

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 October 6, 2024 (9 a.m.)

(Come as you are, then "go home different")

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World Communion Sunday



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')

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

GATHERING HYMN (U.M. # 189) "Fairest Lord Jesus"

*(1) Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*(2) Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*(3) Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.*

*(4) Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.*

A WELCOME from our liturgist: Julia Reeding

A CALL TO WORSHIP Inspired by Psalm 89

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;

With my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that Your Love stands firm forever,

That You established Your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise Your wonders, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord?

Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?

O Mighty God: the Almighty, who is like You?

Your faithfulness surrounds You

The heavens are Yours; the earth is Yours.

You are the Founder: the world and all that's in it

We love You, Lord...we want to serve You. May today's worship be a new beginning.

We have come here to celebrate Your Goodness with others here in this sanctuary.

Help us, dear God, to keep on sharing Your glory when we leave this room!

OPENING HYMN (U.M. # 540) "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

*(1) I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.*

*(2) I love thy church, O God! Her walls before thee stand
Dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.*

*(3) For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.*

(4) *Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.*

(5) *Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.*

INVITATION OF GOD’S PRESENCE

Offer your own “GOD IS GOOD” greeting to those seated nearby!

PRAISE SONG “He Reigns”

*(1) It’s the song of the redeemed...rising from the African plain...
It’s the song of the forgiven...drowning out the Amazon rain...
The song of Asian believers...filled with God’s holy fire...*

It’s every tribe, every tongue, every nation...a love song born of a grateful choir...

(C) It’s all God’s children singing: Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! He reigns, He reigns (“

*(2) Let it rise about the four winds ... caught up in the heavenly sound...
Let praises echo from the towers of cathedrals to the faithful gathered underground...
Of all the songs sung from the dawn of creation...Some were meant to persist..
Of all the bells rung from a thousand steeples...none rings truer than this... (CHORUS)*

*(bridge) And all the powers of darkness tremble at what they’ve just heard...
Cause all the powers of darkness, can’t drown out a single word... (CHORUS)*

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG “In The Presence Of Jehovah”

*In the presence of Jehovah,
God Almighty, Prince of Peace,
Troubles vanish, hearts are mended,
In the presence of the King.*

PRAYER

GOD’S HOLY WORD Mark 9:30-35

**“Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said,
“If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.”**

**TODAY’S MESSAGE Pastor Mike
Langford**

“The Wide Welcome”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

AN INVITATION, PRAYER of CONFESSION and BLESSING of the ELEMENTS

***You do not need to be a member of this church or any church to receive Holy Communion.
Thankful people who love God and neighbor, claiming Jesus Christ as Lord
and pledging to walk in His ways are invited to share in this act of devotion.***

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

CLOSING HYMN (# 548) “In Christ There Is No East Or West” (tune # 549)

- (1) *In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*
- (2) *In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord close binding humankind.*
- (3) *In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;
Both male and female heirs are made, and all are kin to me.*
- (4) *In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.*

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!



*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 *World Communion week: let's work with other believers in our united service within the community as we declare God's love in Jesus Christ.*

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LAST WEEK ... *Prayer always “connects” us with God! That's why Paul urges his young protégé, Timothy, to pray fervently. He actually gives instructions on how to do it. He calls for “supplications”: requests that we might lift up during worship time as “prayers of the people.” Sometimes it's good for the whole faith community to hear prayer requests, so that people can get involved. He calls for “prayers”: the kind of petitions that only God can answer. We can't answer all this worlds' needs; some things only God can fix! Paul also tells young Timothy to pray “intercessions”: prayers in which we “go to God” on behalf of another person. Moses did this well. So did Jesus. It is “getting involved” as an advocate for a friend. We must even pray for ungodly or lazy leaders who “aren't so great”. Paul called his trainee to pray through ‘thanksgivings’: basking in God's glow. This is our way: praying with great commitment. Spend time in prayer. Don't let it be your LAST resort. Make it your FIRST resort! The New Testament mentions prayer nine time as often as music or singing. Yes, pray for your church! Let your fingers help you in your “prayer priorities”: (thumb) those closest to you, (index finger) those who teach/instruct, (middle finger) our leaders/authorities, (ring finger) those who are weak and, finally, (pinky) ourselves (1 Timothy 2:1-8)*

