



Season of Christmas

GROWING IN FAVOUR
DECEMBER 29, 2024 10:30 AM

WORSHIP ONLINE:
gracechurchcalgary.com

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



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 Otipemisiwak Metis Government of the Metis Nation within Alberta Districts 5 and 6.

Prelude As the Dark Awaits the Dawn arr: David Laky
Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich BWV 605 J.S. Bach
(O Hail this Brightest Day of Days)

Worship begins with the Prelude. We invite you to centre yourself as you listen and acknowledge the Spirit gathering you into this community of worship.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to all who are guests with us. If comfortable doing so, please let us know you are here by filling out the card located in the pew and placing it in the offering plate when passed.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Pauline

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord from the heavens!
Praise God, sun and moon!
God's name alone is exalted -
God is above the earth and heaven.
Young and old together, all creatures great and small,
let us praise God's holy name, now and evermore!

Prayer of Adoration

Jake Van Pernis

Hymn **141 Good Christians, all rejoice**

Blue Hymnal

Please stand in body or spirit

Rite of Reconciliation

Please be seated

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

God of every time and place,
we confess that we prefer our ideas and values to the truth
you call us into and our plans to your purposes for us and the world.
We shrink from costly discipleship and we seek cheap grace.
Forgive our fleeting enthusiasms and our shallow commitments,
and guide us always so that we may walk in your way
and follow the way of your Son now and always,
through the steadfast grace of Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

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

Time with Young Christians

Children and Youth remain in worship today

Prayer for Understanding

Dave Turner

Scripture Readings Psalm 148

Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg 546

Colossians 3: 12-17

New Testament, pg. 178

Luke 2: 41-52

New Testament, pg.51

Sermon Growing in Favour: The Adolescent Years

Hymn 163 Of eternal love begotten

Blue Hymnal

Please stand in body or spirit

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Please be seated

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.

Invitation to Share Our Offerings

Adauny

Offertory Columcille

(No Wind at the Window)

arr: David Sims
Iona community

Response to Sharing Our Offerings

Please stand in body or spirit

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly **

arr: Brenda J. Heard
Tune/Hymn 143 Blue Hymnal

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in-One.
Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,
as we glory in your Presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn 153 Joy to the world

Blue Hymnal

Benediction

Sending Hymn Hymn 133 Go, tell it on the mountain ^{OL}

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills
and everywhere.**

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Please be seated

Postlude Noel X

Louis Claude Daquin

The end of the Postlude marks the end of our service. We invite you to join in a time of fellowship in the Family Room, located across the hall from the Sanctuary.

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**Christmas Doxology:

WORDS: Brenda J. Heard

W. ZLOBIE LEZY

MUSIC: Traditional Polish melody

8.7.8.7.8.8.7.

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Source: The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, Center for Worship Resourcing, PO Box 340003, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-0003. Telephone (615) 340-7070; Website <http://www.umcworship.org>; Email Address: WorshipCenter@gbod.org.

Grace Events

Grace at a Glance

January 1	Grace Closed - Happy New Year!
January 5	Winter / Spring term of Grace's Church School begins
January 7	Grace Handbell Choir rehearsals for Winter / Spring begin
January 8	Wednesday Lectionary Bible Study Winter start-up
January 9	Grace Chancel Choir rehearsals for Winter / Spring begin Book Study <i>Practicing</i> begins
January 14	Grace Bethany meeting
January 19	<i>Living Our Faith</i> course, Evening Grace
January 25	Grace Quilters

2025 Book Study - *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change The World*

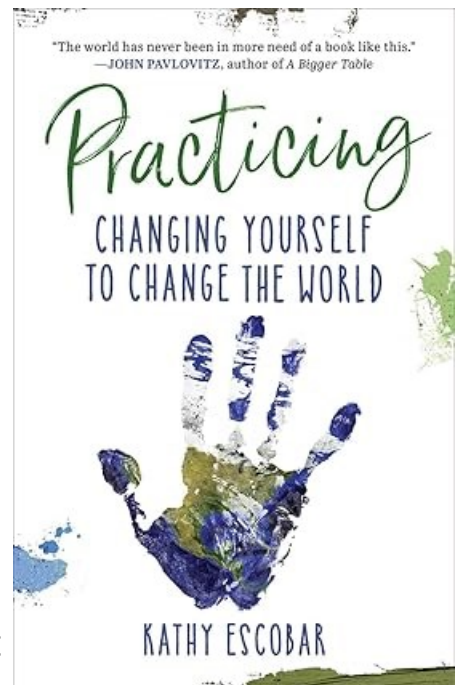
Grace is offering a year-long book study on *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World* by Kathy Escobar, beginning in January and going until December 2025, meeting once a month, with a break in July.

Rev. Jake will help to lead the study along with book study members. The structure of the study will be:

Gathering around a shared simple meal starting at 5:45 p.m.

Conversations about the practice each chapter introduces and exchanging reflections on previous chapter's practice starting at 6:15 p.m.

Each session of the *Practicing* study will conclude at 7:30 p.m.



The invitation of this study is to deepen your understanding of the ten transformational practices outlined by Kathy Escobar, as well as to have the opportunity to engage in and share about practicing these ten practices with an engaged community of fellow readers sharing support and encouragement.

Here's an overview and description of *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World*, by Kathy Escobar:

In *Practicing*, Pastor Kathy Escobar inspires and challenges readers with practical encouragement to live their faith through real action using ten transformational practices, including listening more, including the marginalized, advocating for justice, and mourning with those who grieve. By putting our hearts, hands, and feet behind our good intentions, we can transform our groups, our communities, and our world.

Escobar, a pastor and spiritual director, provides insights and exercises to help readers integrate these practices into their daily lives, fostering personal and communal transformation. Her writing is extremely interactive, relational, and practical.

The *Practicing* Book Study Schedule (Thursdays):

January 9, 2025: Introduction & sharing interests and hopes for *Practicing* Study

February 13, 2025: The Practice of Healing

March 13, 2025: The Practice of Listening

April 10, 2025: The Practice of Loving

May 8, 2025: The Practice of Including

June 12, 2025: The Practice of Equalizing

August 14, 2025: The Practice of Advocating

September 11, 2025: The Practice of Mourning

October 9, 2025: The Practice of Failing

November 13, 2025: The Practice of Resting

December 4, 2025: The Practice of Celebrating & Conclusion of *Practicing* Study

Copies of *Practicing* are available at your favourite retailer of books and copies will be made available through Grace's office.

Looking forward to this transformational study in 2025.



Grace Leadership and Staff

Session Elders

Nancy Connors
Mark Durieux
Clark Hanna
Janet Hyde
Mary Jardine
Joanne Kellough
Anne Mohtadi
Jiebieni Nyajwok
Okwayi Obang
Shirley Philips (Clerk)
Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet
Cindy Stephenson
Matthew Vyse
Len Wolstenholme

Service Elders

Jim Campbell
Fran Cormack
Bill Cruickshanks
Marlene Doherty
Bob Ermter
Carol Evans
Margot Kellough
Richard Kim
Bonnie Noyce Faust
Iain Robertson
Les Wilson

Treasurer

Rob McDonald

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Chris Joiner - *Lead Minister*
The Rev. Jake Van Pernis - *Associate Minister*
Matt Kallio - *Music Director*
Alan Facey - *Support Services Director*
Cindy Stephenson - *Coordinator of Volunteers*
Rob McDonald - *Accountant*
Dana Seiffert - *Admin Support*
Brenda Robertson - *Admin Support*
Andrew Manuel - *Communications Specialist*
Craig Murphy - *Facilities*
Ngath Diok - *Facilities*
Teri Telfer - *Facilities*
Nathan Kelly - *Facilities*
Pavel Thomson - *Facilities*
Jim Hatridge - *Facilities*

Deacons

Nancy Connors - *Hospital and Health Care*
Elizabeth Cressman - *Bereavement Care*
Margot Kellough - *Homebound Care*
Jennifer Williams - *Welcome and Hospitality*

Committee Conveners

David Turner – Financial Management
Barbara Henson – Gratitude & Giving
Darlene & Mike Jones – Engagement & Service
Margot Kellough – Pastoral Care & Connection
Laurie Livingstone – Governance
Lorna McNeill – Spiritual Growth
Robin Telfer – Land & Facilities
Clark Hanna – Minister Resource & Presbytery Relations