



PORTRAITS OF GRACE

Today's Worship Service

PRAISE

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. (Psalm 29:2)

Call To Worship

[Luke 2:8-14](#)

[“Angels From The Realms of Glory”](#)

Montgomery, Smart

Welcome & Announcements

Josh Poore, Director of Worship Arts

RENEWAL

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

Georganne DeRose

[“Go Tell it on the Mountain”](#)

Work

[“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”](#)

[“The Son of Glory”](#)

Poore

Offering

PROCLAMATION

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4)

Reading of the Word [Matthew 1:1-5a](#)

Amos Beernink

Reader: *This is God's Word for us today.*

All: *Thanks be to God.*

Preaching of the Word

Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. (Psalm 63:3)

[“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”](#)

Gibbons, Neal

Benediction

Pastor Mike Matheson

Sermon Review Discussion Questions

These questions are for *after* the sermon and can be used for Life Group discussion, one-to-one discipleship, or personal reflection and application.

This Advent we are looking at the very first Christmas passage in the Bible: Jesus' family tree ([Matthew 1:1-17](#)), which highlights five women, whose surprising inclusion in this tree serves to highlight God's grace. This week we look at the story of Rahab. She was an outcast in almost every possible way. But God used her in a very surprising way (1) to build strong and courageous faith in his people, (2) to deliver them, and (3) to use her family line to bring forth Jesus, the King and Savior of the world.

Discussion Questions

1. Who has been a great motivator in your life—whether a parent, coach, or mentor? What was it about their approach that motivated you to action? Share a story of a time when they effectively motivated you.
2. What stands out to you about Rahab's confession of faith in the LORD ([Josh. 2:8-14](#))? How did the NT authors view her faith (read [Heb. 11:31](#) and [James 2:25](#))? How does this affirm to us the truth that God grants us salvation by faith alone?
3. What were the risks involved for Rahab to intervene for the spies? How do the risks make her actions even more remarkable? How are you motivated when you witness other people taking big steps of faith in spite of great risk and cost?
4. What sources of encouragement has God provided in your life? What role are we to play in encouraging and strengthening our brothers and sisters in Christ? How can we be better equipped to serve those who are in need of encouragement? What are proactive steps we can take to grow in this area?
5. How does the account of Rahab grow your faith in God's ability to deliver on his promises to you? How does Rahab point us to the person and work of Christ? How does Rahab give us a portrait of grace to prepare our hearts for Christmas?

Next Week's Sermon Preparation

These questions are for personal use during the week to help you prepare for next week's passage, [Matthew 1:1-5b](#); [Ruth 1-4](#).

Context

1. What has happened so far in the narrative? Have there been any major events, characters, or themes?
2. What has happened just prior to the section you are reading?

Observation

1. What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them? How do they describe themselves?
2. Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the passage?
3. Is there a conflict or high point in the passage?
4. Do you think there is a main point or theme in this section of the story?
5. What surprises are there?

Meaning

1. Are there any 'editorial' comments from the author about the events in the narrative? How do these comments illuminate what is happening?
2. Does someone in the narrative learn something or grow in some way? How? What does this person learn?
3. How does the passage point forward to what God is going to do in the future? Does it prophesy or anticipate Jesus Christ in some way?
4. How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

Application

5. How does this passage challenge your understanding about who God is and what he is like?
6. Is there some attitude you need to change?

Adapted from: *One to One Bible Reading, A Simple Guide for Every Christian*
by David Helm (Available at the Grace Book Cart)

Men's Gathering

Saturday, December 14, 8am-9:30am

Philippians 2:19-30

Men's Gatherings are a time for men to connect, be taught from God's word and spur one another in our faith. All men are welcome!

Grace Seniors Presents:

"The One-Page Christmas Epic" by Karl Vaters. A dramatic reading to share the wonder of Christmas in a fresh way. Thursday December, 12th in the Grace Commons. Dinner will be served at noon. RSVP to Barbara Scott to sign up and indicate what dish you will bring to share. Barbara will be at the Info Center following service or call 262-886-8711.

Short Term Mission Trip Info Meeting

TODAY, after service in Room A-18. Learn more about a short term trip to South Africa at the end of June 2020 to serve Craig & Brenda Rebro. Contact Sheri Kobriger for more information: slkobriger@gmail.com.

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 you're not alone!

Please pray for healing and recovery for those hospitalized or recently discharged: Raynah Bickle

Last Week: Sanctuary Attendance: 554 Children's Ministry Attendance: 99

Giving: Last Week: \$33,284 YTD: \$1,489,064 +/- Budget: -\$83,492

Caring for our Grace Church Family:

If your family is experiencing financial challenges and would be blessed by assistance with a Christmas dinner, fill out a Connection Card found in the seat back in front of you. Be sure to write "Christmas" and your name, address and phone number on the card and drop it in the offering plate. Questions? Contact Lynn at 262.977.6532 or email lnewlun@graceinracine.com.

*A special thank you to all the volunteers who decked out the church for Christmas this year: Dion & Chris Gracyalny, Brandon and Tammy Evaska, Neil and Gail Eaton, Kristen Schaefer, Jared Kauers, Rob Vesely, Rick and Pam Piper, Cindy Richter, Trista Vnuk, Barb Borland, Linda Martinich, Diane Seymour, Mary Hamell and John and Joy Brewer (winter outdoor pots). Also to the two Blaze girls pods groups for crafting our "stained glass" embroidery hoop ornaments.
Merry Christmas All!*