

Grace Covenant Church

**“To the
Praise
of
His
Glorious
Grace”**

Ephesians 1:6

Welcome to Grace!

May God bless you this morning as we worship Him together! We extend a special welcome to those who are with us for the first time and are glad you are here!

Nursery service is available for children ages 3 and under. The nursery is located on the northeast corner of the main level. Go through the double doors across from the Sanctuary into the Fellowship Hall, then through the double doors on the far side of the hall to the right.

Restrooms are in the office wing on the east side of the Sanctuary (access at end of narthex).

AI generated translation of our service into Spanish is available. The translation can be accessed through a mobile phone by scanning the QR code provided. Worshippers can listen with ear buds or read a transcription. Instructions are on the table in the narthex.

Blue **Communication Cards** are available on the back table in the Sanctuary to help us connect with our **visitors and newcomers** and receive **updates and requests for information or prayer** from any who has need. Please place completed forms in the basket on the back table.

Classes for all ages to help us grow in Christ begin at **9:30 a.m.** on Sundays. Please use the east entrances or the kitchen entrance from the north lot if able to avoid distracting our hosts as they worship. After our classes and before worship, please join us for **refreshments** and catch up with everyone **in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:30 a.m.**

*You are invited to stand as you are able for starred parts of the service.

Refuge in Christ

October 11, 2026

Gathering Time

Welcome

Piano Prelude (*please be seated and prepare for worship*)

*Call to Worship

Psalm 34:3-8

*Opening Hymn

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting You are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Your sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares,
Are carried downward by Your flood and lost in following years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come:
O be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

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*Prayer of Praise & The Lord's Prayer

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your 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 do not lead us into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever." Amen

*Hymn of Praise

El Shaddai

(El Shaddai: *God Almighty* El Elyon: *God Most High*
na Adonai: *O Lord* Erkamka: *we will love you*)

Chorus

El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El Elyonna Adonai,
Age to age You're still the same, by the power of the Name,
El Shaddai, El-Shaddai, Erkamkana Adonai,
We will praise and lift You high, El Shaddai.

Through Your love and through the ram,
You saved the son of Abraham,
Through the power of Your hand
You turned the sea into dry land.
To the outcast on her knees You were the God who really sees,
And by Your might You set Your children free.

(Repeat Chorus)

Through the years You made it clear
That the time of Christ was near,
Though the people couldn't see what Messiah ought to be.
Though Your Word contained the plan,
They just could not understand,
Your most awesome work was done in Your Son.

(Repeat Chorus)

Preparation for Confession

Psalm 25:6-7, 10-11, 16-18

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

Psalm 28:6-8

*Hymn of Gratitude

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Ministry Focus: *Equipping Leaders International* (Southeast Asia) - Eric & Elaine Olson

The Community of Grace

Offering (*see community page for electronic giving options*)

*Offertory Response

By His Word

By His Word, I know He's chosen me,
Changed my heart, opened my eyes to see.

By His Word, I know my penalty
Has been paid by Christ on Calvary.

By His Word, sin has no hold on me.

Jesus' power is recreating me.

By His Word, I'll live eternally, By His Word, I've been set free.

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*Prayer for God's Blessing

Sermon Text: Zephaniah 2:1-3; 3:12-17

"Rebels Against the Darkness" – Rev. Eric Olson

*Hymn of Response

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;

Let the water and the blood,

From Thy riven side which flowed, be of sin the double cure,

Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.

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*Benediction

Grace Covenant Church

A Congregation of the *Presbyterian Church in America*

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Our Mission

Grace Covenant Church exists to *glorify God*

- ✚ By **exalting Him** in true worship,
- ✚ By **equipping His people** for ministry, and
- ✚ By **extending His kingdom** in
Central Nebraska unto the ends of the earth.

Our Identity

We are Evangelical (from *euangelion* in New Testament Greek – “good news”). We believe the Gospel, the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, God’s revealed and authoritative Word. The Gospel is central among the themes of Scripture, and is to be central in the worship, life, and ministry of our church.

We are Reformed. We hold to the great Biblical truths that were recovered in the Protestant Reformation. Our understanding of these truths is summarized in our doctrinal standards, the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*. These truths are important in the teaching and leadership of our church.

We are Presbyterian. Our church is governed by elders (*presbuteros* in New Testament Greek), who shepherd and lead the congregation, and deacons, who serve in the areas of finances, property, and ministries of mercy. Our understanding of these Biblical offices and other matters of church government and worship are summarized in the *Book of Church Order* of our denomination, the *Presbyterian Church in America*.