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Grace Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Reflections

Though this be madness, yet there is method in it.

- Shakespeare
Hamlet

The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it.

- Flannery O'Connor

Long is the way
And hard that out of hell leads up to light.

- Milton
Paradise Lost

Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence.

- Saint Augustine

If you have frequent temptations, do not worry. Begin to worry when you do not have temptation, because that is a sure sign that you cannot distinguish good from evil.

- Erasmus
*Eighth Rule in Twenty-two Principles on How to be Strong While
Remaining Virtuous In a Dangerous World*

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day
March 22, 2020
10:30 a.m.

Words of Welcome

Praise

Call to Worship

Psalm 46:1-3

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

*All: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
And the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
Though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.*

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Minister: Let us together confess the faith of the church at all times and in all places:

*All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;*

*I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
The third day he arose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Prayer of Adoration

Renewal

Scripture Reading

John 14:1-3

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Confession of Sin

*Minister &
People:*

Heavenly Father, Many of us come before you today with troubled hearts and minds. We are fearful about our health, our finances, our security, our relationships, our families, our futures, our world, and many other things. We have a hard time believing in you in a way that would bring comfort to our hearts. Instead we greatly doubt your love and concern for and control over us. We are not calmed by your promises. Father, forgive our unbelief. Jesus, thank you that for the joy set before you, you persevered through far greater pain and suffering than anything we will ever suffer. Thank you that you will come back to be with us forever, wiping away all our tears and comforting at last our grieving and broken hearts. By your Spirit, give us the joy and peace that should flow from the reality that in Jesus’ death we died and that in his resurrection we are raised to new life. Help us to live in the light of our full forgiveness, and to die with great confidence in the sufficiency of your grace to us.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

The Prayers of the People *(concluded with the Lord’s prayer)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen!

The Offering

The offering is a way for members and friends of Grace Church to support the church's mission and ministry. To give online, go to <https://www.elxiogiving.com/App/Giving/grac8989200>. This link can also be found on the Grace Website at gracewoodlands.org under the Care/Give tab. Please contact Dianna in the church office with questions.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 39:1-23

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. 6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, 14 she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. 17 Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. 20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, 21 the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

THE GOD WHO PROVIDES
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOSEPH

Benediction¹

based on Isaiah 30:18, Colossians 1:23

May the LORD,
Who longs to be gracious to you,
Who waits on high to have compassion on you,
Plant you firmly in the faith, established, steadfast and unmovable
Through the hope of the gospel, proclaimed to all the creation under heaven.

Dismissal

Minister: Now, let us go forth to serve this community and the world as those who love
our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

¹The benediction is much more than a wish or even a prayer. It is a renewed ordination of the people of God to their service to each other, to their community and the world. God declares his own favor toward his people.