

# *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 4 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.

A reminder that **sermon sheets for kids** (or kids at heart) are on the kids' back table by the sanctuary doors.

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 Blessing of Christ

## May 12, 2024

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

\*Call to Worship

Ephesians 1:3-6

\*Opening Hymn

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come thou fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unchanging love.  
Hitherto Thy love has blessed me  
Thou hast brought me to this place  
And I know Thy hand will bring me  
Safely home by Thy good grace  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God  
He, to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood  
O to grace how great a debtor,  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh that day when freed from sinning  
I shall see Thy lovely face  
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen  
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry  
Bring Thy promises to pass  
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me  
Till I'm home with Thee at last

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### \*Prayer of Praise

### \*Hymn of Praise

*As the Deer*

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.

#### Chorus

You alone are my strength, my shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.  
I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.  
(Repeat Chorus)

You're my Friend and You are my Brother,  
Even though You are a King.  
I love You more than any other, so much more than anything  
(Repeat Chorus)

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Entrance into Confession

Psalm 51:1-4

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my  
transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and  
cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and  
my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I  
sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may  
be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

Psalm 32:1-2

\*Hymn of Gratitude

*My Hope is in the Lord*

My hope is in the Lord Who gave Himself for me,  
And paid the price of all my sin at Calvary.

Refrain

For me He died, for me He lives,  
And everlasting life and light He freely gives.

No merit of my own His anger to suppress.  
My only hope is found in Jesus' Righteousness.

(Repeat Refrain)

And now for me He stands before the Father's throne.  
He shows His wounded hands, and names me as His own.

(Repeat Refrain)

His grace has planned it all, 'tis mine but to believe,  
And recognize His work of love and Christ receive.

(Repeat Refrain)

By Norman John Clayton

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## The Community of Grace

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

\*Offertory Response

*Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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\*Prayer for God's Blessing

Sermon Series: Good News for the World  
Sermon Text: Acts 3:17-26  
"The Age of the Messiah" - Pastor Todd Bowen

\*Hymn of Response

*O Great God*

O great God of highest heaven, occupy my lowly heart  
Own it all and reign supreme, conquer every rebel power  
Let no vice or sin remain that resists Your holy war  
You have loved and purchased me  
Make me Yours forevermore

I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear Your voice  
Did not know Your love within  
Had no taste for heaven's joys  
Then Your Spirit gave me life, opened up Your Word to me  
Through the gospel of Your Son  
Gave me endless hope and peace

Help me now to live a life that's dependent on Your grace  
Keep my heart and guard my soul from the evils that I face  
You are worthy to be praised  
With my every thought and deed  
O great God of highest heaven,  
Glorify Your Name through me

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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*.