

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 20, 2024 (9 a.m.)

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

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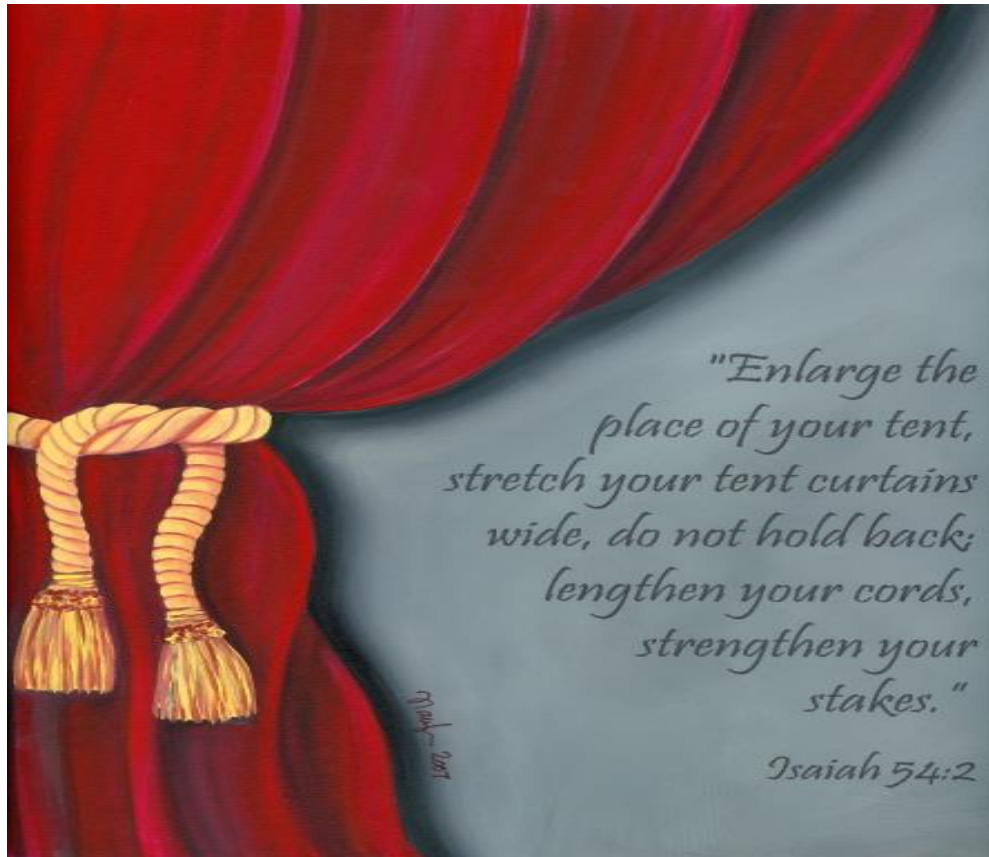
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PASTOR: W. Michael Langford

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. # 400) “Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”

- (1) Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, Never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by Flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
- (2) Here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope by thy good pleasure Safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
- (3) O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, Like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above

GATHERING HYMN (TFWS # 2066) “Praise The Name Of Jesus”

Praise the Name of Jesus, Praise the Name of Jesus: He's my Rock, He's my Fortress, He's my Deliverer, in Him will I trust. Praise the Name of Jesus.

A WELCOME from our liturgist: Shawn Good

A CALL TO WORSHIP Psalms

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There were many times when I cried out to God for help...times when I was in distress.
I now know that it was my faithful God who had kept my eyes from closing.
 At the time, I truly wondered if God was even there...if His promise had failed for all time
But then the very thought of His love and faithfulness turned my life around
 Surely, I will remember the deeds of the Lord, His miracles of long ago and of every day
We will all meditate on His wonderful works and consider His mighty deeds.
 As we do, we will say “His ways are holy”. What so-called “god” is as great as our God?
He has personally come to redeem His people. That's what we see in Jesus!
 In these days, the ever-faithful God leads us through some “impossible places”.
Come and worship Him who, by His love, leads His people as a shepherd.

OPENING HYMN (U.M. # 462) “’Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus”

- (1) ‘Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, and to take him at his word; just to rest upon his promise, and to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”
- (REFRAIN) **Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er! Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!**
- (2) O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood; And in simple faith to plunge me neath the healing, cleansing flood! (REFRAIN)
- (3) Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;

Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace. **(REFRAIN)**

(4) I'm so glad I learned to trust thee, precious Jesus, Savior, friend;
And I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end. **(REFRAIN)**

INVITATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE

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

PRAISE SONG "Make A Joyful Noise"

(VERSE) Make a joyful noise unto the Lord for He is worthy to be praised
Sing with your spirit clap with your hands **(clap twice)** Our God is greatly to be praised

(CHORUS) Worthy, worthy...He is worthy to be praised.
Hallelujah...Our God is greatly to be praised

PRAISE SONG "I Walk By Faith"

(Chorus) I walk by faith, each step by faith, to live by faith, I put my trust in You. **(repeat)**

(VERSE) Every step I take is a step of faith; no weapon formed against me shall prosper
Every prayer I make is a prayer of faith, and if my God is for me, who can be against me. **(C)**

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

PRAYER CONCERNS We lift our hearts to a Savior who cares

PRAYER SONG "A Broken Spirit"

(Chorus) A broken spirit and a contrite heart,
You will not despise, You will not despise

You desire truth in the inward parts, a broken spirit and a contrite heart.

(Verse) Lord, my heart is prone to wander, prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Your courts above. **(Chorus)**

PRAYER SONG "Into Your Courts"

(CHORUS) Into your courts we come, deep in our hearts we long to be
Near to the throne of Your glory; As we draw near to You...

Know that we're here to do Your will. God, how we long to be near to You

(VERSE) May our prayers be like incense rising up to Your throne.

May our songs be a fragrance unto You

May our lives be as pleasing offerings in all that we do; God, how we long to be near to You

PRAYER

GOD'S HOLY WORD Matthew 25:14-

30

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

TODAY'S MESSAGE Pastor Mike

Langford

“Winning The Talent Show”

CLOSING HYMN (# 399) “Take My Life And Let It Be Consecrated”

(1) Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

(2) Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

(3) Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

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 ... Do something nice for someone. As you do, let them know that “Jesus loves you”. Most folks will come to understand that there’s a connection between our surprising good works and God’s awesome love in Christ!

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LAST WEEK ... A silly internet quiz suggested that Pastor Mike’s “match state” would be Illinois. But that is NOT Mike’s land! Christopher Columbus knew the

promise in a new land. Moses helped his people to prepare for their land ahead. Israel had to know the blessings and responsibilities in that new place. The good land ahead would be filled with springs; believers remember that Jesus is our Living Water! The good land offers resources reflecting our relationship with God. Even the minerals signify a future to “settled people” who are no longer scavenger nomads. God’s people were warned of being prideful and complacent: they must never sit back: thinking that they have “made it”. Same with us today: we must never forget the Lord, abandoning his ways. Worshipful living takes place “not between the prelude and the benediction (one hour), but between the benediction and prelude” (167 hours!). The merciful God leads us from the wilderness of “spiders and snakes” for a reason. He wants it to go well with us! He still brings “water from below and bread from above”. Believers embrace the fullness of such joy in Christ. The Lord is leading us into a good land...let’s step into that place, rejoicing in His “Pomegranate Promise” (Deuteronomy 08:07-18)

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