

Grace Church of Dunedin

g The Gracelet

Today's Sermon:

THE GOOD REALITY OF GOD: TAKING THE HUMBLE PATH

LENT 2018: FALL INTO GOD'S GOODNESS FOR YOUR LIFE

MARCH 11, 2018

Hello friends. Welcome to Grace Church! Thank you for choosing to seek, grow, and worship with us today. All are welcome.

REFLECTION + RESPONSE:

(portions inspired by Chuck DeGroat and "The Lord's Prayer")

Reader: God of extravagant grace, thank you for the darkness of Winter, that will always bring forth the greenness of Spring. Everything you touch has a purpose.

All: **Teach us to live according to your will , as we pray-**

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Reader: Matthew 5:1-12

All: **May the Lord add his blessing to the reading, hearing, and doing of his holy Word.**

COMMUNION REFLECTION + PREPARATION:

Elder: Heavenly Father, as we prepare to receive the bread and the cup, we confess to you that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

ALL: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

ELDER: We acknowledge our tendency to overlook the abundance of your grace and presence all around us.

All: **Lord, forgive us.**

ELDER: Almighty God, help us to love as you have loved.

ALL: **Lord, do not leave us unchanged.**

(sacrament instructions)

Elder: On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Elder: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

Elder: And as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER + BENEDICTION:

Elder: Lord Jesus, you bless the poor in spirit and give them the Kingdom. You bless those who mourn and you comfort them. You bless the meek, and promise them the earth, you bless the merciful, and promise them mercy. You bless those who hunger and thirst for righteousness— you promise to satisfy their desires. You bless the peacemakers and the persecuted and the reviled—you call them sons of your Father and you give them the kingdom of heaven.

All: **Lord, you are like a father to your children, compassionate and merciful, filled with endless love.**

(Silently pray for someone you know in need of God's help.)

Elder: Breathe new life into us once more, so we might be the people you created us to be.

All: **Restore unto us the joy of your salvation that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.**

(closing words)

Elder: Grace + peace to all of you...

All: **And to you as well.**

GIVING + FINANCES:

Monthly Operating Expenses: \$8,571.89

March's Income (as of 3.10.18): \$1,975.99

February's General Income: \$8,064.21

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Grace Church of Dunedin

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