

STILL AT TRUTH
HEALING AND RECONCILIATION SUNDAY

MAY 26, 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 Toccata in C major from: 6 Toccatas per cembalo e organo

Leonardo Leo

Welcome and Announcements

Geoffrey Simmins

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Chuong

Introit Come, Holy Spirit, Come

Eric Thiman

Call to Worship

Creator God, you call us together—

to worship you and be united in your love.

Creator God, you call us by name and just as we are: you know each of our needs; you know our experiences; you know what rests in our minds and our hearts, and in your love you call us—

to share in your story of healing and reconciliation and be caught up in the love Jesus loosed on the world.

Creator God, you call us to honour and affirm our faith in your promises that you are good and you care deeply for all of your creation—

open our hearts, our hands, and our living to be remade and redirected to paths of justice, and your good way.

Creator God, you mould and transform us through the movement of the Holy Spirit, calling us to know your deep grace—

as we worship you, united in your love.

Friends, let us worship God.

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn 381 Holy Spirit, hear us (verses 1-4)

†

Rite of Reconciliation

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Reconciling God, we confess our brokenness to you:

We do not hear the cries of those who are suffering because it is inconvenient and costly to respond. We do not acknowledge truths that make us uncomfortable. We reject and belittle those who are different than we are.

We are blind to the ways we benefit today from a legacy of hurt against Indigenous people.

Too often we love imperfectly, speak harshly, and judge quickly.

A moment of silence

Spirit of God, create in us feeling hearts, clear eyes, and open minds.

We remember you call us to gentleness, to compassion and to radical acceptance of difference. You invite us to journey alongside our neighbours in new ways. Teach us to surrender the need to justify, to explain and to fix. Help us to listen deeply and seek understanding. Remind us that when creation groans, we groan as well. When people speak out against injustice, may we honour their courage and stand with them.

Forgive us and help us to treat all people as our equals. Help us to reach out and share good news! Help us to fulfill the ministry that Jesus started. Help us to bring your love into the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

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

Anthem **Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me**

Adoro te Devote
Arr: K. Lee Scott

Time with Young Christians

Prayer for Understanding

Okwayi Obang

Scriptures **Genesis 1:1-3**
 Isaiah 55:6-12
 John 3:17, 19-21

Sermon **Still at Truth**

Jake Van Pernis

Hymn **717 We cannot own the sunlit sky**

†

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer, The New Zealand Book of Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Carol Evans

Offertory **Improvisation on Adoro te Devote**

Virginia Thomas

Response to the Offering Hymn 79

*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below:
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer for Our Offering

Hymn 730 O for a world where everyone

©

Benediction

Sending Hymn 620 Go now in peace (verse 1)

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Postlude Komm, Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott

Andreas Armsdorf

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Music Notes

The prelude today comes from a lesser-known composer, Leonardo Leo. I must confess to having never heard of him, but his music is delightful. Leo was born in the Apulia region, then part of the Kingdom of Naples. He studied under Alessandro Scarlatti and it shows. His keyboard style is similar to the sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti, very fresh, joyful and Italian.

The anthem this week “Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me” by K. Scott Lee, one of America's foremost composers of sacred music, uses the ancient plainchant melody *Adoro te Devote* as its main motif. The tune is a perfect marriage of text and singing and follows the Pentecostal theme of the Holy Spirit. As a nod to the *Adoro te Devote*, the offertory will feature a written-out improvisation using the opening notes of this venerable music.

Life and Work at Grace Church

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/



Worship Services

- ◇ Sundays, 10:30 a.m. in-person and online; fellowship follows in Grace's 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.

June 2 Communion Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins
and The Rev. Sabino Diok

June 9

The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris
The Rev. Jake Van Pernis

Save the Date:

June 23, 7:00 p.m. Induction of the Rev. Dr. Christopher Joiner as Lead Minister

Name Tags

The Spiritual Growth Committee is requesting that attendees wear name tags when they come in to worship. Adhesive-style tags can be found on the tables at the sanctuary entrances. Our goal is to help people get to know one another and get in the habit before Chris Joiner arrives. If you prefer to use a different style of tag, please feel free to design your own and reduce our environmental impact. On behalf of the Spiritual Growth Committee, thank you for your participation.

Worship Service Church and Building Access

For Sunday worship services, the north, south and west Chapel doors are unlocked at 9:00 a.m. To maintain safety and security, the east doors (during seasonal use) and the west Chapel doors will be locked at 10:45 a.m., the north door will be locked at 11:00 a.m., and the south door after worship service has concluded. Updated signage with door access instructions will be added to each entrance.

Access and exiting for all other daytime events (exclusive of worship service) will continue to be via the west Chapel doors only.

Grace Updates

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/news/



Refugee Family Arriving

The Engagement and Service Committee is excited to announce the arrival of a refugee family from Sudan on June 11, 2024 being supported by Grace and a family from Grace. After waiting five years, the family's journey to a new life in Calgary is finally becoming reality.

As the family embarks on this significant transition, please pray for safe travels and for welcome, peace, and comfort to be extended in many ways as they adjust to life in Calgary.

Furthermore, as a co-sponsor of this family, there will be a need for volunteers to assist them in settling down, from helping them navigate our city, to guiding them through various processes. Volunteer support will make a significant difference in this time of transition and newness.

Please consider volunteering and by doing so, extending a warm welcome and a supportive environment for this family as they arrive and settle in Calgary.

Interested in volunteering to help this family be welcomed and settle in Calgary?

Please contact Grace's Coordinator of Volunteers, Cindy Stephenson, at volunteers@gracecalgary.org to lend your skills to this ministry of hospitality.

We Give Thanks

The Engagement and Service Committee oversees community service and social justice partnerships and programs such as operating the Satellite Food Bank, supporting newcomers through the English Language Learners program, and sponsoring a refugee family, and encourages environmental stewardship through initiatives such as reducing waste. Darlene and Mike Jones (Co-Conveners), Mark Durieux, Clark Hanna and Jiebieni Nyajwok (Session Co-Liaisons), Marlene Doherty, Ben Matthews, and Bruce Perrault serve in this committee's work, supported by The Rev. Jake Van Pernis. We are thankful to God for their faithfulness, creativity, and passion.

Volunteer Opportunities

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. It would be helpful to have another five individuals to share in this ministry of hospitality. Please let Cindy Stephenson, Coordinator of Volunteers, volunteers@gracecalgary.org, know if you are interested.

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.

Parent, Teacher and Student Church School Meeting

The Spiritual Growth Committee is delighted to announce a special *Parent, Teacher, Student Meeting* to explore possibilities for Grace's Church School. This is a fantastic opportunity for all actively involved in Church School to come together as a community and discuss how to enhance this important part of Grace's life.

Details:

- **Date:** Sunday, May 26
- **Time:** 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch provided.
- **Location:** Grace's Gym

The Spiritual Growth Committee encourages all parents, teachers, and students to attend this meeting. Your input is valuable, and the Spiritual Growth Committee believes that your ideas and suggestions can greatly benefit Grace's Church School. Please register at www.gracechurchcalgary.com or contact Grace's office at office@gracecalgary.org or (403) 244-5861. Looking forward to the sharing of ideas and gathering as people who are interested in enhancing Grace's Church School program.

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!

Welcomer's Training

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 able to come.

Reformed and Always Reforming: Celebrating the Renewal of Grace's Chapel



Grace will be celebrating the renewal of Grace's Chapel as a space for worship, mission, and ministry, to the glory of God the week of June 24-30 with events and worship.

Going To The Chapel will be on Monday June 24, 12:00 - 12:45 p.m. and Wednesday June 26 from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. These gatherings will provide opportunity to learn about the history, symbols, as well as the current and future uses of Grace's Chapel to glorify God through worship, teaching, fellowship, and mission. A time of fellowship with snacks and beverages will be shared at the conclusion of each of the *Going To The Chapel* events.

A worship service will be held in Grace's Chapel on Sunday, June 30 from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. The theme of this worship service will be giving thanksgiving to God for Grace's Chapel space and celebrating its renewal as a congregation that is reformed and always reforming. Prayers will be shared for both the current and future uses this space.

All are invited to attend these planned events and worship to help collectively celebrate the renewal of Grace's Chapel space.

Mission Moment

Presbyterian World Service & Development

Aziza, a mother of four from Pakistan, faced numerous challenges, including a physical disability and the tragic loss of her husband in 2019. Left to support her family as a young widow, Aziza and her eldest son worked tirelessly. Her son earned a small income as a shepherd. Despite their best efforts, the devastating floods of 2022 destroyed their home and village, forcing them to seek refuge in her brother-in-law's house. Aziza struggled to feed her children. In response to the disaster, a local partner, with support from PWS&D and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, began a cash assistance project to ensure families could meet their basic food needs. Aziza used the funds wisely, allocating them for immediate needs like wheat flour and groceries.



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 Aziza in Pakistan, please visit www.presbyterian.ca/PWS&D.

Grace Presbyterian Church

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