



Season of Christmas

GROWING IN FAVOUR
JANUARY 5, 2025 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.

Preludes **In Dulci Jubilo** *In sweet rejoicing*

Franz Liszt

Prelude on the Holly and the Ivy

Chad Lawson

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

Marlene Doherty

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 the Christ Candle

Lina

Call to Worship

Nyagoyni

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

The glory of God has risen upon us.

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

We have beheld his glory. Alleluia!

Prayer of Adoration

Jake Van Pernis

Hymn **376 Lord, the light of your love is shining^{OL}**

Blue Hymnal

Rite of Reconciliation

Please be seated

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

God of goodness and guidance,
in Christ you sent us light to live by,
yet we seek shadows in which to hide.
In him, you promise new life,
but we prefer old habits,
nursing grievances and clinging to familiar opinions.
You are generous with your love,
but we reject neighbours and fear strangers who differ from us.
Remake us in the image of your Son,
and teach us how to follow him in the year ahead.

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

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

Time With Young Christians

Chris Joiner

Children age 4 through Grade 6 are invited to Church School following this time.

Prayer for Understanding

Grant Stephenson

Scripture Readings **Jeremiah 31: 7-14**

Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg.692

John 1: 1-18

New Testament, pg.79

Sermon ***Growing in Favour: Moving into the World***

Hymn **341 Before the world began^{OL}**

Blue Hymnal

Prayers of the People

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.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Invitation to Share Our Offerings

Barbara Henson

Offertory **Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr**

arr: Nikolaus Decius

Alone to God in the highest be glory

Response to Sharing Our Offerings

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 **176 Songs of thankfulness and praise**

Blue Hymnal

Benediction

Sending Hymn 133

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

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

Postlude

Noel VI

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.

Notes:

Life and Work at Grace Church

Worship Services

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

January 12 Isaiah 43: 1-7 The Rev. Dr. Chris Joiner
 Luke 3: 15-22
 “Growing in Favour: Through the Waters”

Season of Epiphany—January 19—March 2

Jubilee: Gospel Love & Justice

The Hebrew Law provided for a year of Jubilee every 50 years. On this year all debts were to be forgiven and all prisoners set free. It was to stand as a sign of God's steadfast love and grace and a mark of God's intention that the world be free. As far as we know, Israel never initiated a Jubilee Year, but it stood in the Law as a longing and a promise. Jesus declared in Luke that the year of the Lord's favour—the Jubilee—was found in him. Through this season we will explore passages in Corinthians and Luke that lift up the shape of Jubilee—God's love and justice, God's liberation of all creation in Jesus Christ. As Grace celebrates 120 years of ministry this year, let us pray that God will make this a Jubilee for us and for our community.

January 19 I Corinthians 12: 12: 1-11, The Rev. Dr. Chris Joiner
 John 2: 1-11
 “Jubilee: A Sign”

Music Notes

This Sunday Grace continues the Christmas season offering two selections by Baroque composers. Louis Daquin's "Noels" (noël being French for Christmas), are based on French folk Christmas tunes, so they have a straightforward uncomplicated charm.

The other selection "Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr" (Alone to God in the highest be glory), is an early Lutheran hymn with text and melody attributed to Nikolaus Decius. This piece was intended as a German version of the Gloria part of the Latin Mass but was adopted as a Christmas tune.

Grace Updates

NAMETAGS are here

Please stop by Grace's Alcove and pick up your nametag. If you expected that there would be one for you, or would like to order one now, please email the Church Office at office@gracecalgary.org

Grace Gives Thanks

Grace gives thanks for the ministry of the Quilters. This Pastoral Care & Connection program presents unique quilts to individuals who are newly baptized, undergoing medical treatments, mourning the loss of a loved one, graduating from the RESET program, as well as others like the quilts given to people on service trips to Mexico. The Quilters dedicate their time and creative talent while enjoying connection and belonging as a group.

Volunteer Opportunities

Stampede Breakfast Planning

Grace plans to welcome its community in early July at a Stampede Breakfast. A team of two volunteers is needed to help get the planning started.

Ceramic Cups for Fellowship Time

Grace uses ceramic cups instead of disposable paper cups during the Fellowship Time after service as part of the effort to reduce the environmental footprint. Two additional volunteers are needed to take turns once a month to gather the dirty cups, run them through the lounge dishwasher and put them away.

Grace Events

Grace at a Glance

January 7	Grace Handbells 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 12	<i>Grace Notes</i> Children's Choir practices for Winter / Spring begin
January 14	Grace Bethany meeting
January 19	<i>Living Our Faith</i> course
January 25	Grace Quilters

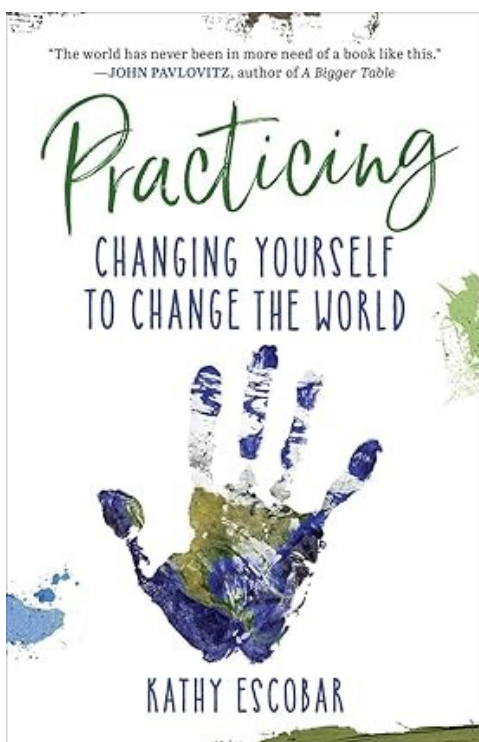
2025 Book Study - *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change The World*

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.

Community Events



The Chair of Christian Thought, in partnership with the Calgary Institute for the Humanities, University of Calgary, presents

An Evening with Reverend Tony Snow

Join us for the 2025 Chair of Christian Thought Label Lecture in Christian Ethics: *Reconciliation and Repair: Treaty, Covenant, Relationship, Bond*



Christian communities engaged in the work of reconciliation seek to repair relationships and histories often neglected, buried, and considered shameful to the society at large. A retelling of this history necessitates a coming to terms with who we were then and who we are now, and all that our past has constructed to enable the enjoyment we see today. It is the work of inculturation and diaspora that show us the limits of who we can be as we delve into the intergenerational work of reconciliation, not only with Indigenous populations, but through our efforts globally as we stand as a people of peace. Scripture and history give us a context, but how we understand and develop our reconciliation social models is the critical enterprise we have committed to engage with and nurture in the years ahead. It is this relational reconciliation model that attends to our work within the Christian community and beyond.

Rev. Tony Snow (BA, MDIV) is a member of the Stoney Nakoda First Nation and the regional Indigenous Minister for the Chinook Winds Region (southern Alberta) for the United Church of Canada where he oversees relationship-building, outreach, and reconciliation programming for denominational, ecumenical and interfaith institutions and organizations. Rev. Snow is an intergenerational clergy representative from the Stoney people, who, along with his brother Rev. John Snow and his sister Student Minister Gloria Snow, follows in his father's footsteps, the late Dr. Rev. Chief John Snow Sr., in his work to live out the treaty relationship and our covenants with one another. Rev. Snow is a descendant of the signers of Treaty 7 in southern Alberta, and a traditional knowledge keeper.

For further information or if you would like to be added to the Chair of Christian Thought mailing list, please contact Dr Carolyn Muessig, Chair of Christian Thought, University of Calgary [carolyn.muessig@ucalgary.ca]. To watch previous Chair of Christian Thought lectures, click [here](#).

The event is free, but you must register to reserve a seat.
To register, click [here](#).

Thursday, January 16, 2025 | 6:30 – 8:00pm
The Confluence (formerly known as Fort Calgary)
750 – 9 Avenue SE Calgary AB T2G 5E1



MISSION MOMENT

Prayer Partnership



In Nepal, 60-year-old Sakkal Bahadur Shahi had a keen interest in agriculture. However, a lack of training, resources and community support hindered his efforts. In addition, due to his poor economic condition, he lacked the means to transform his farm into a sustainable, income-generating operation. Sakkal's situation changed when he joined a PWS&D-supported project. The project formed the Phulbari Swabalamban self-help group, which includes 25 members working to improve the living standards of poor members of their community. Through training from the project, Sakkal transformed his farm into a model farm, where he adopted climate-resilient farming practices and started growing various vegetables. Sakkal is now better able to support his family through his farm.

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 Sakkal in Nepal, please visit www.presbyterian.ca/PWS&D.

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
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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*
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Alan Facey - *Support Services Director*
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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