

Grace of Christ Service of Renewal

Sunday January 16, 2022

Dear Father in Heaven, help us at Grace of Christ to be Your people, to love You and to love others. Give us a passion for those who are hurting, those with obvious everyday needs, those with hidden sorrows, those who are plagued with doubts and fears. Increase our compassion, remind us of Your love and grace, create within us a generous, humble, and caring heart. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Explanation of the Service and This Handout

Confession without humility is an exercise in futility. How can there be authentic contrition, a heartfelt appreciation for the kindness of God without a recognition that we need the freedom and forgiveness that comes only from God? Confession begins with an acknowledgement that something is not right with us. Confession admits that we are imperfect, that we've failed others, we've failed God, and we've failed ourselves too. Confession is an honest cry for help. We confess our personal failings, and we confess the failures of our community too. The beauty of our Christian faith is that honest confession brings genuine forgiveness. *"If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".* 1 John 1:9

Pastor Curt's sermon on January 16, 2022, is available on our website www.YakimaGrace.com "Rocks on the Road." The scripture referenced in the sermon was Luke 4:14-30 and Isaiah 62:10-12

Responsive Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, forgive us individually and as a community of faith here at Grace. Forgive us for failing to speak up on behalf of the poor, the broken, the abused. the homeless when You have wanted us to speak. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Heavenly Father, forgive us for overlooking the physical needs of those who have been abandoned, those suffering from mental illness, those who are hungry, those without home or family. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Heavenly Father, forgive us as a church community for how we have treated each other, how we have neglected those who have entered the doors of this church, times when we have thought poorly of others, told, and passed on lies, when we have been untruthful, when we have judged others. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Heavenly Father, forgive us for the times leaders and staff at Grace have harmed others, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Forgive us for times when the sacrifices of volunteers and staff, the involvement they have made in the ministry of our community, has not ended well but has instead caused pain and heartache. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Heavenly Father, forgive us when we have adopted the divisive tone now so prevalent in the world around us, when we have seen, or been tempted to see others, because their beliefs are different than ours, as our enemies rather than as Your people, our friends. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Heavenly Father, forgive us for allowing division rather than unity define our relationships here at Grace of Christ. Forgive us for allowing our preferences for a particular style of music, or our preference for a particular pastor, or our decision whether to wear mask or not to wear masks, to separate us from each other, think less kindly of each other, withhold our grace and our love. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Heavenly Father, forgive us for allowing abuse to exist in your church here at Grace, and in our own relationships, in our own homes. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Heavenly Father, forgive us for withholding forgiveness when You have so generously forgiven us. Forgive us for our unwillingness to offer grace to those who have offended us, those who are indebted to us, those who have betrayed us, those who have harmed us. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Heavenly Father, forgive us for our hypocrisy, saying one thing and then doing the opposite. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Heavenly Father, forgive us for the times we have neglected You, taken You for granted, used You for our own ends and purposes. Forgive us when we have placed our trust in anyone or anything other than You. Forgive us when our worship of You has been routine, hollow, and self-serving. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Heavenly Father, forgive us for our past sins, give us new life, fill us with Your Holy Spirit, inspire us to live our lives thankful for all You have done for us, all You have given us, help us to trust You more, seek you more, serve You more, love You more. ***Father, In Your mercy please forgive us***

Responsive Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 51:1-3, 9-12

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalm 103:8-13

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

All: As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

Romans 5:6-8

Leader: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die

All: But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

1 John 1:8-10

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

All: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Prayer

Thank You, Lord for being with me today. Thank You for Your forgiveness! Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins so that I may be forgiven. What a gift! I am free because of Your generous, unconditional love. Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Declaration of Faith: Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell and on the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer

Father God, we give You thanks for this Holy scripture. In the Bible, it is written, that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Feed me, Lord. Open my mind today as I read and study Your Word. I want to know more about You and why You created me. I want to know Your truths; to seek Your will. Give me strength and courage to ask questions on this journey and to seek godly council as I learn. Protect my mind, heart, and spirit. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Scriptures

Psalm 32

Blessed Are the Forgiven. A Maskil of David. *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah ⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. ⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. ¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD. ¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!*

2 Chronicles 7.14

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Isaiah 43:1-3, 10-13, 19

"But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you ... ¹⁰ "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. ¹¹ I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. ¹² I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and I am God. ³ Also henceforth I am he; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can turn it back?" ... ¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Hebrews 12.1-3, 12-15

*"Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. **Do Not Grow Weary** - ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted ... ¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled."*

Isaiah 58:6-10

⁶ "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, ¹⁰ if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday."

Philippians 3.12-16

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained."

1 John 1:8-10

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Songs and Hymns from the Service

- **Hymn #256: The Old Rugged Cross**
 - On a hill far away stood an old, rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain
- **Song: Heart of Worship**
 - I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus
- **Hymn: In Christ Alone**
 - In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live
- **Song: Amazing Love I'm Forgiven (Chris Tomlin)**
 - I'm forgiven
because You were forsaken
and I'm accepted
You were condemned
I'm alive and well
Your spirit is within me
because You died and rose again