



Cvjetnica - Palm sunday, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54313>.

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

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins
Interim Minister

Matt Kallio
Music Coordinator

Please find Online Worship at:



Grace Presbyterian Church
Transforming lives through God's grace

Order of Worship

Land Acknowledgement

In a spirit of respect and truth we honour and acknowledge that we worship on the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

Prelude Prelude for Handbells and Organ on St. Theodulph

Melchior Teschner / arr: Albert Zabel

Welcome and Announcements

Jake Van Pernis

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Giyth

Introit Hosanna, Rejoice and Sing!

Jane Holstein

Call to Worship

Jesus is coming.

Hosanna!

He comes to us riding on a donkey.

Hosanna!

Open wide the gates!

Hosanna!

Let us welcome him with branches and songs of praise.

Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the King of kings!

Please continue to the Palm/Passion Sunday insert responsive reading.

Hymn and Palm Processional 216 Hosanna

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Prayer of Adoration

Rite of Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

Words of Forgiveness

The Peace

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

Anthem **Hosanna in the Highest**

Craig Courtney

Time with Young Christians

Prayer for Understanding

Carol Latter

Scriptures **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29** (responsive, sing Refrain III)
John 12:12-16

Sermon **Heartfelt**

Geoffrey Simmins

Hymn **220 My song is love unknown**

†

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 the Offering

Offertory **Sonata in C major for two trumpets and continuo**

J.C. Pezel

Doxology **457 Now thank we all our God v 1**

†

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom God's world rejoices,
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Prayer for Our Offering

Gord Smith

Hymn **214 All glory, laud and honour**

†

Benediction

Choral Amen **780 Amen**

Postlude **Grand Choeur**

Gordon Young

Thank you to Grace Handbells Choir and trumpeters, Troy Deren and Paul Scholz along with percussionist Rob Maciak for their contributions to our music ministry this morning.

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Life and Work at Grace Church

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/



Worship Services

- ◇ Sundays at 10:30 am in-person and online; fellowship follows in the Family Room
- ◇ Worship recordings can be watched at anytime at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/.
- ◇ 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.

March 29 Good Friday 10:30 am The Rev. Jake Van Pernis
and The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins

March 31 Easter Sunday The Rev. Jake Van Pernis
All ages will be in Grace's Sanctuary
for worship; there will not be church school

Sympathies

We extend our condolences to the family of Sherry Buckle who died Tuesday, March 12, 2024. We offer them God's comfort and peace. A funeral at Grace will be planned, and details of that service will be shared once finalized.

Easter Flowers

Rather than sponsoring each plant individually this Easter, the Pastoral Care and Connection Committee has purchased the plants and is requesting contributions to the endeavour in general. To do so, please direct a portion of your giving to "Easter Flowers". Thank you for your kind gesture.

Thank You

The Lead Minister Search Committee was appointed by the Session late in 2021; Elizabeth Cressman, Jan Dewar, Clark Hanna (co-convener), Janet Hyde (co-convener), Jen Lee, Greg Retzer and Flora Stephenson, all continued to serve for 28 months. The work included updating the position description and the congregational profile, advertising across Canada and internationally, soliciting potential candidates, interviewing applicants, and discerning the candidates' fit with Grace's needs. Over 80 applicants were considered. Throughout this time, the Committee remained faithful, prayerful and confident in the Spirit's presence in their work. Grace has been very blessed by their commitment and wisdom. At its most recent meeting, the Session dismissed the Committee with deep gratitude. Thank you.

Volunteer Opportunities

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/connect/volunteer/

Easter Flower Deliverers starting March 24

The Pastoral Care and Connection Committee is continuing its practice of providing flowers during Holy Week to those who are homebound or are being especially remembered in our prayers. Please see Cindy Stephenson at the front of the Sanctuary after worship March 24 if you can help deliver these beautiful plants along with our message of caring.

English Language Learner Program Teachers

The ELL program is growing in response to the increasing need for conversational English skills in our community and new teachers are welcomed. Currently classes are held Monday at Grace from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Training and teaching resources are provided.

Committee Members

Ministries at Grace are carried out through the Committees of Session, and through ad hoc Committees that fulfil emergent or project work. They develop annual plans that outline mission work and measure the impact within the congregation and the community. Membership for these committees is drawn from the congregation at large. The current committees are Engagement and Service; Financial Management; Governance; Gratitude and Giving; Land and Facilities; Pastoral Care and Connection; and Spiritual Growth. Please consider if you might be called to serve the body of Christ by giving your time and talents on a committee.

Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



God's Grace in Scripture

In-Person Bible Study—Wednesdays 9:30 to 10:30 am, through April 10.



The Ministry Team from March to June

Please feel free to call the church office (403-244-5861) to make an appointment to see Jake or Geoffrey. They have provided the times they will “normally be available”, however the roles of ministry are sometimes unpredictable and require adjustments from time to time.

Jake’s new position description as Associate Minister has been posted for information. As Jake returns to Grace, he has set some priorities over the next month of reconnecting first with elders, conveners of committees, Sunday School and Youth Leaders, and responding to some more urgent worship and training needs.

Normally, Jake will be at the church Sunday mornings, Monday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm; Tuesday 8:30 - 11:30 am; Wednesday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm; Thursday 8:30 -11:30 am. Friday is Jake’s day off.

Geoffrey’s position as Interim Minister until the end of June includes:

- Preaching and worship planning with Jake Van Pernis and Matt Kallio
- Welcome and worship planning with visiting preachers
- Sharing in celebration of sacraments
- Conducting weddings and officiating at funerals
- Provide pastoral care and respond to emergency pastoral care situations
- Work with Pastoral Care and Connection Committee to recommend to Session an overall plan for the pastoral care of the congregation
- Work with Pastoral Care and Connection Committee to re-assign Elders Districts
- Resource the Pastoral Care and Connection Committee, continuing the expansion of the Deacon Program
- Resource the Preaching Grace Team
- Teach about the contemplative tradition generally and Christian meditation specifically
- Provide a report at the end of the agreement

Normally, Geoffrey will be at the church Sunday morning, Monday – Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm; Friday and Saturday are days off as the position is 32 hours/week.

Jean will continue in the role of Interim Moderator appointed by the Presbytery, until the induction service of the new lead minister. Jean moderates the Session, supports Jake in his return as Associate Minister, supports Geoffrey’s work, and leads all aspects related to the lead minister search and placement.

Session Highlights

At its meeting on March 11, the Session opened with Psalm 139 and prayer:

- was pleased to welcome the Rev. Jake Van Pernis back to Session
- considered the key points in Chapter 6 of the book *Leading in a Liminal Season*, encouraging leadership to focus on clarifying purpose at this time
- celebrated the approval by the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod of the call to the Rev. Dr. Chris Joiner, sustaining it as a true gospel call
- prayed for Chris and Kim Joiner and dismissed the Search Committee, with deep gratitude for their faithful and diligent work over more than two years
- appreciated the blessing that the Rev. Wendy Adams' Interim Ministry had been for Grace and gave thanks for her 10 months of encouraging leadership
- agreed upon principles for Leadership Development; further work on how to implement these is required
- elected Shirley Philips as Clerk of Session for a two-year term, effective at the April meeting, and expressed great appreciation for Len Wolstenholme's service in this role
- approved a plan to develop and provide orientation for the new elders that will be elected at the May 5 Congregational Meeting
- encouraged Pastoral Care & Connection in its work to update elders' districts
- received an updated procedure for counting of the offering and a preliminary report on options for reviewing Grace's financial statements
- approved that a feasibility study for the Ashley Project be conducted, and authorized the Land and Facilities Committee to establish a Commercial Buyer Broker Agreement for potential real estate negotiations
- was advised that RESET will be vacating Grace House at the end of May 2024 and Grace Chapel renovations will begin April 1
- agreed to sell the Grace Chapel pews to a church
- received status reports from all the committees and staff and considered correspondence as needed
- closed with prayer, remembering especially the Durieux family, and benediction

Grace Presbyterian Church

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