

GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church
2201 Benita Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

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Grace Notes December 2019

Hearing God's Voice

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2)
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How many voices do you hear every day? A hundred? . . . a thousand? . . . more? Consider all the ads you hear on the radio or see on the television or are exposed to on your phone. I’m guessing the number is far more than most of us are aware. And of all those different voices vying for our attention, which of them gives you any sense of peace and calm – any sense of confidence or assurance? Which of those many voices leaves you feeling hopeful and fully alive? There is a promise Jesus gives to His disciples in the fourteenth chapter of John,

“Peace I leave with you: my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

This divine or supernatural peace of which Jesus speaks comes from the ability to hear God’s voice and perceive His presence. When Jesus states that **we should not let** our hearts be troubled, he is not talking

about something that is passive in nature. Rather, Jesus is speaking about something that, as His disciples, we must be active participants. This active participation in attaining and acquiring God’s peace is what Paul refers to when he states that we should not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind. As disciples of Christ, the renewing of our mind is something we are called to **work** toward.

When Jesus talks of His gift of peace He is referring to an ever-increasing spiritual awareness of God’s presence and reign. An awareness that will eventually come to permeate our entire being; mind, body and soul. This peaceful state of being is the natural result of being intimately and inseparably one with God. It is a peace that stems from being able to discern and hear God’s voice as well as sense or “see” His presence. This transcendent and pervasive *knowing* is what Jesus offers to any who would become His disciple.

Count Your Blessings

Sunday Services:

9:00am Traditional Lutheran Service

11:00am Grace Awakenings Modern Worship

7:00pm Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve

Check calendar for more gatherings!



Hearing God's Voice

While this world can only offer a temporary and fleeting sense of peace, God offers a peace that is permanent and eternal. It is the kind of peace that Proverbs 3:5 refers to;

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

So the question is, how do we enter and experience this peace? The answer is found in Jesus' words - by abiding or remaining in Him.

As Jesus is preparing to leave His disciples, He tells them of the importance of remaining or abiding in Him. He tells them that after His departure, the Spirit of God will lead them into all truth and remind them of everything He has said. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our work then, is to keep His words in our minds and our thought life focused on His word. In keeping His word in our thoughts, the life-force or energy within His words literally transforms the nature of our thoughts. This discipline of keeping our thoughts focused on His word can be challenging. After all, much of what Jesus says is not at first glance easy to understand. A lot of what He teaches is in the form of parables that demand a certain amount of time and attention in order to grasp. However, the more we become familiar with Jesus' teachings, the more we grow in the awareness of their powerful yet hidden and

unseen truth. The more we grow in our perception of this hidden, yet accessible, source of life, the more we enter into its peace, strength and hope. It is a practice that takes time, but the rewards are worth far more than we can imagine. Jesus compares the value of being aware of God's kingdom to that of finding buried treasure and then selling everything in order to purchase the field that holds that treasure. The purpose of transforming our mind is to enable us to hear God's voice and discern His will. This ability to discern His will gives each of us as His disciples, an enduring sense of joy and strength. May you experience the fullness of His joy, His life and His peace as you grow in the renewing of your mind through His word.

Peace,



Pastor Steve

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

November Birthdays

Kevon Ward	7th
Vicki Timberlake	17th
Ron Cooper	18th
Margaret Mulcock	21st
Robert Jensen	27th



November Flowers

November 3rd:	Verna Alexander <i>In Memory of Mother, Irene</i>
November 10th:	Julie Shultz <i>In Memory of Art</i>
November 17th:	Vicki Timberlake <i>Happy Birthday!</i>
November 24th:	Barbara Balliet <i>In Memory of Al's Birthday</i>



JOY OF SINGING

Choir practice is on Wednesdays at 7 pm.

It will be the same time every week!

Faith Circle

Monthly Women's Bible Study

...will meet on Wednesday,
 November 13th at 1:00 pm here at
 Grace. Come join us! All
 women are welcome.