

Celebration of Worship

September 6, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Unashamed in Jesus' name we gather, grow, and go.

Gather - Assemble in God's Name

Prelude *Katharine Schendel*

Silent Meditation

Signing of Friendship Register (*Please sign in with a Comment so we know you're there. Thanks!*)

Call to Worship

Leader: All of you faithful people, praise our glorious LORD!

People: Celebrate and worship.

Opening Prayer

Direct and help us, O LORD, in all our needs, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

Call to Confession

Leader: The LORD is pleased with his people,

People: and he gives victory to those who are humble.

Leader: Let us humble ourselves by confessing our sin together, then pause for a moment of private confession.

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Righteous God, we confess that, when asked to help others, we are quick to ask, like Moses, "Who am I' to help out in this situation?" or "What shall I say to these people?" or "What qualifies me to help out now?" Forgive us, we pray, our reluctance to pitch in and do whatever we can for whomever we can in your name. Help us to remember the many times we have relied on the help of others in the past, and be willing to return your blessings to others; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

People: The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Leader: Brothers and sisters, know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God!

Praise Response

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing of the Peace (*Please greet each other with a sign of peace.*)

Grow - Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Special Music: *Katharine Schendel*

Epistle Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Message: *Rev. Pat Wadsworth*

Give Thanks to God

Offering (*We remind you to mail your offerings in to the church.*)

The Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: Let us pray:

Gracious God of all times and places, we give you thanks that even in the midst of a pandemic, you are with us. We give you thanks that even as we are parted by our desire to keep one another safe, we're united in spirit. We give you thanks that even as we bring our assorted foods to our individual tables—bread, juice, crackers, wine, cookies, milk—we are gathered together as your people in this one meal that we share.

Throughout history, your people have found themselves in exile and wilderness, unable to worship you in the ways that meant so much to them. And yet, you were there. You were with Abraham as he migrated from his homeland, you were with the enslaved Hebrew people in Egypt, you were with them in the wilderness, you were with the Israelites in exile, and you are with us even now, O Lord. Nothing, not slavery, nor exile, nor even a pandemic, can separate us from your love.

When Jesus was at table with his disciples he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. Whenever you do this, remember me." In the same way he took and poured the cup, saying: "Take and drink, Whenever you do this, remember me." Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table, we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

Be with your people now, O God, as we gather once again, still separated by distance but united in love, to share a holy meal together. As we eat our food, remind us of Christ's body, broken for us. As we drink from our cup, remind us of Christ's blood, shed for us all. Fortify us for the days ahead of us, that we might never forget the bond of humanity that connects us all through your love for us. All this we pray, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying...

The Lord's Prayer: (*"debts and debtors"*)

Communion of the People (*We invite you to receive the elements of bread and juice or wine as Rev. Pat receives them in the ritual*)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good, we thank you for the earth, our home, and for the gift of life. We praise you for your love in Jesus Christ, who came to heal this broken world, who died rejected on the cross, and rose triumphant from the dead. Because he lives, we live to praise you, our God forever. Amen.

(Adapted by permission from a liturgy by Rev. Katey Schwind, PC(USA) Minister of Word & Sacrament/Teaching Elder, Boise, ID: <https://stumblinggracefullyblog.blogspot.com/2020/07/covid-19-communion-liturgy.html>)

Go - In Jesus' Name

*Benediction: *Rev. Pat Wadsworth*

*Postlude: *Katharine Schendel*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PW BIRTHDAY OFFERING - Every year the Presbyterian Women receive offerings for the Birthday Offering which pays grants to worthy projects in the United States and abroad. This year their offering was delayed until to we returned to worshipping in the church building. Since we have not been able to do that yet, we urge you to contribute by sending a check to the church made out to the Presbyterian Women. Please send donations by September 15th. (This years recipients are listed in the September Newsletter which was emailed out today).

OFFICE CLOSED - the church office will be closed on **Monday, September 7th** for Labor Day

MDO OPENINGS - Grace Mother's Day Out has openings for the current Fall Semester. If you know anyone looking for a daycare, please have them call MDO at 337-993-1231 or email mdoatgrace@gmail.com

They are open from 9am-2pm on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays.

FOOD & SUPPLY DONATIONS - if you would like to donated any non-perishable foods, personal items (soap, etc.), or clean up supplies, please drop them off at Grace Church by September 11th. All items will be given to the Second Harvest Food Bank to help provide relief to those in Lake Charles that were affected by Hurricane Laura. (*A full list of items needed are listed in the September Newsletter*).

FACEBOOK LIVE WORSHIP - virtual worship on **Sundays on Facebook Live at 10:30am**. Our Facebook Site is [gracelafayette](https://www.facebook.com/gracelafayette). Make sure to "*like*" our site so that Facebook will notify you before the service starts. We will not resume in-person worship until Louisiana enters into Phase 3.

MEDIA HELP NEEDED – once we start meeting in person for worship again, we would like to still have Facebook Live available for those that cannot attend on Sunday Mornings. To be able to do this, **we desperately need 1-2 volunteers to learn to work our sound system.**

PLEDGES/DONATIONS - during the time we are not meeting for worship "*in person*", **we ask that you mail in your pledges to the church.**

The Church address is 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503. Thank you to everyone that is continuing to support Grace Presbyterian Church. We need you more than ever during this time to continue operating during this pandemic!

DAILY DEVOTIONALS - are available for viewing on our Facebook page [gracelafayette](#). Please contact the church office if you have any issue trying to find our Facebook Site.