



The Face of God: Grace is Reconciliation

Dr. Tim Bruster

Genesis 32:22-31, 33:1-10

Traditional Worship

11:00 am

February 25, 2018

WE GATHER

Welcome

Prelude – Sonata in C Major for Recorder and Basso Continuo, HWV 365 V. Allegro
George Friedrich Handel, composer

Call to Worship

Leader: Gracious God, You call us to be Your people of peace. Help us to be reconciled to those who have hurt us, those who have disappointed us, those whom we fear.

Congregation: How good it is for God's people to live together in harmony.

Leader: Gracious God, we know that we cannot control others, but we also know that You ask that as far as it is up to us, to live in peace with one another.

Congregation: How good it is for God's people to live together in harmony.

Leader: Gracious God, help us to walk in the ways that Jesus taught us, that we might offer healing and peace to one another.

Congregation: How good it is for God's people to live together in harmony.

Choir: To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

All: Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

*Hymn 577 – God of Grace and God of Glory ←

God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power.
Crown Thine ancient church's story,
Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil 'round us,
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways.
From the fears that long have bound us,
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to Thy control.
Shame our wanton selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

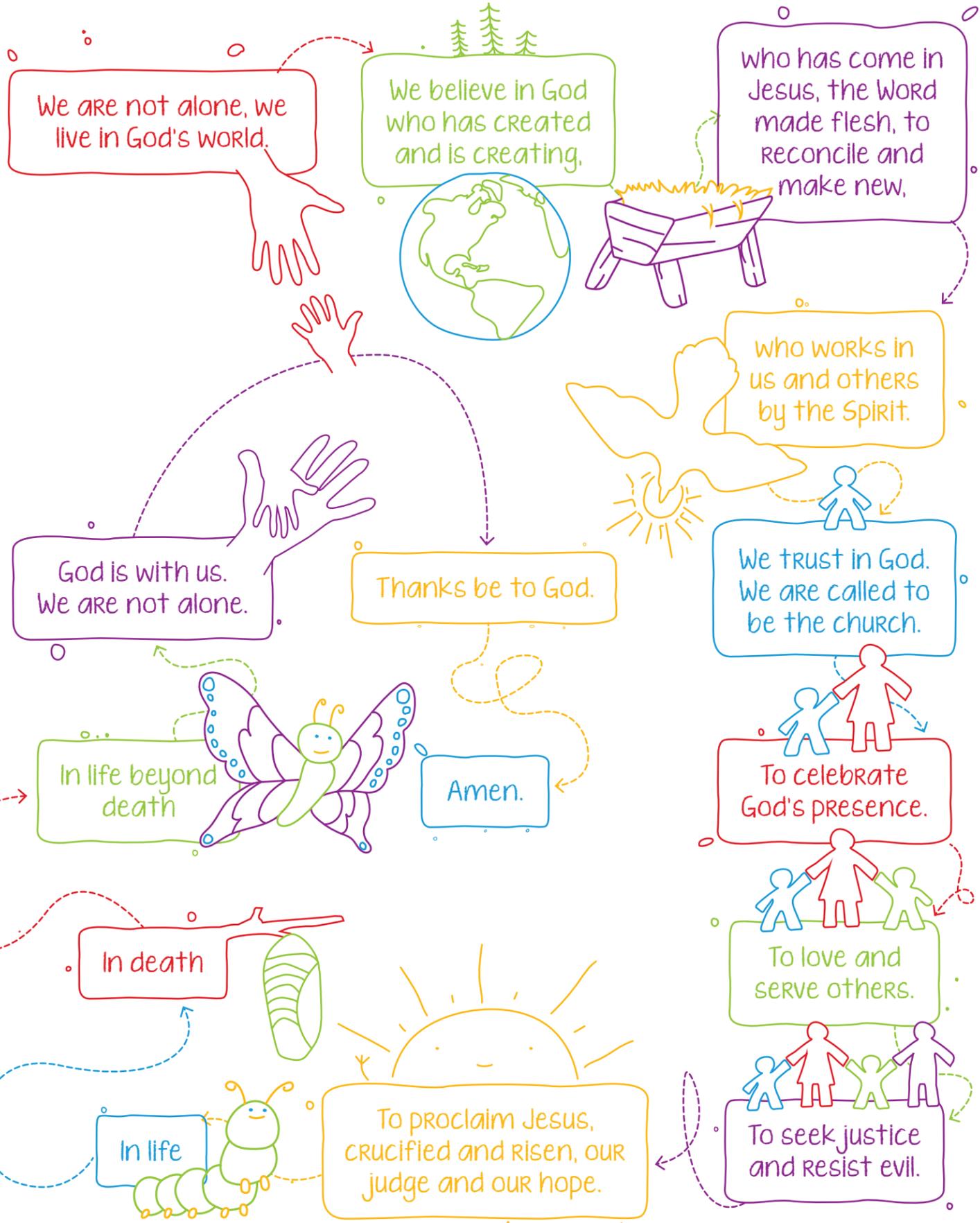
Save us from weak resignation,
To the evils we deplore.
Let the search for Thy salvation,
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving Thee Whom we adore,
Serving Thee Whom we adore.

Word of the Day:
Reconciliation

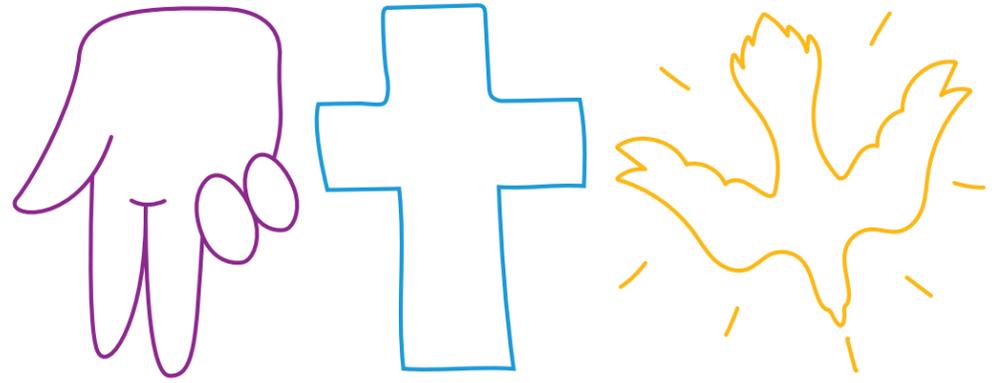
Memory Verse:
How good it is for
God's People to
live together in
harmony.
– Psalm 133:1

In this hymn,
we sing directly
to God. We ask
for wisdom and
courage to do
things God's way
rather than our
own way.

*Affirmation of Faith



*Gloria Patri
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;



Gloria Patri means "Glory to the Father." This short hymn of praise has been sung by Christians for many centuries.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Please be seated. Ushers will assist in seating at this time.

WE PROCLAIM

Sacrament of Baptism
 McKenzie Lee Graham, daughter of Amy and Richard Graham
 Campbell Cora Petronis, daughter of Savannah and Richard Petronis

Baptism: When someone is baptized, it's a chance for all of us to celebrate how much God loves that person. God loves each one of us, not because of anything we do, but simply because we are God's children.

Baptismal Hymn 191 (vs. 1) – Jesus Loves Me

Congregational Response

With God's help,
 We will so order our lives after the example of Christ,
 That McKenzie Lee and Campbell Cora,
 Surrounded by steadfast love,
 May be established in the faith,
 And confirmed and strengthened in the way
 That leads to life eternal.

Scripture – Genesis 32:22-31, 33:1-10
 God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.
 Thanks be to God.

Faith Like a Child

*Passing the Peace

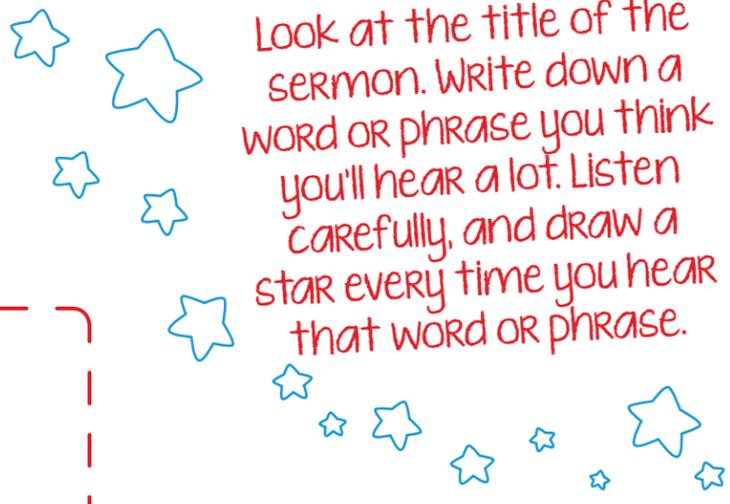
Sermon Snips:
You don't have to "just sit there." Choose one of the sermon snips and let it guide you as you take your relationship with God to the next level.



The Face of God: Grace is Reconciliation

A large dashed red rectangular box intended for drawing or writing.

Look at the title of the sermon. Write down a word or phrase you think you'll hear a lot. Listen carefully, and draw a star every time you hear that word or phrase.



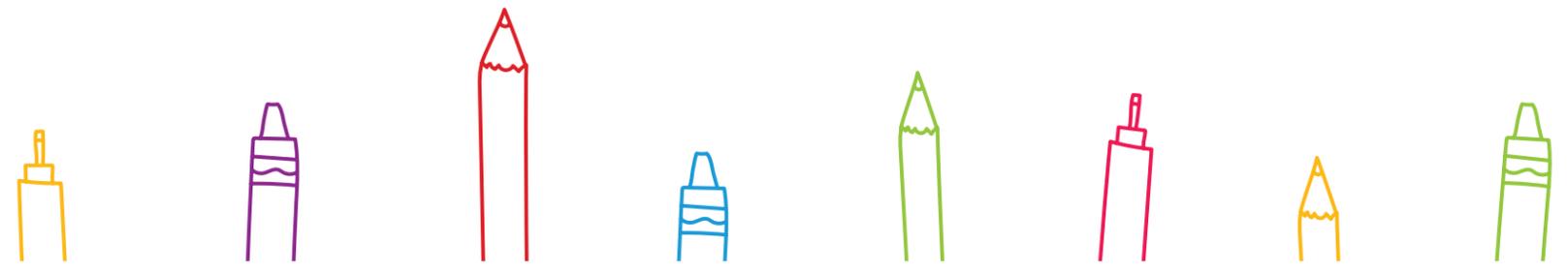
What about the sermon surprised you?

Take the Bible story, or one of the stories from the sermon, and create a storyboard. Think of it as a 4-panel comic strip that tells the story.



Be mindful.
What is something deep inside you that God wants the world to know?

Make a list of all the things that distract you during the sermon. Can you fix some of these? Can God help?



Means of Grace

From hearing, believing, and speaking lies about someone,

O Lord deliver us. Silent prayer...

From stubbornness that is unwilling to compromise,

O Lord deliver us. Silent prayer...

From suspicions and fears that stand in the way of healing,

O Lord deliver us. Silent prayer...

From words and deeds that encourage discord and hatred,

O Lord deliver us. Silent prayer...

From everything that prevents us from knowing your peace,

O Lord deliver us. Silent prayer...

From the resentment that cannot accept an apology,

O Lord deliver us. Silent prayer...

From the resentment that has not allowed us to offer forgiveness,

O Lord deliver us. Silent prayer...

God we know that we do not have the power to undo what has already been done. So grant us the peace to bear these burdens and the courage to change the things that can be changed. Give us the strength to reach out in love to the one who has been difficult to love. Fill us with mercy and compassion. So that we may be ready to receive your grace and ready to offer your grace in reconciliation. Amen.

Choral Response – Nearer My God to Thee

Dan Forrest, Arranger

WE RESPOND

Holy Communion

Invitation

Offertory – Sonata in C Major Movements I. Larghetto, II. Allegro

Communion Prayer

Breaking the Bread and Lifting the Cup

The Lord's Prayer

Find the Prayer Cross in your worship kit.

The cord has five knots, and there are five parts to the prayer Jesus taught his friends.

Hold each knot between your thumb and forefinger as you say the different parts of the prayer.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.

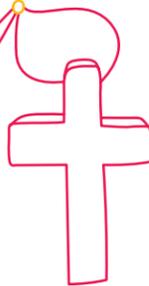
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be
done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Many years after Jesus went to heaven, the early church added this part of the prayer. Hold the prayer cross close to your heart as you say this part.



For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Special Communion Music – Sonata in C Major Movements III. Larghetto, IV. A tempo di Gavotta

* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

* Hymn – Old Isaac Asked His Nearby Son (sung to "Just As I Am")

Old Isaac asked his nearby son, "What is your name? I'm poor in sight." He sought to bless the elder one. "Which one are you?" he asked that night.

Then Jacob said, "I'm Esau here," As he stood there in he disguise. The blessing he would hold so dear begin that night with tricks and lies.

With Esau angry, Jacob fled. Soon Rachel gladly said, "I do." Then Jacob toiled and earned his bread, and soon his wealth and holdings grew.

A strange man met him late one night. They wrestled, struggling all night long, the man spoke at the morning light, "You've wrestled God and you have won."

* Benediction

Our gathering will soon be ended, where will we go, and what will we do?

We will go out to be God's people in the world.

May grace, peace, hope, love, and joy forever accompany you. Amen.

How are you going to be one of God's people in the world this week?

Congregational Closing – Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our Creator, children all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,

With every breath I take let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

* Postlude – All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Georg Friedrich Kaufmann, composer

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Dorothy and Dr. Judge M. Lyle and Dr. Douglas Tatum and by Barbara Tatum and family.

Worship Leaders:

Dr. Tim Bruster Senior Pastor

Mr. Robert Stovall, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Mrs. Peggy Graff, Organist/Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts

Liturgists: Rev. Linda McDermott, Dr. Mike Marshall,

Faith Like a Child: Mister Mark, Ava Long, helper

Choir: Choral Union

Instrumentalists: Dace Sultanov, cello, Kenneth Meador, recorder,

Peggy Graff, organ

Procession: Sabrina Stewart, Grace Wiley

**Please stand as you are able.*

WORSHIP KIT

↪ INSIDE YOU WILL FIND ↪

TREASURES OF NATURE BOX

One of the best ways we can experience God's power and love is by cherishing God's handiwork in the wonders of nature. Carefully open the box and discover what treasures wait inside.

BLANK CARD

You can use the pencil and crayons to make a *Thank You* note for someone in the Sanctuary who helped make worship feel special to you. It could be a parent, a minister, a choir member, an usher, or someone in the next pew who gave you a friendly wave. After the service, ask your parents to take you to hand-deliver the card.

ANOINTING BALM

Use the anointing balm to bless a friend or family member sitting next to you. Rub a tiny bit of the balm on your thumb and trace the sign of the cross on your neighbor's forehead or back of the hand (whichever they prefer). As you do this, say a simple blessing, such as "God bless you." (It's not just for sneezes.) Or, for a longer blessing, you could say:

*You are a special person.
God loves you, and so do I.
Bless you.*

And don't forget to allow your neighbor the privilege of getting to bless you.

PIPE STEMS

There are so many things you can do with pipe stems. You could:

- Listen to the sermon and sculpt an object you hear mentioned.
- Shape them in the initials of someone you'd like to pray for.
- Look around the Sanctuary and sculpt something you see.
- Sculpt a flower and give it to a family member.
- Make a friendship bracelet and give it to a friend, or to a new member.

PRAYER CROSS

The cross is such a powerful symbol of God's love and hope. Anytime is a good time to hold on to the cross. See inside the bulletin for how to use the prayer cross during the Lord's Prayer.

TANGLE

Listen to a piece of music or a Bible story and mold the tangle to show how it makes you feel.

Does it make you feel:

- Open and ready for God's presence?
- Tangled and confused?
- Wrapped snugly and securely?
- Calm like a gentle stream?
- Not sure?

PENCIL AND CRAYONS

Use these to write notes in your bulletin, draw a prayer, illustrate a story you hear in the sermon, or even ask hard questions.

CLOTH FIGURE

Here are just a few things you can do with the cloth figure:

- Have it act out the events in the Bible story.
- Help it read the bulletin.
- Gently hold it the way God is holding you right now.

EYE SPY CARD AND TELESCOPE

Use the Eye Spy card to identify some of the many meaningful objects and symbols in our Sanctuary. Use the telescope to help you explore.

