



Sunday, November 29, 2020

Welcome

We are so glad you have joined us to worship God this morning!

Our church is inspired and motivated by the generous grace our Heavenly Father displayed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In response to His goodness, we strive to live out compassionate love for those around us as we live and speak the good news about Jesus. We hope you leave encouraged and inspired to respond to God's invitation for relationship and His call to go and make disciples of Jesus who will then make more and more disciples of Jesus.

INTRODUCTION TO OUR SERMON SERIES

God always keeps His promises. During this Advent season we will reflect on the promise that was fulfilled through the birth of Jesus. Even though humanity has repeatedly rejected God, God promised to bring a rebellious humankind back into reconciled relationship with Him. This would be fulfilled through the coming Messiah who is Jesus, God's own son. God was fulfilling a promise to reconcile an entire people to Himself and to reconcile *you* to Himself. While we live in unprecedented times, God is always good and He always keeps His promises, and that is something worthy of celebration.

Pastor Austin Branson
Lead Pastor

gracechurch
An Evangelical Free Church

500 S Main Street in Walworth, WI 53184
(262) 275-6020 | office@gracewalworth.org | gracewalworth.org

WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAYS AT 10AM

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 1:1-2

WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
In Christ Alone
No Longer Slaves
Build My Life*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAFE FAMILIES TESTIMONY

CELEBRATION OF ADVENT

GOSPEL PROJECT VIDEO LESSON

SERMON

Pastor Austin Branson

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Connection Cards

Are you new to Grace? Do you have a prayer request? We invite you to fill out a Connection Card found at the Welcome Center or online.

Tithe Online

To give electronically, you can visit the "Give" page of our website -or- download the "Give Plus" app found in your phone's app store.

Weekly Email

If you would like to receive a weekly email that include reminders and updates, please visit our website, and subscribe under the "Helpful Links" section.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Tuesday, December 1

Women's Prayer Fellowship (at Phyl Jensen's home) 10:00am
RSVP: Phyl Jensen, (262) 245-9174

Sunday, December 6

Worship Service 10:00am
Iglesia Jesucristo es mi Refugio..... 12:00pm
Contact: Pastores Ricardo y Berna Ramos, (815) 355-7482

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missionary Christmas Gifts

Each year we receive a special Christmas offering that is divided among our missionary families. After prayerfully considering your gift, please place it in the designated envelope that can be found at the display table in the foyer and put it in the "Blessings" box by today. Checks can be made payable to Grace Church with "Missionary Christmas" written on the memo line.

Membership Candidates

The following candidates are wholeheartedly recommended by Pastor Austin Branson and the Elders for church membership: Jim & Gerry Christiansen and Bob & Debby Milliman. Providing that no one brings forth Scripturally based objections to the Elder Board, membership candidates will be formally welcomed into membership in the coming weeks.

Due to the rise in Covid-19, the Women's Christmas Tea is cancelled.

SERMON NOTES

A Promise Fulfilled Luke 1:26-38

I. The Setting (vv. 26-27)

- a. Unexpected Place
- b. Unexpected People

II. The Salutation (vv. 28-33)

- a. Undeserved Grace
- b. Unqualified Greatness

III. The Submission (vv. 34-38)

REFLECTION & RESPONSE

CONTENT

1. How was betrothal in first century Judaism different from engagement in today's western culture?
2. Why did Luke need to include the detail that Nazareth was a city of Galilee? Why is that significant to the narrative?
3. Why do we know that Mary's favor with God was a result of grace and not merit? How can you know this from the text?
4. Compare verses 13-17 and verses 30-33. How is Jesus similar/different to John the Baptist?
5. How was the angel's announcement to Mary both a blessing and a burden? What does Mary's response to the angel say about her faith in God?

CONTEMPLATE

Option 1

Our passage from Luke highlights that God does extraordinary things in unexpected ways. How might God want to use your day to day life for His glory? Pray the following prayer every morning before you begin your day and make sure to anticipate opportunities that He sends your way:

“God, don’t let me miss the adventures you are sending my way to live and speak the good news of Jesus today. Help me anticipate and respond to the unexpected ways you plan to work in and through my life.”

Option 2

Submission to God’s plans for our lives is not always easy. Finding favor with God often times will call us into difficult things where we have to die to our plans in order to live out His purposes. That was the case for Mary. How might God be favorably calling you to die to your own plans in order to live out His greater purpose? This might include seemingly small or rather big decisions or changes for your life. Write down some possibilities and prayerfully consider which of those God presses on your heart.

CONNECT

God’s favor to Mary was a free gift of grace. God’s favor to us is a free gift of grace. Read through Ephesians 1 paying close attention to the description of God’s grace to the church. After reading, take some time to prayerfully reflect on the free unmerited grace that you have received from God through Jesus. Thank God for that gift. Now take a moment to consider your church family at Grace who are also recipients of this grace from God. How might this reality affect the way that we view and engage others from this church?

COMMUNITY

By submitting to God’s plan, Mary would inevitably be looked down on by the surrounding community. The assumption would be that she had an illegitimate child. Both Joseph and Mary would submit to God’s plan even though it could cause them to be social outcasts. How might God be calling you to live out your faith even though it might not be favorable to the community around you? What are some ways that you can lovingly live out your faith even if it means being looked down on by others? Remember there is a difference between people being offended by Christ and people being offended by your character.