



Miracles Just Ahead

February 28, 2021
2nd Sunday in Lent

Life at Grace Announcements

Opening Voluntary

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

arr. Charles Stanford

Call to Worship *(responsive)*

adapted from Mark Lloyd Richardson

Today we worship in the love of God,
a love that will not let us go,
a love that touches the deepest parts of our lives,
a love that sends us into the world.

Today we worship in the grace of Jesus Christ,
a grace that saves us and sets us free,
a grace that relieves our fears and worries,
a grace that leads us home to God.

Today we worship in the peace of the Spirit,
a peace that the world cannot give,
a peace that assures us we are not alone,
a peace that goes with us where we live and serve.

God so loved the world that he gave.
May the truth of this great story shine through our worship today.

Hymn 645

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

MIT FREUDEN ZART

**1 Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!**

2 What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!

3 The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

4 Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!

Prayer of Confession and Silent Confession

Holy and merciful God, there are times we have ignored your great love for us. There are times we have rejected your great love for us. There are times we have hoarded your great love for us, not sharing it as you have commanded. Forgive us! In your great mercy, open our eyes, enlighten our minds, soften our hearts, that we may choose your loving will through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 5:8

God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Response (Hymn 581)

"Glory Be to the Father"

GREATOREX

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 the Peace of Christ (responsive)

Jesus said: A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. In love, let us share Christ's peace with each other. The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you.

Praise

"The Love of God"

by Rich Mullins

There's a wideness in God's mercy I cannot find in my own
And He keeps His fire burning To melt this heart of stone
Keeps me aching with a yearning Keeps me glad to have been caught
In the reckless raging fury That they call the love of God

Now I've seen no band of angels But I've heard the soldiers' songs
Love hangs over them like a banner Love within them leads them on
To the battle on the journey And it's never gonna stop
Ever widening their mercies And the fury of His love

Oh the love of God And oh, the love of God The love of God

**Joy and sorrow are this ocean And in their every ebb and flow
Now the Lord a door has opened That all Hell could never close
Here I'm tested and made worthy Tossed about but lifted up
In the reckless raging fury That they call the love of God**

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

Gospel Lesson

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Message

"The Miracle of Love"

Affirmation of Faith

by Mark Lloyd Richardson

We believe in a loving God, who is life's breath for all of earth's creatures, who is the ground in which our lives flourish, who is the mystery toward which we are drawn.

We believe in the risen Christ, whose life is the way we see God made real, whose death bears witness to the power of love, whose presence nourishes our spirits each day.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who flows as a refreshing spring of life, who comes as divine fire to energize the faithful, who creates communities of joy and justice.

Pastoral Prayer, Quilt Prayer, and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Moment for Stewardship

Brad Boles

Time of Commitment

Tithes & Offerings

"God So Loved"

by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, and Scott Cash

Verse 1

Come all you weary Come all you thirsty Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water Come and thirst no more

Verse 2

Come all you sinners Come find His mercy Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness Find what you're looking for

Chorus 1

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

Verse 3

Bring all your failures Bring your addictions Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there With open arms

Chorus 2

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom For God so loved God so loved the world

Bridge

Praise God praise God From whom all blessings flow Praise Him praise Him
For the wonders of His love

Chorus 3

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save

Verse 4

Bring all your failures Bring your addictions Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting God so loved the world.

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn 649

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound!"

AMAZING GRACE

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

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

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

arr. Ashley Grote

The quilt being prayed over in the Sanctuary is for Susan Moore in memory of her father, Charles Lincoln. Please keep Susan and the Moore family in your prayers.

Participating in Worship

Rev. Dr. Tracey Davenport
Michael King
Trenton Hull
Andrew Packard
Andrea Bailey
Deann Collins
Mark Kinney

Pastor, Head of Staff
Director of Music Ministries
Worship Leader
Organist/Pianist
Liturgist
A/V
A/V

Grace Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of faith,

- *Seeking unity as we follow Christ,*
- *Loving and supporting each other,*
- *Learning and growing together, and*
- *Serving those in need in Plano and the world.*



Tithes & Offerings