

WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH

A people gladly serving the Lord Jesus and neighbors near and far

BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE, WE ARE NOT CONSUMED, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING; GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

We worship our Savior on September 8, 2024 (9 a.m.)

(“Come as you are ... then go home different”)

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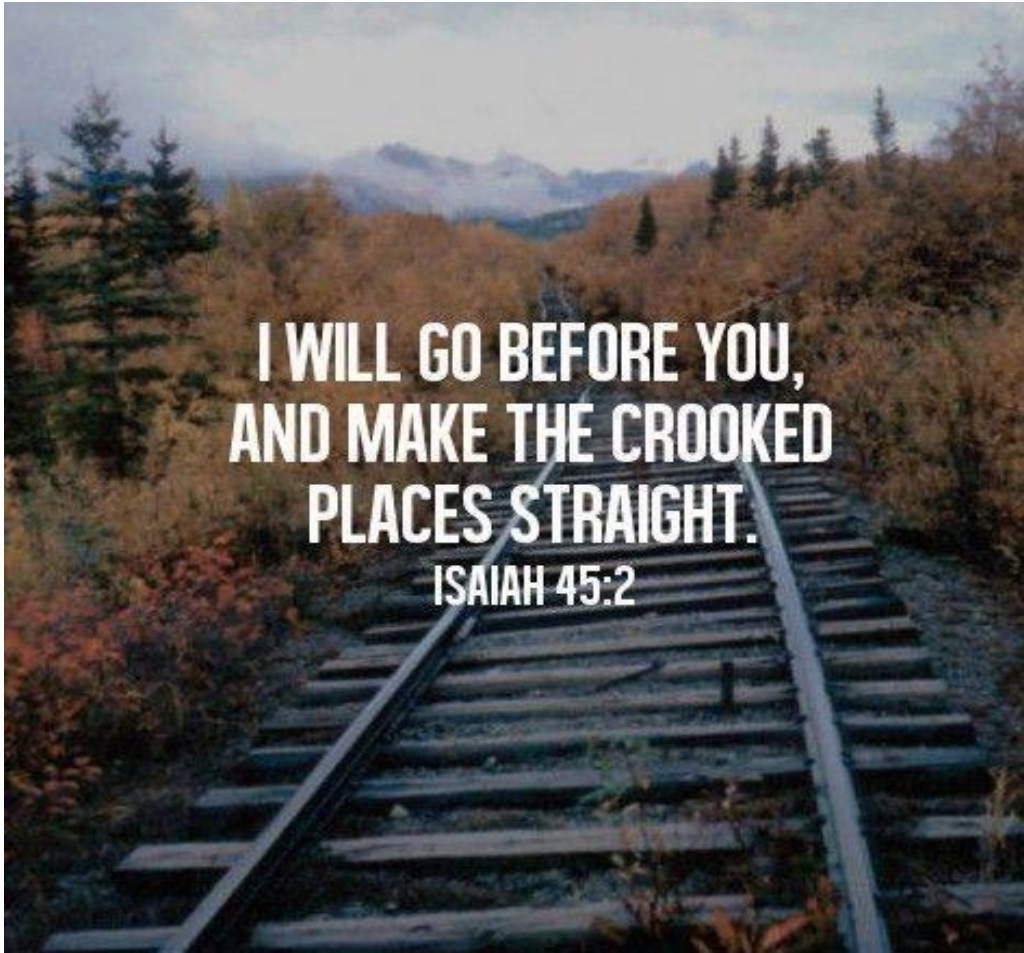
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PASTOR: W. Michael Langford (Pastor's cell: 717-659-9613)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Chris Peters (9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Thursdays)

MINISTERS: All of us! (We are all ministers of God's grace and we're on-duty '24/7')



**I WILL GO BEFORE YOU,
AND MAKE THE CROOKED
PLACES STRAIGHT.
ISAIAH 45:2**

BLESSING US WITH THEIR MUSIC....Chris Peters (piano), Linda Langford (organ)

GATHERING HYMN (U.M. # 525) "We'll Understand It Better By And By"

(1) We are tossed and driven on the restless sea of time;
Somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine; in that land of perfect day

When the mists have rolled away, we will understand it better by and by.

(Ref.) By and by, when the morning comes, when the saints of God are gathered home

We'll tell the story how we've overcome, for we'll understand it better by and by.

(3) Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand all the ways that God would lead us

To that blessed promised land; but he guides us with his eye, and we'll follow till we die,
For we'll understand it better by and by. (Refrain)

(4) Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares, and our hearts are made to bleed
For a thoughtless word or deed; and we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by. (Refrain)

A WELCOME from our liturgist: David Stoner

A CALL TO WORSHIP Psalms

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Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.

For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all "gods".

In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him.

The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship. Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.

If you hear His voice, do not allow your hearts to be hardened as in days past...

Let us come into this experience of worship with joyous expectation.

We willingly present ourselves to Jesus, who helps us to walk for God.

OPENING HYMN (U.M. # 337) "Only Trust Him"

(1) Come, every soul by sin oppressed, there's mercy with the Lord;
And he will surely give you rest, by trusting in his Word. (Refrain)

(Refrain) Only trust him, only trust him, only trust him now.

He will save you, he will save you, he will save you now.

*(2) For Jesus shed his precious blood rich blessings to bestow;
Plunge now into the crimson flood that washes bright as snow. (Refrain)*

*(3) Yes, Jesus is the truth, the way that leads you into rest;
believe in him without delay, and you are fully blest. (Refrain)*

*(4) Come then and join this holy band, and on to glory go,
To dwell in that celestial land where joys immortal flow. (Refrain)*

INVITATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Please offer your own "GOD IS GOOD" greeting to those seated nearby!

PRAISE SONG "Bless The Lord"

(1) For Your BEAUTY...for Your GOODNESS...And Your WISDOM, awesome God,
Praise the Lord, O my soul, praise the Lord

(2) For Your POWER...for Your HONOR...and Your SPLENDOR, Mighty God,
Praise the Lord, O my soul, praise the Lord.....Praise the Lord, O my soul, praise the Lord

**(chorus) I will worship You ... I will bless Your Name forever
I will worship You ... Bless the Lord, O my soul, Bless the Lord**

(3) For Your KINDNESS...for Your FAVOR...and Your MERCY, Gracious One,
Thank the Lord, O my soul, thank the Lord

(4) For Your FIRE...for Your TESTING...And Your SPIRIT, Holy One,
Thank the Lord, O my soul, thank the Lord, Thank the Lord, O my soul, thank the Lord (C)

(5) For Your SUFFERING...and Your ANGUISH...and Your SORROW, Humble King,
Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless the Lord

(6) For Your VICTORY...for Your TRIUMPH...and You'll soon come to reign over us (C)

BODY BUILDING Joys, Announcements and testimonies of God's grace

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG "I Will Magnify"

*I will magnify Thy Name above all the Earth! I will magnify Thy Name above all the Earth!
I will sing unto Thee the praises in my heart! I will sing unto Thee the praises in my heart!*

--- WE HEAR THE WORD ---

SCRIPTURES Psalms 33:8-9, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, James 4:8 and Luke 12:4-5

**"Fear him who, after your body has been killed,
has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."**

TODAY'S MESSAGE Pastor Mike
Langford

"Last, But Not Least..."

"IT IS MY GREAT HONOR"

A summer sermon series on being God's people of respect

(Today: Honoring God Himself)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

AN INVITATION, PRAYER of CONFESSION and BLESSING of the ELEMENTS

Holy Communion is not just for members of this or any local church. Christ welcomes all who claim Him as Lord and Savior, love God and neighbor, and pledge to walk in His ways

We come forward in a continuous line of humble believers, praying for ourselves and others.

CLOSING HYMN (U.M. # 438) “Forth In Thy Name, O Lord”

- (1) Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue; thee, only thee,
Resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.
- (2) The task thy wisdom hath assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;
In all my works thy presence find, and prove thy good and perfect will.
- (3) Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
And labor on at thy command, and offer all my works to thee.
- (4) For thee delightfully employ whate’er thy bounteous grace hath given;
And run my course with even joy, and closely walk with thee to heaven.

A BENEDICTION

We thank you for presenting your tithes and offerings in the plates found at the exits.

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This worship service is over. NOW BEGINS our Christian service in Jesus’ Name!

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We are **not** on a “167-hour vacation from faith” after this worship ends. We show the grace daily!

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MINISTRY CHALLENGE ... Let’s pray for those who have been absent from Grace fellowship for a while. May the Lord help us to extend them kindness and friendship.

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LAST WEEK...Our 10th annual end-of-summer hymnsing! ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS’ NAME...God welcomes all to sing His everlasting song. THE JOY OF THE LORD...We cultivate joy that isn’t phony to serve and bless. GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN...Old Testament images declare God’s promise to Christians today. ALMIGHTY...Our all-powerful God shows His tender love in Jesus, who draws near during times of pain. SEEK YE FIRST...We seek first God’s kingdom and His righteousness as He adds even more to us. STANDING ON THE PROMISES...The words ‘stand’ and ‘promise’ are big Bible themes which should be themes for us, too. MADE ME GLAD...Let’s echo the psalmist declaration: “For you make me glad by your deeds, Lord...” EVERY TIME I FEEL THE SPIRIT...The “spirit” isn’t “team spirit”, it’s the Holy Spirit which we receive with joy. FAITH OF OUR FATHERS ... Great heroes of faith in the church and America stayed strong, even during great hardships. May we endeavor to be on God’s side. GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN...a moving reminder that God’s love is “greater than” our hearts...and even our rebellion. I’LL GO WHERE YOU WANT ME TO GO...sung at

missionary farewells, we'll serve wherever and whenever the Lord calls. MORE LOVE TO THEE...A picture of Jacob relying upon God. Giving more love to Jesus is always a good idea for us!