



# Baptism of the Lord

**GROWING IN FAVOUR**

**JANUARY 12, 2025 10:30 AM**

**WORSHIP ONLINE:**

[gracechurchcalgary.com](http://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 **Wie Schon leuchtet der Morgenstern**

J. Pachelbel

*How brightly shines the morning star*

*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

**Shirley Philips**

*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.*

### Introit **Christ be our light<sup>OL</sup>**

B. Farrell

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

### Lighting the Christ Candle

**Atale**

### Litany for Baptism of the Lord

**Jake Van Pernis**

In the beginning, darkness covered the deep,  
and God said: Let there be light.

**The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

**The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you.  
I have called you by name; you are mine.

**The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

When Jesus was baptized by John,  
suddenly the heavens were opened.

**The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

And as Jesus was coming out of the water,  
the Spirit of God rested on him like a dove.

**The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

And a voice said: You are my beloved Son;  
with you I am well pleased.

**The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

**Hymn 512 At the dawning of creation<sup>OL</sup>**

Blue Hymnal

*Please be seated following the hymn*

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,  
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,  
but we confess that we prefer our old, familiar ways.  
We cling to destructive habits,  
we harbor grudges,  
and we are reluctant to welcome the stranger or forgive one another.  
Nostalgia for the past prevents us from exploring new possibilities.  
In your loving kindness, forgive us.  
Have mercy upon us and move among us  
so that we might pursue new life in Christ together.

### Assurance of Pardon

### The Peace

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

**Anthem**      **All who believe are baptized**      J.S. Bach  
*Es ist das Heil uns kommen her*

All who believe and are baptized shall see the Lord's salvation;  
baptized into the death of Christ, they are a new creation;  
through Christ's redemption they will stand among the glorious heav'nly band  
of ev'ry tribe and nation.

With one accord, O God, we pray, grant us your Holy Spirit;  
help us in our infirmity through Jesus' blood and merit;  
grant us to grow in grace each day that as is promised here  
we may eternal life inherit.

**Time With Young Christians**      **Chris Joiner**  
*Children age 4 through Grade 6 are invited to Church School following this time.*

**Prayer for Understanding**      **Margot Kellough**

**Scripture Readings**      **Isaiah 43: 1-7**      Old Testament, pg.631  
   **Luke 3:15-22**      New Testament, pg. 52

**Sermon**      ***Growing in Favour: Through the Waters***

*Please stand in body or spirit for the hymn*

**Hymn**      **183 Christ, when for us you were baptized<sup>OL</sup>**      Blue Hymnal

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**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.**

## Commissioning of Strategic Planning Team

**Jennifer Frank** moved to Calgary in 2007 and shortly after joined Grace's community. She has been active in many areas at Grace, including serving on the Spiritual Growth Committee, in Grace's music program, and with Grace's Kids and Youth.

**Karen Kim** has been a member of Grace Presbyterian Church for over 20 years. She has served on Grace's Governance Committee and ad-hoc committees for the strategic review of Grace's real estate assets as well as developing a guide for living Grace's vision, mission and values.

**Yonas Ojulu** became a part of Grace in 2012 and has served on committees at the church. He looks forward to serving.

**Shirley Philips** is the Clerk of Session. She and her husband, Dan, have been attending Grace for more than 14 years. She has worked for a number of nonprofits for 35 years as both a CEO and Chair of the Board. She has participated in strategic planning and the implementation throughout her career.

**Greg Retzer** has assisted with Grace's Church School and many joyous and fun Christmas pageants over the years along with his spouse JoAnn, and their three daughters.

**Broda Stuart** is a lifelong member of Grace and is pleased to assist with strategic planning for Grace's future.

**Matthew Vyse** has been a member of Grace for 25 years and is currently a member of Session. He is a retired Physical Therapist and has served on community boards, as well as national and local church committees.

**Invitation to Share Our Offerings**

**Rob McDonald**

## **Offertory** **What King would wade through murky streams** David Hurd

What king would wade through murky streams and bow beneath the wave,  
ignoring how the world esteems the powerful and brave?

Water, River, Spirit, Grace, sweep over me, sweep over me!

Christ gleams with water brown with clay from land the prophets trod.  
Above while heaven's clouds give way descends the dove of God.

Water, River, Spirit, Grace, sweep over me, sweep over me!

Come bow beneath the flowing wave. Christ stands here at your side  
and raises you as from the grave God raise the crucified.

Water, River, Spirit, Grace, sweep over me, sweep over me!

## **Response to Sharing Our Offerings**

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**<sup>OL</sup> Brian Wren

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures high and low.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit One.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

**Hymn 522 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more** Blue Hymnal

## **Benediction**

**Sending Hymn Christ be our light**<sup>OL</sup> B. Farrell

**Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

*Please be seated for the Postlude*

**Postlude Jubilate** G. Young

*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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## 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/](http://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.

### **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, John 2: 1-11 "Jubilee: A Sign"	The Rev. Dr. Chris Joiner
January 26	I Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 14-21 "Jubilee: Year of Favour"	The Rev. Dr. Chris Joiner

#### **The condolences of Grace Presbyterian Church are shared with:**

Iain and Nancy Robertson on the death of Iain's father, George Robertson in Bishopton, Renfrewshire, Scotland, who died on January 4, 2025.

Durk DeJong's son, Tim who died on December 25, 2024. Services will be held at Grace on January 18 at 2:00 p.m., reception to follow at Grace.

John Tomson who passed away recently. Services will be held at Grace on Thursday, January 23 at 1:00 p.m.

## Music Notes

As the season of Epiphany begins, *Wie Schon Leuchtet der Morgenstern* (How Lovely Shines the Morning Star) wonderfully illustrates the theme of Jesus being a light to all people. The text of this Lutheran hymn written by Phillip Nicolai in 1597 and first published in 1599 states:

*“How beautifully shines the morning star full of grace and truth from the Lord, the sweet root of Jesse! You son of David from the line of Jacob, my king and my bridegroom, have taken possession of my heart, [you who are] lovely, friendly, beautiful and glorious, great and honorable, rich in gifts, lofty and exalted in splendor!”*

The words of this hymn have inspired musical settings through centuries, including Johann Pachelbel’s that is a part of today’s worship. Listen for the opening statement of the hymn tune in the keyboard, and notice the augmentation of the tune in the organ pedals (bass) - a lovely counterpoint!

## Grace Updates

### **NAMETAGS to be ordered**

Please stop by Grace’s Alcove and add your name to the list if you would like to order one, or email the Church Office at [office@gracecalgary.org](mailto:office@gracecalgary.org)

## Grace Gives Thanks

Grace gives thanks for the faithfulness of the members of the Strategic Planning Committee as they prayerfully lead the discernment of how God is calling this congregation to serve his world in this time and place. Jennifer Frank, Karen Kim, Yonas Ojulu, Shirley Philips, Greg Retzer, Broda Stuart and Matthew Vyse are sharing their time and talents in this vital work.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Financial Management Committee Member**

This Committee meets monthly to support the excellent stewardship of the financial resources of Grace Presbyterian Church. One additional member to join this work is needed.

### **Stampede Breakfast Planning**

Grace plans to welcome its community in early July at a Stampede Breakfast. One more volunteer is needed for the team to help start planning the details.



## Grace Events

### Grace at a Glance

January 12	<i>Grace Notes</i> Children's Choir practices for Winter / Spring begin
January 14	Grace Bethany meeting
January 15	Lectionary Bible Study
January 19	<i>Living Our Faith</i> course Evening Grace: Service of Healing and Wholeness
January 22	Lectionary Bible Study
January 25	Grace Quilters
January 29	Lectionary Bible Study
February 2	Bible and Doughnuts Youth Bible Study
February 8	Wild Grace at Confederation Park
February 13	<i>Practicing</i> Book Study
February 15	Open Mic Night
February 22	Grace Quilters
March 4	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party
March 5	Ash Wednesday

### **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 invitation of this study is to deepen your understanding of the ten transformational practices outlined by 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. Sign up online by February 13 to be a part of this transformational study in 2025.

## **Introducing Grace's New Youth Ministry Leader Alessa Polito**

My name is Alessa Polito. I am originally from Southern Ontario and moved to Alberta in my late teens. Today, my wife, Erica, and I reside in the South East community of Chaparral with our cat, Piper. My first pastorate was at Hinton Alliance Church where I served as the Associate Pastor from 2017-2020. I am now a sessional faculty member at Ambrose University and Seminary. I graduated from Ambrose's Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity programs. When I am not reading or writing about theology, I like to spend time with my family, cook, play games, drink coffee, and listen to music! I am excited to join Grace and serve this wonderful community as we seek to know Christ deeper everyday.



# 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



## 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