



GRACE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

*In the presence of greatness:
A study in Isaiah*

Our church exists to help people **know** God's Son, **fellowship** with God's people, **worship** in God's church, **grow** in God's grace and **serve** in God's world.

The Lord's Day | September 3, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Please silence your electronic device before the worship service begins.

Preparation for Worship

Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

Psalm 117

Call to Worship

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Psalm 117

Invocation

Doxology

Doxology means "glory words." We lift our hearts up to give God his glory for all he has done.

+How Great Thou Art

Pastoral Prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

+Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

+Behold Our God

Children's Moment

There is no Children's Church today.

+Scripture Reading

Behold, the LORD will empty the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants. ²And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the slave, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the creditor, so with the debtor. ³The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered; for the LORD has spoken this word. ⁴The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish. ⁵The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. ⁶Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left. ⁷The wine mourns, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh. ⁸The mirth of the tambourines is stilled, the noise of the jubilant has ceased, the mirth of the lyre is stilled. ⁹No more do they drink wine with singing; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it. ¹⁰The wasted city is broken down; every house is shut up so that none can enter. ¹¹There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine; all joy has grown dark; the gladness of the earth is banished. ¹²Desolation is left in the city; the gates are battered into ruins. ¹³For thus it shall be in the midst of the earth among the nations, as when an olive tree is beaten, as at the gleaning when the grape harvest is done. ¹⁴They lift up their voices, they sing for joy; over the majesty of the LORD they shout from the west. ¹⁵Therefore in the east give glory to the LORD; in the coastlands of the sea, give glory to the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁶From the ends of the earth we hear songs of praise, of glory to the Righteous One. But I say, "I waste away, I waste away. Woe is me! For the traitors have betrayed, with betrayal the traitors have betrayed." ¹⁷Terror and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth! ¹⁸He who flees at the sound of the terror shall fall into the pit, and he who climbs out of the pit shall be caught in the snare. For the windows of heaven are opened, and the foundations of the earth tremble. ¹⁹The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken. ²⁰The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again. ²¹On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. ²²They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished. ²³Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders.

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the foreigners' palace is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall, ⁵like heat in a dry place. You subdue the noise of the foreigners; as heat by the shade of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is put down. ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has

spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." ¹⁰For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain, and Moab shall be trampled down in his place, as straw is trampled down in a dunghill. ¹¹And he will spread out his hands in the midst of it as a swimmer spreads his hands out to swim, but the LORD will lay low his pompous pride together with the skill of his hands. ¹²And the high fortifications of his walls he will bring down, lay low, and cast to the ground, to the dust.
Isaiah 24 and 25

Sermon *Rev. Doug Serven*

Silent Confession

Corporate Confession

Our God, we praise You that we have been brought out of the kingdom of darkness into Your marvelous light. May Your Spirit's perfect light penetrate into every crevice of our beings, making us more and more into the likeness of our Savior Jesus, in whom there is no darkness. Lord, we lament how the shadows of darkness linger in us causing us to sin, keeping us from loving You and one another as we ought. We have often been fooled into thinking that we have overcome a specific sin, only to find that the roots remain deep and strong. Our relationships are filled with stress: grievances are not easily forgotten, love for others does not always come from a joyful and willing heart. We long for purity of heart and mind, of affection and will. We long for Your Spirit to bear in us the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Please grant this to us for Your glory and for the good of Your Church and the world.

Declaration of Pardon

The Lord said, "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you."
Ezekiel 36:25-26

Pastor: Your sins are forgiven. Your dignity is restored. Your shame is taken away—all by the life and sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. At the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to say to all those who were invited, "Friends, your spot at the table is set. He has made a place for you."

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

***universal**

The Lord's Supper

This is a sign and symbol for those who believe in Jesus Christ. It's not for good people. It's for you if you believe and embrace that you are worse and more messed up than you ever dare to admit; and yet you are more loved and accepted than you had ever dared to hope - because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus for you. You will be invited to come forward. The dark liquid is wine and the light liquid is grape juice. We have gluten free crackers on the table if you need them instead of the bread. After you are finished, please place your empty cup in one of the baskets at the front. Feel free to stay and pray with the pastor or elders.

Children are welcome to come with their parents. Each child should talk with a pastor or elder about his or her belief in Christ before taking the Lord's Supper for the first time. Please make an appointment to do this at a future date.

Pastor: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us lift up our hearts to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Pastor: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

+Beautiful Savior

Announcements

+Benediction

God sends us out with his blessing. A benediction is not a prayer. We don't bow our heads. We lift them up and even lift up our hands, in a spiritually ready position so that the blessing God is giving us will fully hit our whole selves, and we'll be sent out for mission.

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Dismissal

Pastor: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

**If able, please stand*

Prayers During the Lord's Supper:

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads me to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief: Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Struggling Against Sin: Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may I turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me and run with perseverance the race you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment: Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Announcements

Back To School Sunday is next week: Trip Beans and RUF students will join us for the service and lunch afterward. All are welcome to attend.

Safe Harbor Women's Conference: Join us at the conference on September 29 and 30. Please register and then contact Joan to discuss hotel room preferences. Pastor Doug put the registration form in last week's Wednesday email.

South West Emergency Services current wish list: peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti and sauce, pasts, tuna fish, soups, black beans

Nursery/Children's Church Rotation

TODAY: There is no Children's Church. 9:10 Renata, Kathy

Ministry Schedule

(Changes to the schedule will be in the Announcements)

SUNDAY

Sunday School: 8:50 – 9:45 AM

Adults in Trailer

Children 4-12 yrs. in main classroom in the church

Fellowship Time between Sunday School and Service

Worship Service: 10 AM

Nursery (infant -3yrs.) in Toddler Room during service (2nd-5th Sunday)

Children's Church (infant-8 yrs., 2nd-5th Sunday)

MONDAY

Women's Discipleship Group: 7 PM

2nd Monday of the Month

Meets in person and on Zoom

Contact Diane Darchicourt

WEDNESDAY

Conversational English Classes: 9:30 -11:30 AM

Meets weekly during the school year

Contact Janet Pryor

Zoom Praying Meeting: 7:30-8:30 PM

Meets weekly

Contact Jim Darchicourt

SATURDAY

Men's Discipleship Group: 7 AM

1st Saturday of each month at the church

Contact John Daniello

Thank you for worshipping with us!

If you would like to have your name added to our communication list for announcements and events, please scan the code.



Thank you for your generous giving to help us support the mission and vision of Grace Church. You can make a one-time gift or set up regular giving. Visit grpca.org or scan the code.



Church Leadership

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