

DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
CARE OF CREATION SUNDAY

APRIL 21, 2024
10:30 a.m.



Field of daffodils, Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, Victoria, B.C., photo Geoffrey Simmins

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 live, work, play, and worship on the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai Nations) the Tsuut'ina Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Metis Nation of Alberta Districts 5 and 6.

Prelude Duo on Sheep May Safely Graze, J.S. Bach/arr: Herbert Colvin
from Cantata 208

Welcome and Announcements

Jake Van Pernis

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Ainsley

Introit Surrexit Dominus Vere Jacques Berthier, Communauté Taizé

Call to Worship

Holy God, your mercy is over all your works,

and in the web of life each creature has its role and place.

We praise you for ocelot and owl, cactus and kelp, lichen and whale;

we honour you for whirlwind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh.

Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet,

humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones,

justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants,

and love not limited by our ignorance.

This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near,

and in whom, by grace and the working of your Holy Spirit,

all things hold together. Amen.

Hymn 423 Sing your praise to God eternal

†

Prayer of Adoration

Rite of Reconciliation

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,
You lead us into green pastures,
but our lifestyles put those pastures at risk.
You offer us rest,
but we like to pursue our goals,
whatever the cost to the earth or our health.
You call us to show compassion,
but we are quick to judge others.
Forgive us, and humble us to live with respect in creation.
Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

The Peace

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

Anthem All Things Bright and Beautiful

J. Rutter

Time with Young Christians

Prayer for Understanding

Sandy Strother-Stewart

Scriptures Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23 (in unison/sing Refrain II)

1 John 3:16-19

Sermon Down in green pastures

Geoffrey Simmins

Hymn 485 Saviour, like a shepherd lead us

†

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

Len Wolstenholme

Offertory Sixty Devotional Pieces - #35, Adagio

Paul Benoit

Response to the Offering Hymn 260 v4

*

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.
Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour;
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Prayer for Our Offering

Hymn 716 Pray for the wilderness, vv 1, 3 - 4

*

Benediction

Sung Hymn 770 Amen

†

Postlude Finale Jubilante

H. Willan

Thank you to pianist Helena Barker for contributing to Grace's music ministry this morning.

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Life and Work at Grace Church

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/



Worship Services

- ◇ Sundays, 10:30 a.m. in-person and online; fellowship follows in the Family Room
- ◇ Worship can be watched anytime at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/
- ◇ The South Sudanese community will meet in Grace's Chapel today at 12:30 p.m.
- ◇ The Anyuak community will meet in Grace's Chapel today at 3:00 p.m.

April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Chandra Mannix



Chandra Mannix has been a part of the life of Grace Presbyterian Church for many years, serving as the Deacon of Community Care from 2020 until 2023. She has her MDiv from Ambrose University and a Master's Certificate in Presbyterian Studies from Vancouver School of Theology. Chandra, as a Candidate for Ministry in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, has recently preached for the call at St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Calgary, which is working in partnership with Calgary Korean Presbyterian Church to support its English ministry.

Chandra has a keen interest in reconciliation efforts in Canada, and for the past several years she has been working on The Manitou Project, an Indigenous Reconciliation Project in Alberta, where she is learning from the wisdom shared by Elders and Spiritual Leaders of the First Peoples of Canada. In her work with St. Giles Presbyterian Church and Calgary Korean Presbyterian Church, she is engaged in ongoing reconciling efforts with The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its Korean congregations. Chandra is appreciative of the transformational journey Grace has walked in its own reconciliation efforts.

May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Congregational Meeting

Rev. Dr. Jean Morris

Grace Notes Children's Choir

Grace Notes Children's Choir has been extended for another six weeks and we are excited to make music with this choir again! The Grace Notes Children's Choir is planning to sing at the Pentecost service on May 19. If your child/children wish to participate in the Grace Notes Children's Choir, please email Matthew Kallio, Music Coordinator at mattk@gracecalgary.org.

This choir is **completely free to join and includes voice training, music theory and, of course, singing!** Our instructors are Trisha McKinney, early childhood specialist and voice teacher and Matthew Kallio, music coordinator, Grace Presbyterian Church. Rehearsals are at 1:00 p.m. in the Sunday school area (dining hall downstairs) at the church.

Music Notes

The prelude is a well-known piece by J.S. Bach titled "Schafe können sicher weiden" from the Cantata "Was mir behagt ist nur die muntre Jagd" BWV 208, arranged for organ and piano by Herbert Colvin and features our guest musician Helena Barker. The piece is more commonly known as "Sheep May Safely Graze". It is Bach's earliest surviving secular cantata, composed while he was employed as court organist in Weimar. The work may have been intended as a 31 birthday gift from Bach's employer, William Ernst, Duke of Saxe-Weimar, for his neighbouring ruler, Duke Christian, who was a keen hunter. With Psalm 23 in the service this morning, it seemed like an appropriate pastoral choice.

The anthem "All Things Bright and Beautiful" is a perennial favourite by English composer John Rutter (b. 1945). The music is melodic and lyrical. The words of the anthem ties into the theme of Care of Creation starting with "*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*"

[Grace Updates](#)

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/



Session Highlights

On April 8, 2024, the Session:

- Opened with a reading of Isaiah 43:18-20, prayer and reflection on what is emerging at Grace.
- Received a presentation from Treasurer Rob McDonald regarding the 2023 financial results and agreed that the statements would be provided to the congregation for consideration at the May 5 congregational meeting. First Quarter 2024 results and contribution trends were also discussed.
- Agreed that a review by a professional third-party firm of the 2024 and subsequent Financial Statements would be arranged, for transparency, diligence and protection of the Treasurer.
- Agreed with proposed changes to the list of Committee Conveners, subject to finalization after the May 5 election of elders.
- Approved two studies to be held Sunday mornings before worship, the first on Christian Contemplation and Meditation, and the second on the book *The Lemon Tree*, and supported creative approaches to the worship service on Pentecost, May 19.
- Agreed in concept with a proposed music ministry model built around two key roles - Accompanist and Music Director - subject to further definition of position terms.
- Received a report reviewing pastoral care and maintenance of the Roll at Grace, and approved several recommendations, including:
 - ◊ the establishment of a volunteer Roll Clerk, with details of the position description to be finalized, to help Session maintain an accurate roll of professing members, adherents and children.
 - ◊ the creation of a Deacon of Welcome and Integration to provide more intentional welcome to newcomers, and
 - ◊ the continuation of the current Deacon program for at least the next two years.
- Supported the establishment of mentors for newly elected elders.

- Considered the trends in the evaluation by Session members of the Session's spiritual leadership, effectiveness and committees.
- Appointed Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet to serve a one year term as Grace's Representative Elder to Presbytery.
- Received reports from Grace's Committees and Staff on their work.
- Gave thanks for the many blessings emerging at Grace and prayed for the congregation in the coming weeks, closing with a benediction.

Volunteer Thank You!

Over the last year, Anne Mohtadi has coordinated the Church School, helping teachers lead this thriving ministry. She is living out the vows we make as a congregation at each baptism—when we “promise to guide and nurture” children by word and deed, with love and in prayer, encouraging them to follow the way of Christ and to be faithful members of his church.” We give thanks to God for Anne's faithfulness in sharing her time and talents, and her love of Christ with the children and youth of Grace.

Communication Transition

The Communications Specialist's role has been posted at:

www.Gracechurchcalgary.com/news/. The congregation is invited to review jobs and apply or to share with your networks.

Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



Annual General Meeting

Sunday, May 5, 2024



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Grace's Annual General Meeting Sunday, May 5, after worship in the Sanctuary

All members and adherents are invited to attend Grace's Annual General Meeting on Sunday, May 5 after worship in the sanctuary. The meeting will include the election of Elders and Trustees, a Session Update, as well as 2023 Financials.

There is no need to RSVP. Documents will be posted at www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/news/

Volunteer Opportunities www.gracechurchcalgary.com/connect/volunteer/

Spring Cleanup Volunteers

Please help us clean up the gardens around Grace on Thursday, April 25, starting at 10:30 a.m. Protective gloves and bags will be provided, along with a hot dog lunch and fellowship. If you have a favourite rake or other tool, please bring it along.

English Language Learner Program Teachers

The ELL program is growing in response to the increasing need for conversational English skills in our community and *two additional teachers are required immediately for the April 29 - June 15 session*. Currently classes are held Monday at Grace from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Training and teaching resources are provided.

Committee Members

Ministries at Grace are carried out through committees. Committees develop plans to help guide 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.

Please let Cindy Stephenson, Coordinator of Volunteers, volunteers@gracecalgary.org, know if you are able to help with any of the many opportunities to serve.

Elder Training

Pastoral Care and Oversight
Led by the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris

Governance
Led by Shirley Philips and Mary Rozsa de Coquet

Sunday, April 28 Noon - 1:30 pm
*Includes Lunch
RSVP by Tuesday, April 23 at
www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/events/



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Conversations Matter

A lunch and learn on planning for future health-care decisions

Thursday, May 2, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room



Conversations Matter: Learn how to talk about what matters regarding future health-care preferences for you or your family members. This presentation is:

- Open to all ages
- Focused on how to have important health-care conversations

Led by Robin Tomlinson, RN (Registered Nurse), BN (Bachelor of Nursing) and the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins. RSVP by Monday, April 29.

Presbyterian World Service and Development Mission Moment



In the Kushkak village in Afghanistan, 42-year-old Guljan lived a simple life with her husband and four children until one day in October 2023, when an earthquake struck their village. Guljan lost her husband and 11-year-old son. After the disaster, she encountered significant challenges in getting assistance due to the gender disparities present in her village. However, PWS&D's partner recognized her needs and provided Guljan's family with a winterized tent to help endure the harsh weather conditions. PWS&D provided food assistance, as well as other support after the earthquake to help people survive the winter challenges.

Mission Moments highlight the ministry The Presbyterian Church in Canada is doing through Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D). For over 75 years, PWS&D has been working with partners overseas and with Canadians across the country to make positive changes in the world. To learn more about the many programs and partnerships such as the one supporting Guljan in Afghanistan, please visit <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/>