

# GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church  
2201 Benita Drive  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

NonProfit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Rancho Cordova, CA  
Permit #7

# GRACE

## SERVICE TIMES

9 am Traditional Lutheran Service  
11 am Grace Awakenings Modern Worship and Children's Church

## MARCH EVENTS

Men in Mission St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner  
March 14th—5:30pm—Tickets \$12

# GRACENOTES

MARCH 2020

## The Meaning of Worship

*“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24)*

Worship can mean different things for different people. For many, it has to do with style, form and music genre. But a deeper look at scripture reveals something more profound regarding worship. The first time the word “worship” is used in the bible is when Abraham is instructed to take his son, Isaac, and go to a particular mountain where he is to sacrifice Isaac to the Lord. (Human sacrifice was common then, although the Lord forbade it). Upon arriving at the location, Abraham tells his servants to stay where they are as he and the boy are going to **worship** at further location. The Hebrew word for worship in this story is “*shachah*”, which literally means to fall face down or lay prostrate before. The New Testament Greek word for worship is “*proskuneo*” and has the same meaning. However, it's the motivation behind this behavior that Jesus refers to when saying that God desires to be worshipped in Spirit and in truth. **That motivation has everything to do with what we believe to be true about God.**

The phrase “*Pistis Christou*” appears 24 times in the New Testament and is commonly translated as “Faith IN Christ”. However, a more accurate translation of the Greek would read, “The faith OF Christ”. In other words, it is not only essential to have faith or believe in what Christ has done and Who He is, it is just as essential to have trust in what Jesus himself believed about God. Jesus' unwavering core belief was that God is not only all powerful and all knowing, but that He is infinitely good. It was Jesus' belief in God's goodness that led Him to do and say everything He did. It was Jesus' belief in God's goodness that gave Him the confidence to surrender everything he had, even his own life, into God's sovereign care - knowing that He would lose nothing. It was God's goodness that gave Jesus' life meaning, purpose and sense of inseparable belonging. This innate belief in God's goodness was why Jesus' life was a perpetual expression of worship. And it is this state of perpetual worship that He offers to all who follow Him.

...Continued on next page

## The Meaning of Worship cont.

As Jesus was dying on the cross he publically recited Psalm 22. The Psalm begins with the phrase, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” This statement expresses the despairing, sad and painful reality of those who truly believe in God, but who also know the cruel suffering and evil of this world. And yet, toward the end of this Psalm it states, “I will declare your name to my people: in the assembly I will praise you.” This final expression of praise demonstrates the power of Jesus’ faith in God’s goodness. Despite the physical pain of being tortured; despite the emotional pain of being abandoned and ridiculed by His own friends and people; despite being executed unjustly by a corrupt government; Jesus still worshipped God in joy and in Spirit! He still trusted that God’s goodness was *far* greater than the evil surrounding Him. There, upon the cross, in all its shame, pain and injustice Jesus worshipped the Living God. This is the kind of worship (His worship) that uplifts, empowers and restores God’s people even today.

As human beings, we were all created to usher in all of God’s creation into praise, adoration and worship of the one true living God. In fact, only when we are in this state of worship (with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength) do we experience what it means to be fully human. On our own this is impossible. The sheer weight of sin with all its pain, suffering, despair and shame robs us of our ability to see God’s goodness or worship Him because of it. But through the cross we have become *more than*

*conquerors* of sin and all its hopelessness. Through Jesus’ sacrifice we are being made new and alive. We are being given a new hope and a new reality with which we are able to worship God in all of His goodness - even in the midst of suffering. Through Christ we are being inwardly transformed to worship God with our whole hearts. May this spirit of worship fill you lives with His praise, glory and adoration, as we seek Him together!

Peace,



Pastor Steve

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Grace Notes is published monthly by  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Pastor: Rev. Steven D. Krogh  
2201 Benita Drive  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
Office Hours : 9:30 am—2pm  
(916) 635-5502  
graceawakenings@att.net

All submissions to Grace Notes  
are subject to editing for space and content.

## Reflections on Vision

By Pastor Steve

I’ve been thinking recently about the power of vision. After watching a PBS episode of Frontline featuring Amazon and its founder, Jeff Bezos, I was reminded of how impacting vision actually is. Vision is what creates and determines our reality, both personally and collectively. In the bible, it was Eve’s preferred vision for her life that ushered the painful reality of sin into this world. We also see in that same chapter that it is God’s vision to redeem this world from the pain of sin and restore it to its intended beauty and glory.

No vision is more powerful than God’s vision of redemption. No vision is more joyous, life-giving, hopeful and celebratory than God’s promise of a final resurrection wherein death and suffering, shame and fear no longer exist. For Christians, it is our greatest treasure. Not only is this vision a glorious hope, but we as followers of Christ get to participate in that future hope in the here- and-now. Through God’s Spirit, we are learning how we fit (individually and collectively) into God’s beautiful plan. We are discovering His present resurrection-life within us. We are also learning how to love as He does.

As you read this, we will have already voted on a new church council. The new council, along with all of us, will be guided by vision – God’s vision. My prayer is that we not get distracted from God’s vision but seek it with our whole being. And as we live this vision out, may God receive all the glory and praise due His name. (Zeph. 3:17)

## Council Roster 2020

### Executive Board

Pastor	Steve Krogh
President	Tommy Moreno
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Ann Richardson
Treasurer	Christi Verity
Financial Secretary	Kathleen Keener

### Board of Trustees

Bill Timberlake	Bob Jensen
Paul Gehrke	Brian Richardson
Adrian Richard	

### Board of Deacons

Cynthia Dines	Barbara Richard
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### Nominating Committee

Helen Hammer	Cynthia Dines
Lynn Nelson	

### Audit Committee

Charlotte Rinkel	Barbara Richard
Garth Hoffman	Kyle Krogh

Thanks to all who previously served on Council including the many who worked on the various Church committees. Their service has been greatly appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Richardson, Council Secretary

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*“There will always be people in our lives that push our buttons. Whether it’s what they do or say (or don’t do or say) they can get on our last nerve. For the Christian, these people are God’s agents of sanctification. They are the ones that force us to choose between focusing on our frustrations or prayerfully focusing on God to work through the situation. For the Christian, no one comes into our lives without some kind of kingdom purpose.”*  
(Romans 8:28) ~ Douglass Stevens

# Join Us!

## Bible Study

Monday mornings at 10:30

## Men in Mission

Men's Bible Study

Saturday mornings at 8 am

All men are welcome.

## Faith Circle

Women's Bible Study

2nd Wednesdays at 1 pm

All women are welcome.

## Led by Grace

Men's Bible Study

Tuesday evenings at 7 pm

All men are welcome.

## Choir & Bells

Choir rehearsal Wednesdays at 7 pm

Bell rehearsals TBA

## JAM 2020!

"Jesus And Me" After school

Kid's Ministry Ages 6-13

Thursday afternoons at 4 pm

## March Birthdays

3 Mineko Whetzel

9 Brian Brady

9 Ruth Emery

15 Henry Blandford

16 Michelle Hammer

18 Barbara Balliet

18 Helen Hammer

22 Arne Jensen

24 Cindy Timberlake

## Church Council Highlights

February 11, 2020

- ♣ The January 2020 Council minutes were approved with the following change: The Council discussed a proposal of a onetime extension of Bill Timberlake's Trustees term limit from two (2) to three (3). The original recording did not specify 'onetime' extension for 'Bill Timberlake's' term. This proposal will be presented to the Congregation at the Annual meeting (February 23, 2020).
- ♣ Tommy thanked all for their support as Council President and is looking forward to serving in the New Year if nominated.
- ♣ Year end statements for 2019 are available. If anyone does not want to continue receiving offering envelopes yearly please notify Kathleen.
- ♣ Men in Mission have offered to pay for the cleanup of the property prior to Easter.
- ♣ Grace will host an Ash Wednesday service but no midweek Lenten service.
- ♣ A small group has gathered to explore the celebration of Grace's 60 year service to Rancho Cordova. If anyone is interested please notify Ann.
- ♣ Grace is prayerfully considering hosting two or three all day seminars at Grace in the coming year; as well as an 'out pouring' event held over a few days, worshipping, praying, teaching, and praising, God in a concentrated manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Richardson, Council Secretary

## Intercessory Prayer for Month

Heavenly Father,

We pray for the children of this community. Protect them from all harm and evil. Protect them from the forces of darkness that would lead them away from You and into the bondage of shame, anger and fear. Loving Spirit, pour into our hearts the same love You have for them, that through us they may come to know your endless grace, forgiveness and love. In Jesus Name.



Saturday, March 14th  
at 5:30 pm

Grace Church Fellowship Hall  
Tickets on sale now for \$12

# MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 1 LENT</b> 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church	<b>2</b> 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7 pm Led by Grace	<b>4</b> 7 pm Choir	<b>5</b> Worship Committee 12 pm AI Anon. Meeting 4 pm JAM	<b>6</b> Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved	<b>7</b> 8 am Men in Mission 2 pm—6:30pm OLFG (fellowship hall and big classroom)
<b>8 2 LENT</b> 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church	<b>9</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 6:15 pm Trustees Meeting 7 pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 7 pm Led by Grace	<b>11</b> 1 pm Faith Circle 7 pm Choir	<b>12</b> 12 pm AI Anon. Meeting 4 pm JAM	<b>13</b> Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved	<b>14 MEN IN MISSION ST. PATRICK'S DINNER</b> 8 am Men in Mission 2 pm—6:30pm OLFG (fellowship hall and big classroom)
<b>15 3 LENT NOISY MONEY</b> 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church	<b>16</b> 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b> 7 pm Led by Grace	<b>18</b> 7 pm Choir	<b>19</b> 12 pm AI Anon. Meeting 4 pm JAM	<b>20</b> Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved	<b>21</b> 8 am Men in Mission 2 pm—6:30pm OLFG (fellowship hall and big classroom)
<b>22 4 LENT</b> 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church	<b>23</b> 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>24</b> 7 pm Led by Grace	<b>25</b> 7 pm Choir	<b>26</b> 12 pm AI Anon. Meeting 4 pm JAM	<b>27</b> Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved	<b>28</b> 8 am Men in Mission 2 pm—6:30pm OLFG (fellowship hall and big classroom)
<b>29 5 LENT</b> 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church	<b>30</b> 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>31</b> 7 pm Led by Grace	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 PALM SUNDAY TOMORROW</b>