

WITNESSES TO HOPE
ASCENSION SUNDAY
CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY

MAY 12, 2024
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

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 **Concerto in B flat major** for organ, strings and flutes, Op. 4, # 6
G.F. Handel

Welcome and Announcements

Geoffrey Simmins

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Devon

Introit **God the Omnipotent Reigneth**

Charles Wood

Call to Worship

Gather together all God's people! Make a joyful noise to God!

With joy we will sing songs of good news!

Gather together all God's people! Bring your heartfelt praise to God!

With joy we will join the shouts of all of creation celebrating God's faithfulness!

Gather together all God's people! Make known God's good way!

With joy we share God's promises and love!

Gather together all God's people! Worship and honour God!

With joy and open arms we encounter God's presence and grace-filled transformation in praise and thanksgiving as we worship God together!

Hymn 530 I come with Joy (vv 1 – 4)

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Prayer of Adoration

Rite of Reconciliation

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Guiding One,

We have doubted the call of your love to bridge differences and open new understandings. The grudges and hurts we carry cloud our thinking, limit our love, and keep us from honouring our sisters and brothers as inheritors of your desired peace.

We try in our own ways to box you in, wanting to hold onto your goodness for only ourselves.

You call us to give ourselves generously. But we sometimes find it uncomfortable to give as freely as you want us to.

Forgive us.

Give us courage to respond to the call of your expansive love, to freely share our commitment to you, and to be a community that supports and cares for each other in ways that encourage each of us and our neighbours near and far to know we are loved and have a place of belonging with you.

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.

Words of Forgiveness

The Peace

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

And also with you.

Time with Young Christians

Jake Van Pernis

Prayer for Understanding

Mary Jardine

Scriptures Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24: 46-53

Sermon Witnesses to Hope

Hymn 587 Called as partners in Christ's service

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Invitation to the Offering

Barbara Henson

Offertory Achieved is the Glorious Work
from *The Creation*

J. Haydn

Response to the Offering Hymn 260 v 4

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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

Service of Ordination and Induction of Ruling Elders

Jean Morris

There are varieties of gifts,
but the same Spirit;

There are varieties of services,
but the same Lord;

There are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each one 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.

The Apostles' 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.**

PRESENTATION OF ELDERS ELECT

PREAMBLE

Approved, 1971 Revised, 1992, 1998.

All ministries of the Church proceed from and are sustained by the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Prophet, Priest and King, the Minister of the covenant of grace. By the operation of God's Word and Spirit, the Church is gathered, equipped, and sent out to participate in this ministry. All members of the Church are called to share the Gospel with the world, and to offer to the Father the worship and service that are due to the Creator from the creation, through Christ, the only Mediator, until he comes again. That the Church may be continually renewed and nurtured for ministry, Christ furnished the Church with pastors and teachers. He required and enables the Church to discern and to confirm by ordination those whom he calls to this pastoral and teaching office. The standards of his Church he entrusts in a special degree of responsibility to their care.

The Form of Presbyterian Church Government of the Westminster Assembly reminds us that Christ has furnished some in the Church, beside the Ministers of the Word, with gifts for government and with commission to execute the same, when called thereunto, who are to join with the Minister in the government of the church, which officers reformed churches commonly call Elders.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is bound only to Jesus Christ, the Church's King and Head. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as the written Word of God, testifying to Christ the living Word, are the canon of all doctrine, by which Christ rules our faith and life. We acknowledge our historic continuity with the Holy Catholic Church and our doctrinal heritage in the ecumenical creeds, and the confessions of the Reformation. Our subordinate standards are the Westminster Confession of Faith as adopted in 1875 and 1889, the Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation of 1954, Living Faith (Foi Vivante) as adopted in 1998, and such doctrine as the Church, in obedience to Scripture and under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, may yet confess in the Church's continuing function of reformulating the faith.

Music Notes

On the final Sunday of the season of Easter, the music at Grace shares inspired pieces. The prelude is from the 6th organ concerto by G.F. Handel, and highlights the skill of our guest musicians. The introit is an adaptation of Irish composer Charles Wood's "God the Omnipotent Reigneth". The anthem is a chorus from classical composer Joseph Haydn's masterpiece "Die Schöpfung" (The Creation). This work depicts the creation of the world as narrated in the book of Genesis, and the anthem comes from the 2nd part, entitled "Achieved is the Glorious Work". This is the point where God achieved the creation of the world and rested on the seventh day. These words work well for Ascension Sunday.

[Grace Updates](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/) www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/



We Give Thanks

At a meeting immediately following last Sunday's congregational meeting, the Session approved the updated membership of its Committees. Forty-four volunteers from across the congregation serve on these eight Committees, sharing their time and talent, in providing leadership to the programs at Grace. We give thanks to God for these volunteers and pray that they will continue to be inspired and guided by the Spirit in their work.

[Volunteer Opportunities](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/connect/volunteer/) www.gracechurchcalgary.com/connect/volunteer/

Welcomers

Welcomers arrive by 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings and greet worshippers with intentional hospitality. They help newcomers know that they are welcome. They may also assist in the unlikely event of an emergency. On June 9, after fellowship time, there will be a lunch and brief training time for both current and new welcomers. Please let Cindy Stephenson, Coordinator of Volunteers, volunteers@gracecalgary.org, know if you are interested in this ministry of hospitality.

Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



Bible Study: God's Grace in Scripture

Wednesday Mornings, 9:30-10:30 a.m., in Grace's Lounge

This Bible Study is open and participant-led. It is centered in fellowship, reading scripture together, having discussions, and in prayer. It runs through June 19.

No registration is needed; all are welcome to join.

Grace Bethany

Tuesday May 14, 1:30-3:00 p.m., in Grace's Family Room

All women of Grace are invited to join Grace Bethany to get to know each other in a relaxed time of study, learning, fun and fellowship.

Perspectives Book Study: *The Lemon Tree*

Sunday mornings, May 19, May 26, June 2, and June 9 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.
in Grace's Chapel, led by Jake Van Pernis.

Learn more at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/event/

Register by contacting the office at office@gracecalgary.org or (403)244-5861.

Perspectives Book Study

The Lemon Tree

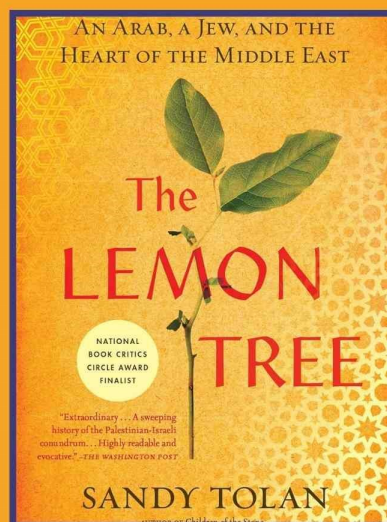
by Sandy Tolan

Led by the Rev. Jake Van Pernis

- Sundays from 9:00 - 10:00 am
- Takes places in the Grace Chapel
- May 19, May 26, June 2 & June 9

Drop in and learn more at:

www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/events/



Pick-up your copy of *The Lemon Tree* from your favourite bookstore, used bookstore, or online retailer now to read how the stories of Dalia and Bashir and the lemon tree are woven together and join in meaningful conversations in the Perspectives Book Study.

Membership Classes at Grace Presbyterian Church

Grace will be hosting membership classes for anyone interested in becoming a member of Grace Presbyterian Church. These classes are a wonderful opportunity for those interested in deepening their faith and about life together at Grace.

Details:

- **Dates:** Sunday, June 2 and Sunday, June 9
- **Time:** Sunday, June 2 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. (light breakfast fare provided)
Sunday, June 9 from approximately 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (lunch provided).

Location: June 2 Grace's Chapel, June 9 Grace's Boardroom.

These classes will provide insights into Grace's vision, mission, and values, the ministries of Grace, and the beliefs of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The classes are also a great way to connect with fellow believers and learn about ways to become more engaged at Grace.

Please register online at www.gracechurchcalgary.com or contact Grace's office at office@gracecalgary.org or (403) 244-5861. Grace looks forward to welcoming new members on Sunday, June 16!

Grace in Community

Grace Quilters and RESET Society of Calgary

The quilting ministry at Grace has a longstanding relationship with the RESET Society of Calgary (Rapid Exit from Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking). On May 16, RESET is holding a graduation ceremony for four young women and a quilt from Grace Quilters will be given to each graduate. Three of these quilts are shown below.



Grace Quilters are always happy to welcome new members to share the gifts of their hands and imagination. They meet on the last Saturday of each month; contact the office at (403) 244-5861 or office@gracecalgary.org to get connected.

Ordination and Induction Service for Chandra Mannix

The Presbytery of Calgary Macleod will be having an Ordination and Induction Service for Chandra Mannix on Friday, May 17 at 12:00 p.m. at St. Giles Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to attend this special service.

Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D)

Mission Moment

Somalia faces an acute hunger crisis, worsened by the most severe drought in four decades. With failed crops, widespread water shortages and reduced livestock productivity, Nafiso Hussein's family and thousands more had to abandon their homes in search of relief. Hunger and extreme conditions affected Nafiso's son Hadi, whose health had deteriorated critically. In the displaced persons camp where they had sought refuge, Hadi was quickly referred to the stabilization centre for treatment, and under this initiative, his health significantly improved. Nafiso is grateful for her son's recovery, "He is well now, and I am happy to see him play and laugh like before." PWS&D, with partners at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, provides funding to train community nutrition workers who identify and screen severely malnourished children.



Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, PWS&D envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world. To learn more about the PWS&D programs, such as the one supporting Hadi in Somalia, please visit www.presbyterian.ca/PWS&D

Grace Presbyterian Church

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