



PORTRAITS OF GRACE

Today's Worship Service

Call to Worship

Mary's Song; Luke 1:46-54

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Wesley, Whitefield, Mendelsohn

Welcome

Pastor Mike Matheson

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Pitts, Redner, Williams

"The Son of Glory"

Poore

Advent Candle Lighting

Nancy Ganzel

"Mary Did You Know?"

Greene, Lowry

Preaching of the Word

Pastor Mike Matheson

Candle Lighting

Ushers

"Silent Night"

Gruber, Hebble, Mohr, Young

"Joy To The World"

Handel, Watts

Benediction

Josh Poore, Director of Worship Arts

Sermon Notes

Preacher: Pastor Mike Matheson

Sermon: Portraits of Grace: Mary

Scripture: Matthew 1:1-16, 18-25; Luke 1:26-38

Date: December 24, 2019

Worship Team

Dawn Amundson: Vocals

Jimmy Mutchie: Trumpet

Tricia Amundson: Trumpet

Josh Poore: Worship Leader,

Gerry Baccash: Bass Guitar

Vocals & Guitar

Kim Bauer: Keys & Vocals

Alyssa Rubio: Vocals

Paul Durbin: Keys

Kevin Stewart: Trombone

Katie Matheson: Alto Saxophone

David Wolfe: Drums

Justin Matthew: Guitar

Amy Wolfe: Vocals

What Is the Good News?

One thing that all people share is that as we progress through life, we seek answers to the deeper questions: Where did we come from? What is our purpose? Why does so much in the world seem to be so wrong? The message of Christianity is that God has graciously given us answers to these questions. These answers come from what we call “the gospel” which means, “good news.” Here’s that message:

1. God. The Bible tells us that God, who is supremely good and loving, has created all things. From the smallest cells in our body to the countless galaxies in our universe, God has made, sustains, and rules over everything. (Gen. 1:1; Mark 10:18; Col. 1:16,17)

2. Man. In his creative work, he has made us; human beings. The chief purpose of our design is to bring God glory. This means that in all that we do in the life that we live, our primary role is to reflect what God is like to the world. And when God finished creating us, he declared his work as good. (Gen. 1:26,31; Is. 43:6,7)

3. Sin. But then something happened. Even though we are the pinnacle of God’s creation, we rebelled against God and fell into sin. In this, our hearts have turned from desiring to bring him glory to bringing glory to ourselves. Sin has caused us to be separated from a loving relationship with our creator God, darkened our understanding of him, and brought about death. In fact, all that is wrong with the world and every act of human evil finds its origin in our rebellion against God. (Gen. 3; Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:1-3)

4. Jesus. Fortunately, the story doesn’t end here. When Christians celebrate Christmas, we are celebrating the fact that God graciously chose to rescue people from the clutches of sin and death. God sent his only son into the world to live the perfect life that we could never live, die a horrible death on a cross that pays the penalty for our sin, and conquer death by being raised from the dead. (1 Tim. 1:15; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Cor. 15:3,4)

5. Our Response. It is important for you to know that only those who respond to Jesus and what he has done in faith will be saved from their sins and be restored to a relationship with God. A word that the Bible uses often is ‘repent’. This means that we turn from our life of sin, trust that Jesus is enough to save us, and follow after him. (Luke 5:32; John 14:6; Rom. 3:21,22)

Questions For Reflection

1. Is the Bible’s claim of a loving God creating and sustaining all things a comfort to you? Do you believe it to be true? If not, why? What do you believe to be true about the origin of all things?

2. In God’s creation of mankind, we are presented with an ultimate explanation of the meaning and purpose of human life (to bring God glory). Is it possible to find genuine meaning for life apart from God? If so, what would it be and where does it come from?

3. Why is sin such an unpopular topic to talk about? Do you find yourself bristling against it when it is discussed? How often do you think about your own personal sin? Do you fear consequences for it?

4. What is your personal take on Jesus? Do you think of him positively or negatively? Do you believe the Bible’s presentation of him and what he has done? If not, how have you come to your conclusions about him?

5. What are the greatest obstacles in the way of you fully trusting and placing your faith in Jesus?

Care Groups

Celebrate Recovery (CR) // Meets Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Loft.
CR is a safe place to find support if you are struggling with a difficult season of life. CR is not just for addictions, it is for all of us who need to go deeper in Christ when life gets hard. Don't struggle alone - please join us for hope and encouragement every Tuesday evening.

GriefShare

Begins Saturday, January 25th // Saturdays, 9am - 11am, Room A-18
GriefShare is open to any adult grieving the passing of a loved one. GriefShare, facilitated by trained leaders, is a safe place to share your struggles and find support from one another. Workbook cost is \$15.00 (scholarships available).

Senior Adults

Seniors Bible Brunch Ministry (age 50+)

Meets Thursdays from 12pm - 2pm (resumes 1/9/20)
Seniors Bible Brunch Ministry is a great opportunity to experience fellowship, study the Bible, and connect with other seniors. Each Thursday the group meets at Grace Church in the Commons at noon. Feel free to bring a dish to pass. We look forward to seeing you at our next Bible Brunch gathering!

Life Groups

Life Groups are small groups of people that gather in homes around Racine throughout the week to have fellowship, discuss God's word, pray for one another, and build relationships. Life Groups are an essential expression of the vision of Grace Church, placing a significant emphasis on helping people connect in community and grow in their relationship with God through Christ.

There are Life Groups meeting throughout Racine County every day of the week. Most of which are mixed-gendered groups that come together to review the past week's sermon or study a book together. We also offer men's and women's Life Groups. If you are interested, contact Chris: rboyer@graceinracine.com.

Announcements

Welcome to Christmas at Grace!

We're so glad you've joined us this afternoon to celebrate Immanuel, God with us. No matter what season of life you find yourself in today, it is our prayer that you will find hope as you encounter Jesus! The Christmas story is far more than just a story passed down from generation to generation. There were real shepherds, real angels, and an amazing Christ child who was born on Christmas. We hope that with childlike eyes you can experience the message of Christmas today that will sustain you long after the parties and presents have come and gone.

We also want you to know that we would love to have you join us each Sunday. [Our weekly service is at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday.](#) If we can serve you in any way, please don't hesitate to let us know. Merry Christmas to you!

Recurring Weekly Activities (resuming week of January 6th)

[Celebrate Recovery](#) (Care Group)

Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Loft

[GriefShare](#) (Care Group)

Begins Saturday, January 25th // Saturdays, 9am - 11am, Room A-18

[Awana](#) (Children's Group)

Wednesdays, 6:15pm

[Blaze](#) (Students' Group)

Wednesdays, Jr. High 6:30pm - 8pm / Sr. High 7pm - 8:30pm

[Senior's Bible Brunch Ministry](#) (For those 50+) - Thursdays, 12pm - 2pm

[MOPs \(Moms of Preschoolers\)](#) - 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 9am - 11am

Hurting for the holidays? We understand the Christmas isn't always joyful for everyone. We're here to help. Please come down front after service on any Sunday. We'd love to pray over you and encourage you, whatever circumstances you might be going through. Please know that you're not alone!