

# *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.

**Classes** for all ages to help us grow in Christ begin at **9:30 a.m.** on Sundays. **See the flyer on the back table** for more information. 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.

# God's Covenant Love

## September 17, 2023

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

\*Call to Worship

Ephesians 1:3-6

\*Opening Hymn      *Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee*

Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee  
For the bliss Thy love bestows,  
For the pard'ning grace that saves me,  
And the peace that from it flows.

Help O God my weak endeavor; this dull soul to rapture raise  
Thou must light the flame, or never  
Can my love be warmed to praise.

Praise, my soul, the God that sought thee,  
Wretched wand'rer far astray;  
Found thee lost, and kindly brought thee  
From the paths of death away.

Praise, with loves devoutest feeling,  
Him who saw thy guiltborn fear & the light of hope revealing  
Bade the blood-stained cross appear.

Praise thy Savior God that drew Thee  
To that cross, new life to give,  
Held a blood-sealed pardon to thee,  
Bade thee look to Him and live.

Praise the grace whose threats alarmed thee,  
Roused thee from thy fatal ease;  
Praise the grace whose promise warmed thee,  
Praise the grace that whispered peace.

Lord this bosom's ardent feeling vainly would my lips express  
Low before thy foot-stool kneeling,  
Deign thy suppliant's pray'r to bless.  
Let Thy love, my soul's chief treasure,  
Love's pure flame within me raise  
And, since words can never measure,  
Let my life show forth Thy praise.

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\*Prayer of Praise

\*Song of Praise

*El Shaddai*

Chorus:

El-Shaddai El-Shaddai, El-El-yon na Adonai,  
Age to age You're still the same, by the power of the Name,  
El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai, Er-kam-ka na 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)

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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

Micah 7:18-19

\*Hymn of Gratitude     *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

### CHORUS

My chains are gone. I've been set free,  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy rains,  
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

(Repeat Chorus)  
The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine.  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.

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## 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 Series: God's Heart for His People

Sermon Text: Hosea 9:10-17

"Reflections of a Spurned Husband" - Pastor Todd Bowen

\*Hymn of Response

*The Church's One Foundation*

The church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the Word:  
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food.  
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping,  
Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,  
To guide, sustain and cherish is with her to the end;  
Though there be those that hate her,  
And false sons in her pale,  
Against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with 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*.