

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 January 12, 2025 (9 a.m.)

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

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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')



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

John 14:1 NRSV

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

GATHERING SONG **“Glory To His Name”**

(1) Down at the cross where my Savior died, Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,
There to my heart was the blood applied. Glory to His Name!

**(REFRAIN) Glory to His name. Glory to His name,
There to my heart was the blood applied; Glory to His name.**

(2) I am so wondrously saved from sin, Jesus so sweetly abides within;
There at the cross where He took me in; Glory to His Name! **(REFRAIN)**

(3) O, precious fountain that saves from sin, I am so glad I have entered in;
There Jesus saves me and keeps me clean Glory to His Name! **(REFRAIN)**

(4) Come to this fountain so rich and sweet; Cast thy poor soul at the Savior’s feet;
Plunge in today and be made complete Glory to His Name! **(REFRAIN)**

A WELCOME from liturgist Ron Moore

A CALL TO WORSHIP **Psalm 122**

I rejoiced with those who said to me, “let us go to the House of the Lord.”

We don’t always celebrate the experience of going to church. But we should.

We should have the delight of the psalmist who couldn’t wait to serve God with praise.

He said... “Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem”.

He described it like this: “Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.

That’s where the tribes of the Lord go up, to praise the Name of the Lord!

There the thrones for judgment stand, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may those who love you be secure.

May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.

For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, ‘peace be within you.’

For the sake of the House of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.”

And I will seek you today, Lord. Let my worship be pure and a delight to You.

OPENING HYMN (U.M. # 723) **“Marching To Zion”**

(1) Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne

**(refrain) We’re marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We’re marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.**

(2) Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heavenly King, but
Children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad. **(r)**

(3) The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields,
Before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets **(r)**

(4) Then let our songs abound & every tear be dry; we’re marching thru’ Emmanuel’s ground,
We’re marching thru’ Emmanuel’s ground, to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high **(r)**

INVITATION OF GOD’S PRESENCE

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

PRAISE SONG “Great Is The Lord”

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just, By His power we trust in His love;
Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true
By His mercy He proves He is love.
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory,
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise;
Great is the Lord...now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great...is the Lord! Great...is the Lord!

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG “Jesus, Lover Of My Soul”

**(Chorus) It’s all about You, Jesus,
And all this is for You, for Your glory and Your fame
It’s not about me...as if You should do things my way
You alone are God, and I surrender...to Your ways**

**(VERSE) Jesus, lover of my soul, all consuming fire is in Your gaze
Jesus, I want You to know...I will follow You all my days**

**(BRIDGE) For no one else in history is like You,
and history itself belongs to You.
Alpha and Omega, You have loved me,
and I will spend eternity with You (CHORUS)**

GOD’S HOLY WORD Acts 19:1-7

**“When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them,
and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.
There were about twelve men in all.”**

TODAY’S MESSAGE Pastor Mike Langford

“Second Square”

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 (# 463) “Lord, Speak To Me”

- (1) Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone;
As thou has sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.
- (2) O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock, and strong in thee,
I may stretch out a loving land to wrestlers with the troubled sea.
- (3) O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
- (4) O fill me with thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.
- (5) O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when, and where,
Until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

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...Are you forgiven? If so, act that way! As a person who is saved and forgiven by God's grace, be challenged to serve in a spirit of HUMILITY. Remember that you yourself was once a person who was lost, an outsider needing God.

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LAST WEEK...God came to us in Jesus to redeem us from sin. That message is still celebrated a week after Christmas. Two great Bible heroes named Simeon and Anna help us to realize this truth. After Jesus was circumcised (at 8 days old) his parents went to temple for ceremonies of purification and dedication. Simeon was promised he'd see Messiah before he died; it was # 1 on his “bucket list”. Beholding this 40-day-old child, Simeon took Jesus in his arms and thanked God. He rejoiced to see the coming of salvation. He spoke of a suffering which would come: an early prophecy of Jesus' crucifixion. The prophetess Anna also gave God thanks for this precious child. She had hardship after living many years, but this widow STILL blessed God for His faithfulness. We begin our new year right by doing as Simeon and Anna did. When others put Christmas away, we practice a life of “being righteous and devout”. God uses anyone who submits to his will. No matter your desperate condition, God helps you to share His offered salvation. What expectations do you have when you come to Church? Check your spiritual attitude. Make Jesus your # 1 **Resolution**. Resolve to see Him and share Him. We closed our worship with the annual Wesley covenant service, pledging our DEVOTION to Christ as we make ourselves available to the Lord always (**Luke 2:21-40**)

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