



**G R A C E**  
**C H U R C H**

*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 24, 2023

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Welcome

*Please silence your electronic device before the worship service begins.*

### Preparation for Worship

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.  
Psalm 92:4

### Call to Worship

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Psalm 92:1-4

### Invocation

### Doxology

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

### +Praise to the Lord Almighty

**Stories of Rescue** by RUF at University of Maryland

### 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.**

### +Greater Than Great

### +All Must Be Well

### Children's Moment

*Ages 4-8 dismissed for Children's Church*

**+Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 40

**Sermon** Rev. Doug Serven

## **Silent Confession**

### **Corporate Confession**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

### **Declaration of Pardon**

Righteousness will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Romans 4:24-25

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**

## **Invitation to the Table**

### **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.**

**+Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

## **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**

**Can you help ESL?** One childcare provider and one teacher assistant is needed. If you can help or know someone that is interested please contact Janet Pryor. The hours on Wednesday are 9:30-11:30.

**Grace Game Night!!** Tyson Janney hosts regular board game nights on the First Saturday of every month at 7pm. Youth and adults are encouraged to come try it out! We have games of many lengths and levels of difficulty, so whether you haven't played any games besides "Monopoly" or whether you're a die-hard enthusiast, we hope to see Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> for Grace Game Night!

**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 9/24 Diane, Jenn. There is no Nursery/Children's care next week.

## **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 (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

**Children's Church** (infant-8 yrs., 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

### **MONDAY**

**Women's Discipleship Group:** 7 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://grpca.org) or scan the code.



### **Church Leadership**

Rev. Doug Serven, Pastor - [servenator@gmail.com](mailto:servenator@gmail.com)

Jim Darchicourt, Elder - [clerk@grpca.org](mailto:clerk@grpca.org)

Mark Woodland, Elder - [woodlands642@outlook.com](mailto:woodlands642@outlook.com)

John Daniello, Elder - [jedaniello@gmail.com](mailto:jedaniello@gmail.com)

Tyson Janney - Deacon - [tcjanney@gmail.com](mailto:tcjanney@gmail.com)

Bethany Haywood, Music Director - [bethanyh27@aol.com](mailto:bethanyh27@aol.com)

Joan Nelson, Administrative Assistant - [churchoffice@grpca.org](mailto:churchoffice@grpca.org)

Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church  
1602 Linden Lane Relay MD 21227  
(410) 247-4088

