina

Welcome and Announcements

Mary Jardine

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Giyth

Introit Let the Whole Creation Cry

Ian Charter (b. 1954)

Call To Worship

The kingdom of God is like this: a place where the last will be rewarded the same as the first.

God is generous, pouring out goodness like water on thirsty earth, more goodness than we can imagine.

Let us stand firm in one spirit, celebrating that God has graciously granted us the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well.

We will watch and listen for signs of God's grace, rejoicing in God's presence and praising God's holy name. Let us worship God.

Hymn # 96 Let us with a gladsome mind

†

Prayer of Adoration

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins

Rite of Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

God, you are the giver of all good gifts, yet our generosity is often limited.

We complain about our lot.

We compare ourselves to others and see what they have that we lack.

We share some of what we have, but we worry about running short.

Forgive us our worries about tomorrow and give us generous hearts that trust in you day by day.

The Peace

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

And also with you.

Anthem **God is with me always**

Weider/Althouse

Time with Young Christians

Hymn **# 585 Christ, you call us all to service**

*

Prayer for Understanding

Nancy Connors

Scriptures **Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 (responsive, sing refrain I)**

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

The Rev. Wendy Adams

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon **More than you bargained for**

Hymn # 769 Lord of light, whose name and splendour †

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 I Must Tell Jesus Elisha A. Hoffman/Arr: Larry Shackley

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 Ephraim Porter

Hymn # 651 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer †

Benediction

Amen # 780 Amen †

Postlude Toccata in C Major J.P. Sweelinck

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- † Public Domain

Life and Work at Grace Church

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/



Worship Services

- ◇ Sundays at 10:30 am 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 pm in the Chapel.
- ◇ The Anyuak community meets Sundays at 3:00 pm in the Chapel.

October 1 World Communion Sunday The Rev. Wendy Adams

October 8 Thanksgiving The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins

Grace Kids and Grace Youth

Questions, please contact Anne at gracekids@gracecalgary.org or Cindy Stephenson at volunteers@gracecalgary.org.

Thank You

September 24 is Presbyterians Sharing Sunday, when we recognize and celebrate how the national church supports mission and ministry in Canada and around the world. Presbyterians share in a wide range of ministries. Together, we build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice and share God's love around the world. We give thanks that Mary Jardine, Dan Philips, Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet, and Cindy Stephenson are each sharing their gifts of time and talent, volunteering in courts, committees and boards of our denomination beyond Grace Presbyterian. Together we make mission and ministry happen!

Sympathies

We are saddened to learn of Marion Burrus' death on September 18. Please keep the family and friends of Marion in your prayers. Details of the funeral will be forthcoming.

Volunteer Opportunities

Reconnection, Reconciliation and Resilience – an event for hope and a better future in honour of Orange Shirt Day

Grace is working with Stardale Women's Group to welcome the community in coming together in honour of The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on Saturday, September 30. The afternoon event will take place in the south parking lot. In the evening, there will be a showing in the sanctuary of the film *Bones of Crows*. Volunteers will be needed through the day/evening to help with set-up, welcoming, and tear-down. Your time to support this vital partnership will be a great help.

Grace Kids and Youth Church School

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.

Cookie Bakers

Connaught School is hosting their Welcome Back BBQ on Thursday, September 28. Rotary Club of Calgary Centennial is sponsoring cookies for the event which are being baked at Grace. Bakers are needed starting at 10:00 am that morning.

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

Good morning Grace! Two Renaissance composers for our prelude and postlude this morning with a lovely anthem by Nancy Weider, arranged by Jay Althouse.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina is most famous for being a master of choral writing in the High Renaissance. He did not write much organ music but we are fortunate that some of it was arranged for playing on the organ from existing choral scores. The *Cantantibus Organis* is one such work. Imitative writing abounds just as in any other piece in this 16th-century style. Similarly, we have Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck's toccata. Sweelinck definitely wrote for the organ (as well as choirs and many other instruments). He was considered one of the most important composers from the Netherlands school.

Finally our anthem is a tuneful little meditation on trusting in the steadfast love of God. The opening words are "God is always with me, He is here beside me, ever in my heart and in my life." The composer, Nancy Weider, lives in Emmaus Pennsylvania where she is active as a musician and teacher's aide. The arranger, Jay Althouse, has written choral music for all ages and levels of school and church choirs with over 450 compositions choral compositions and arrangements in print!

Grace Updates

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/updates/



Bulletin - Financial Update for August 2023

(Monthly updates will now be shared in the bulletin as well as the newsletter and website.)

Positive trends continue in August. The operating deficit for August is \$168,000 less than budget and \$54,000 less than the same period last year. While revenues are approximately \$22,000 less than 2022, there are positive trends in individual components of the revenue stream (noted in the full monthly report posted on the website—see the link below). For comparative purposes, the revenues in April of 2022, included a sizable contribution by a donor. A similar contribution was made in April 2023; however, the donor restricted the use to capital expenditures. Therefore, it will not show up in revenues until it is used. Expenditures are \$226,000 less than budget and \$54,000 less than the same period in 2022.

Financial reports, including monthly reports, can be on the website at:

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/financials/

Grace Updates

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/updates/

Minister Resource Update

- While the Search Committee is working diligently to find our next Lead Minister, Session has instructed the Interim Moderator, Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, Minister Resource Committee, and two additional Session Elders, to review our ministry model and determine the number of ministers that will serve Grace and develop their respective position descriptions.
- The recommendation is that Grace will be best served by two full-time Ministers of Word and Sacrament, rather than 3.1 full-time Ministers. The team would be a Lead and an Associate Minister.
- Rev. Jake Van Pernis has been included in these discussions and is supportive of the changes. The committee has been careful to ensure the key responsibilities of our four-minister model will be included in the new model, and that Rev. Jake Van Pernis' position will continue to equip the congregation to fulfill our mission of loving our neighbours and effecting social change.
- You will have received a letter describing the recommendation, the proposed position descriptions clarifying the roles of the two ministers, and key messages about the proposed change. These three documents were sent by email and to Grace's mailing list. If you did not receive the documents, please email office@gracecalgary.org.
- Today, September 24 you are invited to discuss the proposed changes with our Elders after worship in the boardroom
- If you cannot stay after worship, you are encouraged to speak with your Elder or send your comments to the Clerk of Session, Len Wolstenholme at clerk@gracecalgary.org or our Interim Moderator, at interimmoderator@gracecalgary.org. Your thoughts will be helpful in finalizing the model prior to its final consideration by Session and Presbytery.
- Again, these changes will not slow or otherwise impact the work of the Search Committee.

Session Highlights

At its regular meeting on September 11, 2023, the Session:

- reflected upon times of transition and liminality, as described in Acts 9:1-22, as well as parts of Susan Beaumont's book "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going", and prayed for Grace Church
- considered the proposed Ministry Model and minister position descriptions, and received comments from Service Elders
- directed further work to address harassment concerns
- discussed the ministry of Preaching Grace and provided feedback for the committee on strengths and opportunities
- approved updates to the Roll, which now stands at 377 professing members, in addition to 162 adherents, and agreed to proceed with communications seeking renewed engagement of some members
- agreed with the plans for the Wednesday mornings grief group
- edited the strategic plan, going into its final year, to reflect learnings over the last year, adding emphasis to engagement with the Anyuak and South Sudanese communities within Grace, leadership development, stewardship, and furthering a culture of caring and respect
- considered possible changes to the Committee structure, with further discussion to come
- approved an increase in the Music Coordinator's work hours from 22 hours per week to 30, for the remainder of the employment contract (September 2023 through January 2024)
- celebrated all the baptisms on August 13
- approved the appointment of the Church School leaders
- agreed to sign a long-term investment pooling agreement with The Calgary Foundation for the investment of the Grace Legacy Fund
- decided to establish an ad hoc committee to develop a comprehensive strategy for real estate for Grace
- received updates on the workplans of the committees, Communications Specialist, and Coordinator of Volunteers, and reports from the Interim Minister (the Rev. Wendy Adams), the Interim Moderator, the Representative Elder, and the Support Services Director
- received and discussed various correspondence
- closed with prayer

Stained Glass Window Restoration Project



Restoration and repair work has begun on 9 stained glass windows in need of upgrades in the Sanctuary. This summer, \$60,000+ was donated for this project, which will be carried out over the next year or two. Thank you for your contribution.

Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



Photography appointments September 24 after worship

Sundays September 24, October 1 and 8, photography appointments can be made for you and your family, by signing up in the Family Room after worship. These photographs are for the new picture directory being prepared here at Grace this fall. Photographs will be taken beginning Saturday, October 28. By taking part in this project, you will help to make the directory complete and assist people in connecting names and faces. We encourage everyone to help build a sense of community here at Grace by participating in this exciting project.

September 30 Orange Shirt Day Event - Reconnection, Reconciliation and Resilience Saturday, September 30 1:00 to 4:00 pm Grace South Parking Lot. Please RSVP for this event on EventBrite at:

www.eventbrite.com/o/stardale-womens-group-60834389563



September 30 Orange Shirt Day Event -

Film Screening Bones of Crows

Doors open at 6:30 pm; movie starts at 7:00 pm.

Tickets are \$5, available through EventBrite. All proceeds to the Stardale Women's Group.

Please RSVP for this free event on EventBrite at:

www.eventbrite.com/o/stardale-womens-group-60834389563



Please note: This movie is rated R for disturbing and violent content.

Planning Your Legacy Workshop Sunday, October 1 after worship

Learn how to leave a lasting legacy in this workshop on planned giving. Four professional presentations will cover the legal aspects, insurance options, estate planning, and executor selection considerations of leaving a legacy gift. Information about the new Grace Legacy Fund will be shared. Because lunch will be provided, you are warmly invited to sign up by September 25 online at gracechurchcalgary.com/events/ or through the office at office@gracecalgary.org.

In Community

Presbyterian Sharing



Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly.



- . New church development
- . Partnership
- . International mission staff
- . Theological colleges
- . Healing and reconciliation
- . Leadership development
- . Congregational support
- . And so much more!

Today is Presbyterians Sharing Sunday, a time to celebrate the impact our church's mission and ministry programs are having across Canada and around the world. As we encourage and equip one another and teach about love, faith and hope, we proclaim the good news of the Gospel. Presbyterians Sharing puts faith into action.

PCC Prayer Partnership July—September 2023

Grace Presbyterian Church

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