

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 March 23, 2025 (9 a.m.)

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

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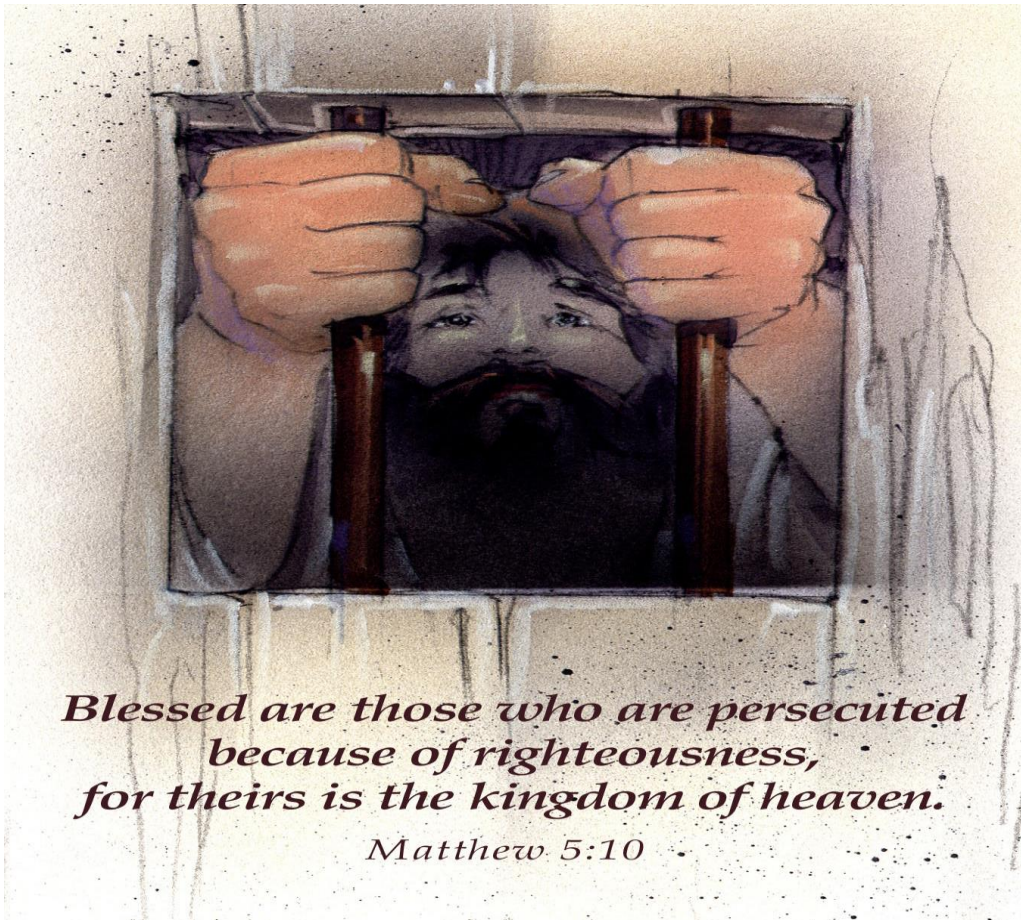
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PASTOR: W. Michael Langford

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

BLESSING US WITH MUSIC: Linda Langford

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



*Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 5:10

GATHERING SONG “Revive Us Again”

(1) We praise Thee, O God, for the Son of Thy Love,
for Jesus who died and is now gone above.

**(REFRAIN) Halleluia, Thine the glory! Halleluia, Amen!
Halleluia, Thine the glory, revive us again.**

(2) We praise Thee, O God, for your Spirit of Light,
Who has shown us the Savior and scattered our night. **(REFRAIN)**

(3) All glory and praise, To the Lamb that was slain,
Who hath borne all our sins, And hath cleansed every stain. **(REFRAIN)**

(4) Revive us again, fill each heart with Your love;
May each soul be re-kindled with fire from above. **(REFRAIN)**

(5) All glory and praise To the God of all grace,
Who hast brought us and sought us, and guided our ways. **(REFRAIN)**

A WELCOME from our liturgist: Shawn Good

A CALL TO WORSHIP Inspired by Psalms 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of Him, “He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Surely He will save us from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.
Under His wings we will find refuge; His faithfulness is our shield and rampart.
Therefore, we won’t fear terror, nor the arrow, nor pestilence, nor any destroying plague.
If we make the Most High our personal dwelling and refuge, we may rest secure.

He will command His angels concerning us, to guard us in all our ways...
We come here today to worship the God who protects us and blesses us.

And as we worship Him, we also thank Him for His constant care and mercy
God will come to us when we acknowledge His Name. He will bring us salvation.

Let’s praise the Lord for all the good that He brings to us...
We rejoice to bless Him for all the love that He is to us!

OPENING HYMN (U.M. # 578) “God Of Love And God Of Power”

(1) God of love and God of power, grant us in this burning hour
Grace to ask these gifts of thee, daring hearts and spirits free.

(REFRAIN) God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.

(2) We are not the first to be banished by our fears from thee;
give us courage, let us hear heaven’s trumpets ringing clear. **(REFRAIN)**

(3) All our lives belong to thee, thou our final loyalty;
slaves are we when’er we share that devotion anywhere. **(REFRAIN)**

(4) God of love and God of power, make us worthy of this hour;
Offering lives if it’s thy will, keeping free our spirits still. **(REFRAIN)**

INVITATION OF GOD’S PRESENCE

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

PRAISE SONG “In The Secret”

(1) *In the secret ... in the quiet place ... In the stillness You are there
In the secret ... in the quiet hour I wait, only for You
‘Cause I want to know You more*

**(CHORUS) I want to know You ... I want to hear Your voice ... I want to know You more
I want to touch You ... I want to see Your face ... I want to know You more**

(2) *I am reaching ... for the highest goal ... that I might receive the prize
Pressing onward ... pushing every hindrance aside ... out of my way
‘Cause I want to know You more... (CHORUS)*

BODY BUILDING

You may share a brief joy, announcement or testimony of God’s grace

PRAYER CONCERNS

We lift up names of friends who need prayer...or matters we wish God to touch.

PRAYER SONG “Not By Might”

*No, not by might, nor even power,
But by your Spirit, O Lord;
Healer of hearts, binder of wounds,
Lives that are lost restored;
Flow through this land ‘til every man
Praises Your Name once more.*

PRAYER

GOD’S HOLY WORD

Selected Scriptures are:

Hebrews 3:4, 1 Corinthians 2:9, Psalms 66:18, Philippians 2:27 and Genesis 8:1

**“But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock
that were with him in the ark,
and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.”**

TODAY’S MESSAGE Pastor Mike Langford

“To Spare Me Sorrow Upon Sorrow”

A Lenten sermon series on the Lord who turns things around in a big way.

“BUT GOD”

CLOSING HYMN (# 121) “There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy”

- (1) *There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.*
- (2) *There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.*
- (3) *For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.*
- (4) *If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God’s word;
And our lives would be illuminated by the presence of our Lord.*

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...*Visit someone who needs encouragement. Someone in the hospital, or is shut-in, or anyone who is active or inactive in church attendance. You can even “visit” on the phone. However you do it, your touch matters to friends!*

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LAST WEEK ... *A funny commercial pictures an EMU being told that he is “just a flightless bird!” Sometimes, it feels like things roll along, destined for certain fate. But God shows up to turn things around. We are thinking about the Bible’s “But God” moments. In a **1 Cor. 3:6**, Paul speaks of how HE planted (the gospel), his colleague Apollos watered it, But God made it grow. God is behind our every success. **Psalms 49:14-15** reminds us that we are sheep facing a sad grave. But God redeems me from the realm of the dead... We should help the wicked to find reason to trust in our good Savior. **Acts 2:24** teaches the rescue of Jesus as a sign of our own victory. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death...because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. We are people of the Resurrection! **1 Samuel 23:14** reminds us of David, being pursued by a jealous king Saul. King Saul relentlessly hunts him. But God did not give David into his hands. When evil hounds US, we have assurance that God will protect us. **Romans 5:6-8** tells us of a love even greater than dying for a “good guy”. But God ... demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Our service helps others to see the Lord at work right here. As we share His love, may people come to say: “But God came to me. **Didn’t see that one coming!**”*

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