

Grace

not Perfection.



JANUARY 9, 2022

10:00 AM

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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GRACE NOT PERFECTION: Letting Go of “the Perfect Life”

10:00 am

JANUARY 9, 2022

WELCOME!

We welcome you to worship today. Park Ridge Community Church affirms that all people are made in the image of God and are worthy of God's love and grace. We commit to the ongoing work of being a church journeying together to deepen our understanding of the nature of God's love and to fulfill our responsibility to embody the Christ Spirit in the world. No matter who you are or where you are on this journey, you are welcome and loved.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of Christ Jesus be with you all.

And also with you.

We each have a place and belong here,
not based on our righteousness
but on God's free grace.

**O give thanks to our God who is good,
whose saving love endures forever.**

Let those who are redeemed by God declare it,
rescued from trouble and gathered from many lands;

**From the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south,
give thanks to God whose grace abounds!**

*HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

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*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Grace,
too often we become obsessed with the concept of perfection,
thinking that if we just work hard enough, we can attain it.

Too often we think we can earn your love
by proving with our deeds - that we are worthy.

Too often we try to convince ourselves and the world
that we have it all together.

We are human. We have limits. We fall far short of perfection.
Only you are God, and you offer us grace upon grace.

You forgive our sins and wrap us in your loving embrace,
without strings, without us having to do the impossible, without...well, anything.

Release us from our fixation on elusive ideals of perfection.

Fill us with your grace, teach us to receive that grace freely given and
help us freely share it with others.

Silent Prayers are offered

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God hears our confession and responds “My grace is sufficient for you.”

Friends, let us rejoice, we are forgiven and reconciled with God,
not by our own merit, but by the grace of God.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

FIRST READING

Galatians 3:1-14

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Night of Silence

Haas

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PREACHING LESSON

Ephesians 2:4-10
This is the word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Perfectly Imperfect

Rev. Carol Hill

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

What Strangers are These?

Lowe

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God, you have lavishly blessed our lives with grace upon grace. It is our joy to return to you a portion, symbolizing our love and devotion. May all our gifts be used to bring your kingdom here on earth that all might know they are beloved, in spite of our imperfections. Bless these gifts and bless the givers, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sonata No. 1
Zach Nelson, trombone

Telemann

*INDICATES TO PLEASE RISE IN BODY AND SPIRIT, IF ABLE

BOLD INDICATES TO SPEAK ALOUD IN ONE VOICE, IF ABLE

LEADING US IN WORSHIP JANUARY 9, 2022 10:00 AM

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister

Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister

Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services

Angie Do, Seminary Student Intern

Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children's Services

Morgan Tone, Director of Children's Services

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

Sue Douglass, organist

Jane Kenas-Heller, pianist

Zach Nelson, trombone

Bob Mack, guitar

Rachel Lapp, vocals

OK Chorale

Ushers: Jan Steiner, Tom Brunet, Lorel Brunet, Paula Mack, Sharon Kemerer, Bill Barsanti, and George Skoog

Credits:

Call to worship adapted from that written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Homepage.

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, and Prayer of Thanksgiving written by Rev. Carol Hill, 2022.

PRAYER REQUESTS

One of the gifts of community is that hold one another in prayer. Each week, we share our joys and sorrows with one another so that we might feel the support of community. No one is alone. God is with us, and we are supporting one another.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR LOVED ONES:

Laura Beaudine, Heather Cannon, Kylie Figgins, Jon Forsythe, Edith E. Hurlburt, Tom Kapolnek, Candace Kidston, Walter and Christina Kotecki, Geri LeDuc, Tracy McKenzie, Dean Muenzer, Lurana Nelson, Leo Netko, Reggie Pantazi, Ann Stutts, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, Kate Zoellner.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM DECEMBER 26th and JANUARY 2ND:

- Birthdays include Susie H. and Noah L. on 12/29. Julie B. and Emily D. on 1/3; Rick B. on 1/4; Laurie H. on 1/5; Gail B. on 1/7 and on 1/8 we celebrated with Julie B., Jim P. and Oscar S.
- Jaclyn & Todd Weir's wedding anniversary was 12/26 and Dave & Liz Swanson's celebrated their wedding anniversary on 12/27.
- Pastor Carol celebrates that her mom is home from the hospital and continues to build her strength and recover from pneumonia and lung infections.
- Tricia's friend Kim, whom we have been praying for had a very positive update.
- Continued prayers for all those sick with the newest covid variant
- Tom G asks us to hold his parents, Mary and David in our prayers for healing. They are both recovering from covid, his mom now home from the hospital but his father still battling the effects of covid.
- Shelia B. asks us to hold Jillian in prayer as she is sick with covid.
- Please pray for the family and friends of Alice Davitt who entered life in the Resurrection on 12/23. Alice was a dear friend of Ginny F.
- The Figgins family celebrates the news that Kylie is now in remission.
- Grace C. asks us to include a family member who is struggling with addiction and finding a purpose in life.
- Kym D. shares a joy that she is finding relief from the new physical therapy she is doing.
- We pray in gratitude for all the times together with family and friends over the last week especially as efforts were made to be mindful of staying healthy and well.
- Jack asks us to pray for all the Park Ridge Community Church members
- Jim asks for prayers for his good friend Tracy.
- Please pray for Paula M's sister Laura as she discerns future medical decisions.
- Luan Z. offers prayers of gratitude that Emily and her family were spared during the terrible fires very near her home in CO, and prayers of hope and healing for all those families that lost everything in the fire.
- For all those caring for the sick and those ill or recovering from the newest covid variant.
- Please continue prayers for Kay S. as she is now in rehab recovering from a fall she had before Christmas.
- Ginny F. asks for prayers for her friend, Ann who has recently been diagnosed with cancer. This is the second bout of cancer Ann has faced and is immensely grateful for the prayer support.
- We hold in our prayers the family and friends of Susan Ruth who entered life in the Resurrection on 12/28.
- We also pray for the loss of our Allen Knoblauch who entered life in the Resurrection on 12/28. We hold his entire family in our prayers.

THANK YOU FROM OUR STAFF!

Wow! Thank you, Park Ridge Community Church family, for your kindness, care, and support of our ministry team! Thank you to the SPRC committee for coordinating a church-wide effort to shower us with kindness. We feel your love!! This past year has held its share of challenges, but we are so grateful to be here serving among you. Thank you for your generous contributions that made their way to bless us this Christmas, in particular. Thank you too for your ongoing collaboration and leadership at this incredible church. We are inspired and blessed by YOU each and every day!

*Thank you so much,
Your Ministers, Staff, and Musicians*

BUILDING UPDATE

BUILDING CLOSED TO GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Due to the increasing positivity rate, church leadership has made the decision to close the building to meetings and groups. We encourage you to meet virtually, please contact the Church Office for help with Zoom meetings and any questions. We are tentatively planning to re-open fully on January 18th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAZZ IN JANUARY – POSTPONED

In a continued effort to keep our Church Family and those that visit our building safe, our committee has decided it is best to postpone this event. We are so grateful to all of them for the time and efforts they had put into this event and thank them for making such a responsible decision. We will be working over the next few weeks to issue refunds for tickets purchased, please contact the Church Office with any questions.

VOLUNTEER!

SIMPLE SUPPER

If you would like to volunteer to provide the meal for our Thursday Simple Supper, you can do so here - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094baeab2da4fb6-simple>

THE BRIDGE PROJECT

We are still collecting coats and other warm clothing through the end of January.

ADULT CHRISTIAN ED

ADULT ED: Tuesday Daytime Bible Study: Disciple II - Into the Word, Into the World – Meeting Virtually

All are invited to join in *Disciple 2: Into the Word, Into the World* Bible study on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30-3:00 pm. We will meet in the library with masks and distance observed. We will finish up our studies from the Old Testament on January 11. Beginning on January 18, we will begin our exploration of Luke and Acts, both of these Biblical books being written by the same author! Pastor Carol, Pastor Mollie and others lead this study. All are welcome to participate as we read and consider the scriptures together and discuss how these ancient texts apply to our lives today!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81599270512?pwd=VWQzc3R0SEVHNzJraXNQdPOW1aQT09>

ADULT ED: Thursday Evening 6:00 – 7:30 pm - Grace Not Perfection – Meeting Virtually

Join Jackie Tilles and Katie Reboletti in the Church library as we consider this study written by Emily Ley. We will consider when we've been confronted with our own limitations: we cannot do it all! When we hold ourselves to a standard of perfection, God invites us to let go of that unrealistic standard and instead step into grace. In this four week video-based study, author Emily Ley will share ways she has embraced a simpler life, making space to breathe, laugh and grow! This is a great way to start a new year! Come and join us for this new study that will correlate with the sermon series!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83091129872?pwd=QXFCSDVsWEhvNWUxOU5XZFliNEVlZz09>

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Come experience one of the most rewarding ways to serve in our church! We are looking for Sunday School teachers, helpers, and volunteers for Children's Ministry events. We will be planning in advance and delegating responsibilities so you know exactly what and when we need you! Contact Shelley to sign up and join the team!

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

If you would like to register for the coming Sunday School year, you may do so through the Church Office, by contacting Shelley O'Brien, or on our website - <https://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org/christian-education>.

VOLUNTEER IN THE NURSERY!

We are currently looking for volunteers to be on call to work the Nursery during Sunday Worship. This would be strictly as needed, if a family came in needing nursery care, the Ushers would let you know. If you are interested in signing up, please do so here - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094baeab2da4fb6-nursery>
Thank you in advance for helping us to accommodate all families.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH EXODUS WORLD SERVICE

On January 30th, we will be hosting a Cross Cultural Training for any and all adults and friends at PRCC in Jordan Hall. We will begin at 11:30 with a soup lunch and finish at 2:30.

This training prepares each volunteer to engage with a refugee individual or family in Chicagoland. It offers in-depth learning and activities to broaden a volunteer's understanding of who refugees are and how they get to the United States, as well as what help they receive when they arrive. Learn about the culture(s) of many refugees who are arriving and how to navigate cross-cultural communication and friendship. After this training, individuals can begin volunteering with the Exodus Neighboring Program to include things such as:

- Socialize with families and individuals
- Help students with tutoring
- Help with language learning
- Help with learning history and actions towards citizenship

The Youth will be participating in a Refugee Simulation with Exodus as well, it has been rescheduled for March 13th!