

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 located in the office wing on the east side of the Sanctuary (access at end of 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 have need. Please place 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 possible in order 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.**

Please help us observe the policy of our hosts by refraining from bringing food or drink into the Sanctuary except for water and the needs of small children.

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

The Greatness of God

October 27, 2024

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

*Call to Worship

Psalm 97:6-7c

*Opening Hymn

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

I sing th'almighty pow'r of God
that made the mountains rise,

That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies,
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;

He formed the creatures with His Word,
And then pronounced them good.

Lord, how Your wonders are displayed
where'er I turn my eye,

If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flow'r below
But makes Your glories known;

And clouds arise and tempests blow
By order from Your throne;

While all that borrows life from You is ever in Your care,
And everywhere that man can be,
You, God, are present there.

*Prayer of Praise

*Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;

Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried;

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of
the Father; and He shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets;
And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul, worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes
(Repeat Chorus)

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find
(Repeat Chorus)

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore
(Repeat Chorus)

I'll worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name

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Preparation for Confession

Romans 6:6, 11-14

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to

make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

Galatians 4:4-7

*Hymn of Gratitude *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know* (vv. 1, 2, 4)

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong.

Chorus

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, He who died Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in
(Repeat Chorus)

Jesus loves me, He will stay close beside me all the way:
If I love Him, when I die He will take me home on high.
(Repeat Chorus)

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Ministry Focus: *Operation Christmas Child* (Kaylene Hoesser)

The Community of Grace

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

*Offertory Response *Come, Thou Almighty King* (v. 2)

Come thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend. Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

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*Prayer for God's Blessing

Sermon Series: Good News for the World

Sermon Text: Acts 8:9-25

"Professing Faith and Possessing Faith" - Pastor Todd Bowen

*Hymn of Response *He Will Hold Me Fast*

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Chorus:

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His Promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

(Repeat Chorus)

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last.

(Repeat Chorus)

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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*.