



Our Mission: To serve and unite those we touch with the Grace of God.

Our Vision: Transforming lives to become the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit

November 7, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 a.m. Service



Prelude "Prelude on 'St. Agnes'" - Young

Welcome and Announcements

*Choir Introit "Bless Us, O Lord" - Macklin

*Call to Worship

One: God of Vision, we celebrate this return to worship.

All: And are reminded of your servant Nehemiah who returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.

One: Just like us, he celebrated his return to his home.

All: We are here this morning to thank you - O God - for your generosity, grace, and love, which has given us this church and these people with whom to share it.

One: Just like Nehemiah we have much to do...

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All: As God builds something new here at Grace.

One: Enfold us in your presence so we may celebrate together in worship this moment, and this call you are etching upon our hearts.

All: May we find strength in you - O Divine Source - to both celebrate and find courage for the journey ahead.

***Opening Hymn #662** "Stand Up and Bless the Lord" verses 1, 4 and 5

Prayer of Confession *Unison*

As the people of God started to rebuild the Temple, they were attacked and rebuked by many of those close by. We have come today to confess that we have been negative about your work being done within us and around us. We have often taken your generosity without thanks and have not given support to those who needed it. We have forgotten the sacred call to creativity and curiosity for what can be. Forgive us and open our hearts to the opportunities before us. Refresh the stale waters and parched lands within us. Bend us towards resurrection life.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Anthem

"Sing Jubilate Deo"

- Estes

Scripture

Nehemiah 2:1-8; 17-20 MSG trans.

It was the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king. At the hour for serving wine I brought it in and gave it to the king. I had never been handdog in his presence before, so he asked me, "Why the long face? You're not sick are you? Or are you depressed?"

That made me all the more agitated. I said, "Long live the king! And why shouldn't I be depressed when the city, the city where all my family is buried, is in ruins and the city gates have been reduced to cinders?"

The king then asked me, "So what do you want?"

Praying under my breath to the God-of-Heaven, I said, "If it please the king, and if the king thinks well of me, send me to Judah, to the city where my family is buried, so that I can rebuild it."

The king, with the queen sitting alongside him, said, "How long will your work take and when would you expect to return?"

I gave him a time, and the king gave his approval to send me.

Then I said, “If it please the king, provide me with letters to the governors across the Euphrates that authorize my travel through to Judah; and also, an order to Asaph, keeper of the king’s forest, to supply me with timber for the beams of The Temple fortress, the wall of the city, and the house where I’ll be living.”

The generous hand of my God was with me in this, and the king gave them to me. When I met the governors across The River (the Euphrates) I showed them the king’s letters. The king even sent along a cavalry escort.

Then I gave them my report: “Face it: we’re in a bad way here. Jerusalem is a wreck; its gates are burned up. Come—let’s build the wall of Jerusalem and not live with this disgrace any longer.” I told them how God was supporting me and how the king was backing me up.

They said, “We’re with you. Let’s get started.” They rolled up their sleeves, ready for the good work.

When Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they laughed at us, mocking, “Ha! What do you think you’re doing? Do you think you can cross the king?”

I shot back, “The God-of-Heaven will make sure we succeed. We’re his servants and we’re going to work, rebuilding. You can stick to your own business. You get no say in this—Jerusalem’s none of your business!”

Message

Rev. Amanda Lunemann

Pastoral Prayer

*Hymn #620 “One Bread, One Body” verses 1 and 2

Offertory “Prayer” - Franck

*Doxology – Hymn #94 *Projected*

Offertory Prayer *Unison*

All: We bring you only what is yours, Creator God, that you might use this offering and the giver for the building up of your kingdom and the glory of your name. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sung Communion Setting/The Faith We Sing #2257 a-c

The Great Thanksgiving

Sung Response/The Faith We Sing #2257a

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.



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One: Let us give our thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus - *Sung Response/The Faith We Sing #2257b*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and might. Heav'n and Earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (x3) Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest (x3)

The Mystery of Faith - *Sung Response/The Faith We Sing #2257c*

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! (x3)

The Lord's Prayer *Unison*

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***Giving the Bread and Cup**

Prayer after Communion *Unison*

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Song of Peace** *Projected*

Postlude

"Postlude in F minor"

- Hesse



To celebrate **COMING TOGETHER SUNDAY**, please join us for a meal of soup, sandwiches, beverages and desserts after the service in Fellowship Hall. There will also be activities for the children.

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