

Sunday, April 26th, 2020: Worship at Home Resources

Announcements: Insert a Dad-joke (ala Troy D.) or reflection (ala Sheryl M.) or another favorite intro here.

- An example Dad joke might be: How did the telephone propose to its girlfriend? He gave her a ring.
- An example reflection might be: Everyone take a deep breath in...and out. Breathe in and then one more time with Zephaniah 3:17a:
Breathing In ("The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save") ...
Breathing out ("he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love).

Watch your email and follow our [Grace Covenant facebook page](#) to keep up-to-date.

Sing About God's Love: The Steadfast Love of the Lord (#98)

Lyrics: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning,
great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord, great is Thy faithfulness. (from Lamentations 3:22-23)

Call to Worship: Psalm 118 (NIV)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Let Israel say:

"His love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say:

"His love endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say:

"His love endures forever."

When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord;
he brought me into a spacious place.

The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?

The Lord is with me; he is my helper.

I look in triumph on my enemies.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in humans.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

All the nations surrounded me,
but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.

They surrounded me on every side,
but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.

They swarmed around me like bees,

but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;
in the name of the Lord I cut them down.
I was pushed back and about to fall,
but the Lord helped me.
The Lord is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.
Shouts of joy and victory
resound in the tents of the righteous:
“The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!
The Lord’s right hand is lifted high;
the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”
I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the Lord has done.
The Lord has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.
Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord
through which the righteous may enter.
I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.
The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
The Lord has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.
Lord, save us!
Lord, grant us success!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.
The Lord is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
up to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Worship with Song continued (click links for video)

** pro-tip: click the links in advance to let the ads run through then pause the video so you're ready to worship.

[Oh, How He Loves You and Me](#)

[I Love You Lord](#)

[One Thing Remains](#)

[You are My King \(Amazing Love\)](#)

[Oh the Deep Deep Love](#)

Pray for the offering

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your mercy and grace. Lord we pray you will use this these weeks to build Your kingdom. Help us to love You even more and to love each other well. Help us, Lord, to love our neighbors in practical ways. Please use the offering of Your church to accomplish Your work in the world. Amen.

Giving Options (thank you for continuing as you are able to help fund utilities and salary and outreach and helpfulness): [Give Online at this link](#). Or electronically through your bank. Or mail a check to 3030 Broadway North, Fargo, ND 58102.

Offering Song (click link for video):

[King of Kings](#)

Prayers of the People:

Please email your next requests to office@gracecovenantfm.org or call any LT member so we can update the list for next week.

Barry: Update: Barry is doing very well. Recovering at home from his heart attack and stent surgery. Retired from Eventide in Moorhead. Doing well, thanks to God! Praying for continued healing and strength for Barry and (Faith).

Steve A: Please pray for Steve's Dad – he fell again on Tuesday (4/7) had to go to ER for stitches and x-ray. Please also pray for Sheila's sister, Colleen who is still very fragile and now not sleeping for healing.

Eventide (Jennifer Grieve): Covid-19 has entered Eventide in Fargo (22 cases earlier this week – 9 of those are staff including one working her mom's pod.). Please keep everyone there in prayer. It's been six weeks now with no visitors. (Especially pray for Jennifer Grieve's mom, Bette Deich).

Meredith: Had surgery (3/31) everything is going well and vision is also getting much better! Enjoying being home and feeling good (yay!). I am grateful for each of you and all God has done for me on this journey.

Christina: Continuing to heal from possible ankle fracture (crutches and boot for six weeks). Update: I can now walk around the house (short distances) in the boot which is very nice and made it downstairs for the first time in five weeks – JOY! It is still pretty swollen at the end of the day! I guess I would pray for wisdom on how far to push it and when to rest. Looking forward to being able to walk around the block, hopefully, in a couple weeks or drive myself to the store!

Robyn: Please continue in prayer for healing for my legs. Ankle fracture and torn ACL on left leg, with continued healing for right leg. Frustrated: tired all the time from my leg.

Cal: pray for my friend just diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

Swensen Family: Please continue to pray for all the Swensen family during this time of grief for comfort and peace for all the family.

Laura: Please pray for my Dad – surgery last Friday (4/17) amputation below the knee. Moved to back to the same rehab in Grand Forks (Yay!) but also same room facing a brick wall (bummer!) Praying for healing, no infection. For Dad and Mom both for reduced stress, increased peace, moving through grief of this time, relief of depression, encounters with Jesus - our Prince of Peace. Especially with the no visitors restrictions, that has been REALLY hard.

Redeemed Covenant families: many have lost jobs and wages due to virus response. Pray that rent and needs can be met. For new job opportunities. For Pastor Evariste – for good sleep, and health, and Holy Spirit power to minister during especially stressful times.

New Life Center: Please pray the virus will not enter and infect anyone sheltering or working at the New Life Center. They are housing 100+men, many are particularly vulnerable to the virus due to underlying conditions. Praying they will be able to meet increased funding needs (equipment, food, staffing) even as funding sources like the Thrift store are closed and the Fargo Marathon delayed. That they will continue to be able to provide take-out meals to non-guests daily.

Linda: Please pray for Linda as she moved to Mankato on the 25th of March. We pray that God will bless her in her new home with new friends and a church to call home as well.

Diana: Please pray for the kids at the detention center.

Prayers Related to COVID-19:

Please pray for all those who have the COVID-19 Virus for strength and healing. That the virus can be contained as much as possible. For health care workers. For those working treatment and testing sites. For government officials and law enforcement. For teachers and parents. For those missing paychecks. For retirees. For those that manufacture and deliver and sell needed items. For those developing tests and vaccines and treatments. For those in care facilities with visitor restrictions and their families. For those suffering domestic violence where home is not a safe place. That we will all be filled with the Holy Spirit. That God will give us wisdom and creativity. That we will have hearts to be helpful and meet needs wisely. That our trust in Jesus be strengthened in the midst of turmoil.

Pray for the reading of the word

Lord we ask you to fill us with your Holy Spirit and open our ears to listen well to your Word. Help us to not just hear your Word, but to seek to understand Your message and to live it out as Your people. Sanctify us by the truth, Lord; Your word is truth (John 17:17). Amen.

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A

priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Message from Pastor Kecia Stroot: "Love"

Kecia is Children and Family Pastor at Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church; some of us may remember her from when she preached for us in 2017 about the [Women at the Well](#) during our Gospel of John Series.

[Click this link to watch Pastor Kecia's message on our website.](#)
(the video is also on YouTube)

Hymns: [My Jesus I Love Thee \(band video\)](#) See picture attached for Hymnal Page #370

1 My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

2 I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

3 I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

4 In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

[Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty](#) (#641) Tune = Jesus, What a Friend of Sinners [Link with notation](#)

Lavish love, abundant beauty,
Gracious gifts for heart and hand,
Life that fills the soul and senses?
All burst forth at Your command.
Lord, our Lord, Eternal Father,
Great Creator, God and Friend,
Boundless power gave full expression
To Your love which knows no end.

Who am I that You should love me,
Meet my every need from birth?
Why invest Yourself so fully
In a creature made of earth?
In Your loving heart You planned me,
Fashioned me with greatest care;
Through my soul You breathed Your Spirit,
Planted Your own image there.

I am Yours, Eternal Father,
All my body, mind, and heart.
Take and use me to Your glory,
Form Yourself in every part.
Lord, Your love brings joy and gladness
Flowing forth within my soul.
May my very breath and being
Rise to You, their source and goal.

Let's Pray Together the Benediction from Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;
May the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

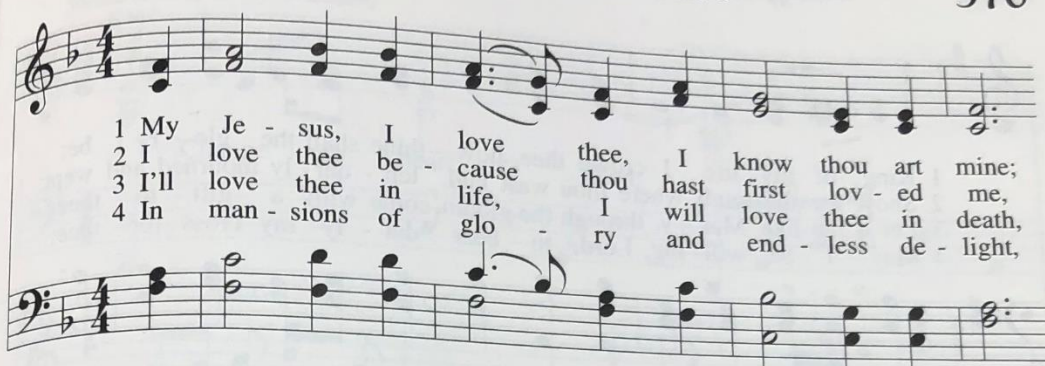
Grace-In-Practice: Meditate on God's love this week

practice biblical meditation: pick a short section of scripture – maybe our opening verses about the steadfast love of God (Lamentations 3:22-23) or pick another short favorite about God's love. Meditation is *chewing* on what scripture says and pondering what it means – taking ample time to think it over, day after day. Meditation is also *analyzing* what it says – consider each word, ask questions. Meditation is also *action*: “Holding the Word of God in your heart until it has affected every phase of your life” – according to author and pastor, Andrew Murray. [Link to a simple how-to-article](#)

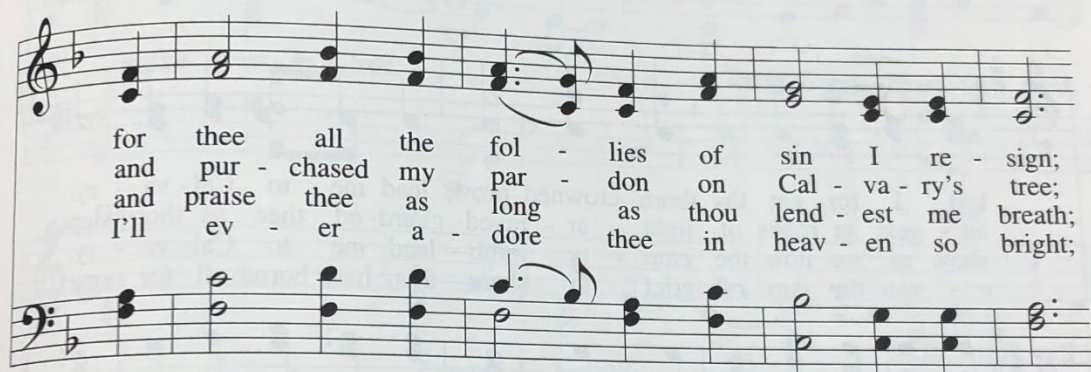
My Jesus, I Love Thee

SET APART FOR HOLINESS

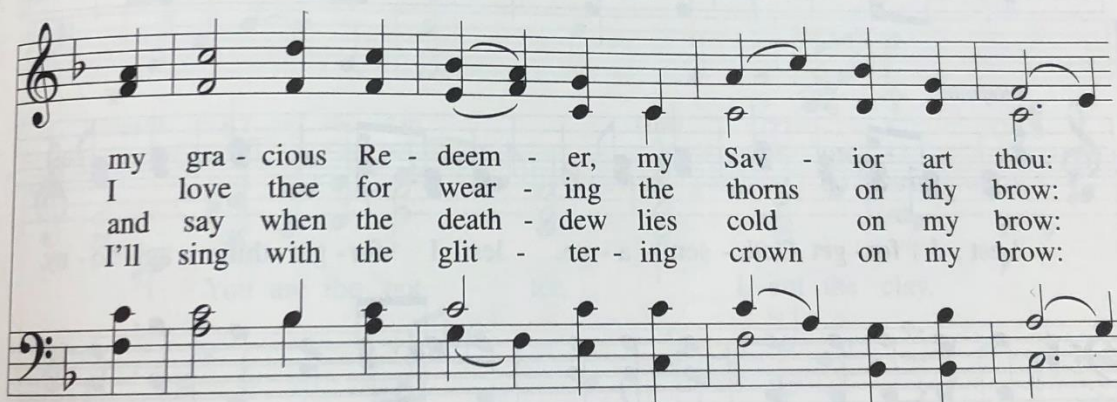
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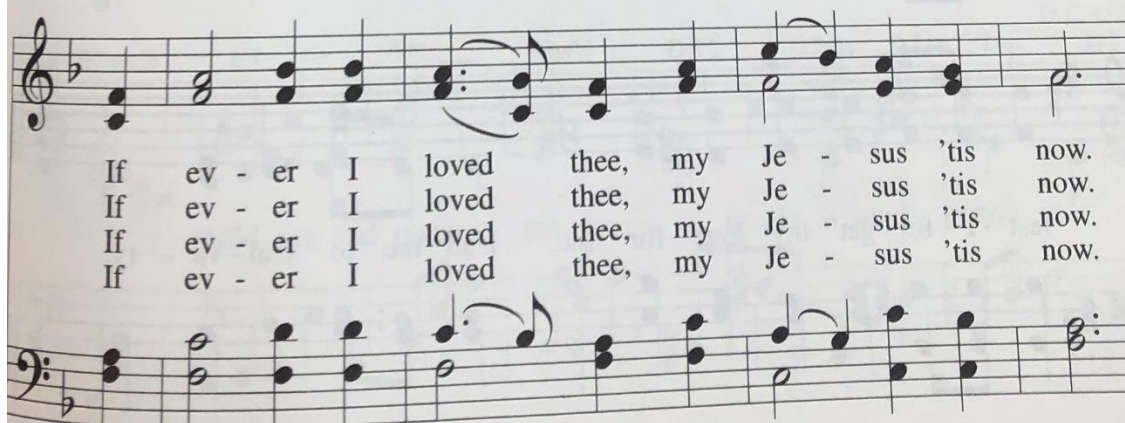
1 My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
 2 I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me;
 3 I'll love thee in of life, I will love thee in death,
 4 In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,



for thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign;
 and pur - chased the my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;
 and praise thee as long as thou lend - est me breath;
 I'll ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so bright;



my gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou:
 I love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow:
 and say when the death - dew lies cold on my brow:
 I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my brow:



If ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus 'tis now.
 If ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus 'tis now.
 If ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus 'tis now.
 If ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus 'tis now.

WORDS: William R. Featherstone, 1846-1873
 MUSIC: Adoniram J. Gordon, 1836-1895

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The Steadfast Love of the Lord

In unison D D/F# G A7sus A

The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es, his

D D/F# G A7sus A

mer - cies nev - er come to an end. They are

G A F#m7 Bm7

new ev - 'ry morn - ing, new ev - 'ry morn - ing,

Em7 A7sus A7 D A/C# Bm7 Em7 A7sus A7 D

great is thy faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is thy faith - ful - ness.

The musical score is written for a unison voice part and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. The first system has a 4/4 time signature, followed by a 2/4 time signature, and then a 4/4 time signature. The second system also follows this pattern. The third system is in 4/4 time. The fourth system begins with a 4/4 time signature and ends with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment features various chords: D, D/F#, G, A7sus, A, F#m7, Bm7, Em7, A7sus, A7, D, A/C#, and Bm7. The lyrics are: 'The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es, his mer - cies nev - er come to an end. They are new ev - 'ry morn - ing, new ev - 'ry morn - ing, great is thy faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is thy faith - ful - ness.'