

March 9, 2025 -- 10:00 a.m. service

*Indicates we will rise in body or spirit

We Gather to Worship

Prelude

Diane Ritzema

Welcome

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord,

**ALL: "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."**

***Songs of Praise:**

We are People on a Journey

We are people on a journey,
Following where the Master walks.
We are people on a journey,
In the shadow of the cross.
What compels? The face of Jesus!
Who protects? Our faithful guide:
He who treads the road of service,
Christ the Lord, the crucified.

We are people on a journey,
Taking up the cross of Christ.
We are people on a journey,
Moving on from death to life.
We release the sin that tangles.
We relinquish all acclaim.
We receive the suffering Savior,
He our glory, wealth and fame.

We are people on a journey,
Rising up in life reborn.
We are people on a journey,
Speaking peace, accepting scorn.
We are walking toward a homeland,

To a mystery yet unknown,
To a kingdom coming quickly,
To the light of God's own throne.

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Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
We turn to walk the inward way,
Where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
We live in hope till Easter day.

We bear the silence, cross and pain
Of human burdens, human strife,
While sisters, brothers help sustain
Our courage till the feast of life.

And though the road is hard and steep,
The Spirit ever calls us on
Through Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
Until we see the coming dawn.

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God's Greeting and Mutual Greetings

We Are Renewed

Prayer of Confession

Sometimes we experience wilderness because we have chosen to leave God and wander off, to go our own way. For all the ways we have turned away from God and ignored God's voice, we turn to God in a prayer of confession, asking for forgiveness.

God, you call us, but we ignore your voice.
You speak to us, but we are too busy to listen.
You invite us to see the good things you are doing
even in difficult places and through difficult circumstances,
but our eyes are closed, and we refuse to look and see.
You ask us to join in your work, to be a part of the renewal of the world, but
we think the price is too high, the people not deserving,
or the people and creation to be someone else's responsibility.
You call us to serve others, but we think only of ourselves.

In the midst of the wilderness of this world and our lives,
you are doing a good thing, but we prefer to stay in a comfortable place.
We lose patience, demanding you act instead of resting in you.
Forgive us for all we have done that goes against your will
and for not doing the things you have asked of us.
Help us to turn back to you, commit ourselves to follow you, and lead lives
of service, even in the wilderness. Amen.

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Song of Assurance: Just As I Am

Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot.
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

I come broken to be mended.
I come wounded to be healed.
I come desp'rate to be rescued.
I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned
By the blood of Christ, the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms,
Praise God, just as I am.

Just as I am I would be lost,
But mercy and grace my freedom bought.
And now to glory in Your cross,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

I come broken to be mended.
I come wounded to be healed.
I come desp'rate to be rescued.
I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned
By the blood of Christ, the Lamb.

And I'm welcomed with open arms,
Praise God, just as I am.

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By the blood of Christ, the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms,
Praise God, just as I am.
Praise God, just as I am.

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Dedication to Holy Living

Even as the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God was calling them to live holy lives marked by service to God, love of people, and care for creation. Obedience to God's law was not meant to be a burden, but to arise naturally from a heart of gratitude for what God had done in bringing them out of Egypt and in anticipation of their arrival in the promised land. As God's people today, wandering in the wilderness, we too receive the same call to live holy lives out of gratitude for what God has done, with faith and hope that one day all will be well.

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Let us be reminded of that call with these words from Exodus 20.

God spoke all these words:

"I am the Lord your God.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not bow down to them or worship them.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

God Speaks

Song of Preparation: We Long to See You

Almighty God, we long to see You.
Open our hearts and make them pure.
Spirit we wash our hands in mercy;
Come teach our souls to love Your truth.

Almighty God, we long to see You.
Open our hearts and make them pure.
Spirit we wash our hands in mercy;
Come teach our souls to love Your truth.
Come teach our souls to love Your truth.

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***Scripture: Luke 4:1-13**

Message: The Call to Service

We Respond

***Songs of Response: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days**

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger and did thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and so to live by your most holy Word.

Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,
An Easter of unending joy we may at last attain.

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What Love My God

What love my God would bring You down to earth
What king would take a low and lonely birth
Yet to this dark and broken place You came
To sleep beneath the stars that You had made

What love my God would send the Way of Life
To walk the road rejected and despised
That You might know the weakness I possess
And be my rock of strength and righteousness

O Your love my God like a flood
As heaven opened up pouring out on us
O praise the King who came to the world
In His love like a mighty flood

What love my God could hold You to the tree
To bear that overwhelming debt for me
The Son of heaven leaves the Father's side
The Healer bleeds the Life was made to die

What love my God so gracious and extreme
Was strong enough to come and fight for me
To go through hell and down into the grave
And raise me up to see You face to face
You raise me up to see You face to face

O Your love my God like a flood
As heaven opened up pouring out on us
O praise the King who came to the world
In His love like a mighty flood
In His love like a mighty flood

Words and music by Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson

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Prayer for our Church

ALL:

Father God, You have told us in Your Word to that we are to worship and serve only You. Help us to follow Your commands to put You first in our lives. May our worship here at Grace Church, and our service to Your children throughout the world, reflect Your love and compassion. When we are tempted, may Your Spirit empower us to turn away from Satan and follow You alone. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Prayers of the People: Brian Kamper

Offering Announcement

God Blesses Us to Serve

*Benediction

*Doxology

Worthy is Christ

Worthy is Christ, worthy is Christ;
To him be praise and glory:
worthy is the Lord.

Digno es Jesús, digno es Jesús;
De recibir la gloria,
digno es Jesús.

He gave his life, he died for me;
To him be praise and glory:
worthy is the Lord.

Su vida dio, por mí murió;
De recibir la gloria,
digno es Jesús.

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Postlude