

# GRACE TODAY

Vol. 23 No. 34

August 25, 2019

**John MacArthur**  
PASTOR-TEACHER

Clayton Erb / Minister of Music

**Welcome** to the Lord's day  
worship service at Grace Church.

We are truly blessed to be here  
this morning as we open God's  
Word together, sing His praises,  
and enjoy a time of fellowship  
in His presence.

Be sure to take advantage of  
the many fellowship and ministry  
opportunities available to  
our church family today and  
throughout the week.



## 8:30 & 10:30\* am

*Tu es Petra* • Mulet • Stephen Sturz, Organist

Hymn 201 *There Is a Redeemer* • Congregation

Hymn 206 *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners*

*On Jordan's Stormy Banks* • Trad./Rice • Brass Ensemble, Organ

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* • Trad./Kirkland • Worship Choir

Hymn 3 *Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him* • Congregation

*There Is a Higher Throne* • Getty/Rice • Tricia Hulet

MESSAGE: **FAITH UNDER ASSAULT**

Phil Johnson • Luke 7:18–35

*Fugue in G Minor* • Dupré • Organ Postlude

## 6:00 pm

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness* • Runyan • Instrumental Prelude

**Songs of Praise** • Congregation

**Baptism** • Jay Lennington

Hymn 208 *My Ransom* • Offertory

MESSAGE: **GOD'S RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF EVIL**

Abner Chou • Revelation 20:7–10

**Right Hand of Fellowship**

**Postlude**

## Instrumental Praise

### On Jordan's Stormy Banks

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, And cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land, Where my possessions lie.  
I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land;  
O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.

All o'er those wide extended plains Shines one eternal day;  
There God the Son forever reigns And scatters night away.  
I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land;  
O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.

When shall I see that happy place, And be forever blessed?  
When shall I see my Father's face, And in His bosom rest?  
I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land;  
O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.

*Words by Samuel Stennett (1787); traditional American melody adapted by Rigdon M. MacIntosh (1895)*

To maintain a worshipful atmosphere in the services, please do not applaud after musical numbers.

\* Interpreting for the deaf is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service. Arabic and Korean translation for the 10:30 a.m. service is available at [gracechurch.org/live](http://gracechurch.org/live). A limited number of headsets are available at the front desk for simultaneous translation.

## Campus Ministries

**THE WELCOME CENTER** hosts a reception for visitors following each Sunday-morning service. Enjoy refreshments and find helpful people with answers to any questions you have about our church. You'll also receive one of Pastor MacArthur's books as a thank you for being with us today.

**THE MEMBER CENTER** has information about membership and baptism. It is located on the north side of the Heritage Building, across from the Welcome Center.

Next Membership Class • September 1  
101 • 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. • T375

**THE PRAYER ROOM** is staffed with counselors, ready to offer pastoral care. It is open after every service, and is adjacent to the Worship Center.

## Generations of Grace Children's Sunday School

The following lesson was taught **today** in Sunday School (Preschool through Juniors)



MESSAGE **God Blesses Israel Through Balaam**

PASSAGE **Numbers 22:1–24:25**

PRINCIPLE God is sovereign and keeps His promises.

FEATURED HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (*Hymns of Grace* No. 104)

ASK YOUR CHILD What did God allow Balaam to do to Israel?

APPLY By remembering that God's blessing is unchangeable.

THIS WEEK As a family, read Numbers 22:1–24:25.

NEXT WEEK Review Sunday

## On GraceWalk

- **Fundamentals of the Faith**
- **Local Outreach**

## On the Patio

- **Logos Institute**
- **Men of the Word**
- **Spanish Ministry**  
(by the Chapel)
- **Truth Matters Conference**

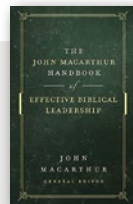
## Bookstore

The Bookstore is open after each service and during the week. It is located on the south side of the Worship Center.

### HIGHLIGHT

#### THE JOHN MACARTHUR HANDBOOK OF EFFECTIVE BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

This book will help you guide others with integrity and conviction and accurately interpret and apply God's Word.



**Available today for 30% off retail**

## Grace to You

**RADIO** [gty.org/radio](http://gty.org/radio)

### Heaven

- KKLA 99.5 FM LOS ANGELES M–F 6:30 am & 7:30 pm
- KDAR 98.3 FM OXNARD-VENTURA M–F 2:00 & 10:00 am; Sun 2:00 am

**TELEVISION** [gty.org/television](http://gty.org/television)

### "The Beauty and Blessing of Forgiveness, Part 2"

- NRBTv CHANNEL 378 ON DIRECTV Sunday 6:30 pm

**ONLINE** [gty.org](http://gty.org)

- John MacArthur's sermons: audio, video, and transcripts
- Resource library: blog, devotionals, articles, Q&As, and more
- Mobile apps: "The Study Bible" and "Grace to You Sermons"

*Adapted from the Generations of Grace Family Devotional, available at the bookstore.*

# Membership Matters

## Is Church Membership Biblical?

There's a tension in the local church today over the answer to that very question. Does the Bible require church membership? Understanding what the local church is can help us begin to see why the Lord's plan for every Christian includes commitment in membership to a local church.

The Greek word for church, *ekklesia*, is not necessarily a religious word. It was used to describe a regular assembling of people, meeting to do something. For example, the legislators in Athens who met regularly to discuss politics were termed an *ekklesia*.

*Ekklesia* is an assembling of people who have something in common. It's a regular gathering of those people at a certain location for a specific purpose. We can see some important characteristics as we think about this word in

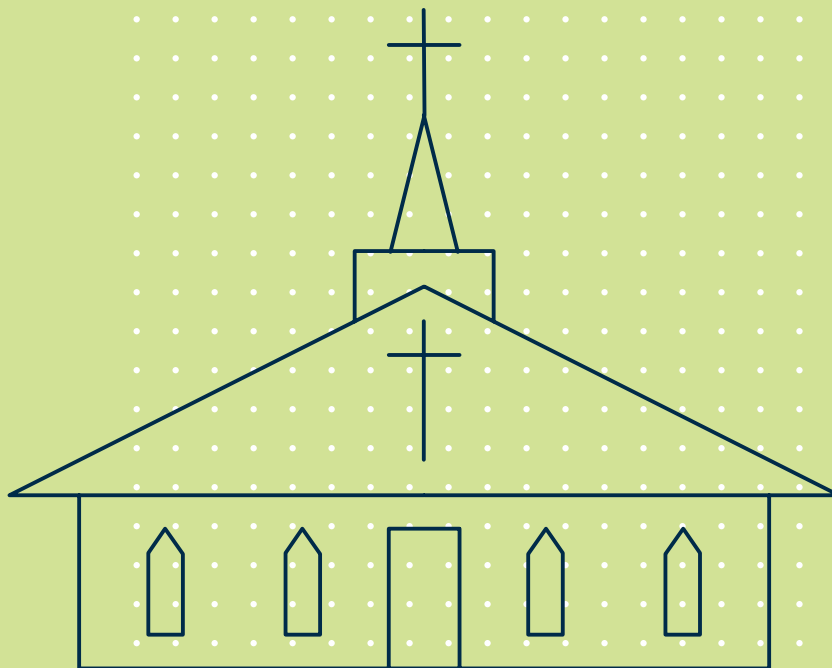
a biblical context. What do believers have in common? For what purpose do they come together? The local church has always been and continues to be a group of people who are in Christ, who regularly assemble for the purpose of worshiping God.

The New Testament church modeled unity in the commitment they had toward one another (Acts 2:42–47; 4:32–35). The local church still depends on a spirit of unity and commitment today (Philippians 2:1–4). The Lord Jesus is building His church, and His desire is for believers to be committed to one another (Matthew 16:18; Romans 12:9–13). When you become a member of a local church, you are committing yourself to a body of believers who believe that we are uniting for specific and divinely ordained reasons. We are here to

worship our God, together. We are here to be taught the Word of God. We join together to sing and pray. We serve one another and use our spiritual gifts to build others up. We come together to obey the Lord in the ordinances He left for the church—baptism and communion. We commit to one another for care, for accountability, and for encouragement.

Saying “no thanks” to membership shortchanges the members of our church from the blessing of your spiritual gifts and the benefit of your fellowship. It passes over the responsibility you have as a believer to the local body of Christ. It also deprives you of the spiritual growth that God intends to provide through the local church. Membership is what committing to a church looks like; it formalizes your commitment, and as we’ll see in our next Membership Matters article, this is both biblical and beneficial.

If you have any questions or desire to become a member of Grace Community Church, please stop by our Membership Center after either morning service. ●





## Faith Promise Fruit

Grace Church's enduring commitment to the faithful preaching of God's Word is expressed in our missionary efforts around the world, as well as in our Faith Promise giving. The European Bible Training Center (EBTC) is now in its eighteenth year and has graduated more than 1,000 students, with their main focus on expository preaching. The EBTC has expanded over the years to provide solid, biblical training in Berlin, Rheinland, Zürich, and Vienna.

Christian Andresen, one of our missionaries in Germany who provides leadership to the EBTC, recently rejoiced in what God is doing through their ministry. "It is a privilege to teach these students—they are hungry to know the Word of God. This year, we are grateful for 250 new graduates at our four locations, and we are thankful that God has given us such a capable group of leaders. Please pray for the incoming class of 2019–20."

*To learn more about Faith Promise or our ministry efforts in the German-speaking world, call 818-909-5700.*

## Truth Matters Conference

### Volunteer Sign-Ups

This October we have a unique opportunity to serve the body of Christ as our church hosts the Truth Matters conference, sponsored by Grace to You. The conference theme is "The Sufficiency of Scripture," recognizing God's blessing of our pastor through his fifty years of faithful preaching. We need volunteers to help care for the 3,500 people attending the conference, October 16–18.

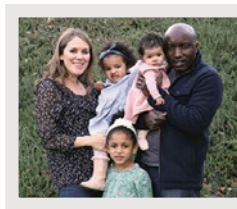
For information, stop by the patio table after either service this morning or visit [gracechurch.org/volunteer](http://gracechurch.org/volunteer).

## Grace Around the World

### The **Simwaka** Family

Kwacha & Amanda, Shirley, Charlotte, Magnolia

Serving in **South Africa** since **2019**



### Prayer / Praise

- Praise God for His grace through our family's transition to South Africa.
- Pray that the Lord would bring new students to Christ Seminary for the next academic year.

For more information visit [gracechurch.org/simwaka](http://gracechurch.org/simwaka).

## Faith Promise

Last week you generously gave **\$13,210**. Thank you for your ongoing support of our missionaries and their ministries around the world.

## Alzheimer's–Dementia Ministry

**Saturday, August 31 • 9:00 a.m. • CC130s**

Families touched by dementia are invited to meet monthly for spiritual encouragement, helpful shepherding, and warm fellowship over a light breakfast. Loved ones with dementia are welcome. If you are bringing your loved one, please call Pastor Rick McLean 818-909-5519.

## Every Woman's Grace

**A Study of Romans: Fundamentals of Christian Faith**

**Wednesdays, beginning September 11 • 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

All women are invited to join us for a weekly study of the book of Romans, the apostle Paul's seminal treatise on Christian doctrine, and how we should live practically in light of these great truths. Registration is only for women new to EWG; there is no need to sign up if you attended last year. Register online at [gracechurch.org/ewg](http://gracechurch.org/ewg).

## Men of the Word

**The Mercies of God: A Study of the Key Components of Our Salvation**

**Wednesdays, beginning September 4 • 7:00–8:45 p.m. • Worship Center**

For more information, stop by the patio table this morning or visit [gracechurch.org/motw](http://gracechurch.org/motw).

## Job Opportunity

**Revenue Accountant.** The Grace Church Accounting Department has a full-time opening for a revenue accountant. Duties include maintaining the general ledger, performing account reconciliations, overseeing donation entry and donor inquiries, preparing journals, preparing financial reports in Excel format, and other general office duties. Requirements include experience in the field of accounting or bookkeeping; excellent organizational, analytical, and multi-tasking skills; the ability to work in a fast-paced environment; a customer service background; and proficiency with Microsoft Office. Must be available Monday–Friday.

Applicants for employment must be, if employed, biblically qualified as a deacon or deaconess and be a member of Grace Church. For more information or to request an application, contact HR at [HR@gracechurch.org](mailto:HR@gracechurch.org) or 818-909-5672.

## Promotion Sunday

On September 1, our Sunday School-age children will move up to their new classrooms. For room locations, check the sign that will be posted at the Children's Center next Sunday.

## Conferencia Expositores 2019 September 27–28

Register at [conferenciaexpositores.org](http://conferenciaexpositores.org)

Fund a scholarship at [gracechurch.org/conferenciaexpositores](http://gracechurch.org/conferenciaexpositores)

## Logos Institute Fall Classes

**The Pentateuch: Redemption Initiated**

**August 27–October 1 (Tuesdays) • 6:30–8:30 p.m. • Instructor: Michael Wurtz**

**Theology 101: Prolegomena and Bibliology**

**August 27–October 8 (Tuesdays) • 7:00–9:00 p.m. • Instructor: Chris Burnett**

**The Synoptic Gospels: Portraits of the King**

**September 5–19 (Thursdays) • 6:30–9:00 p.m. • Instructor: Herald Gandhi**

**Discipleship Counseling 1**

**September 11–December 4 (Wednesdays) • 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

**Instructors: Bill Shannon, George Sanders, Jonathan Tucker**

**Church History 102: Councils, Crusades, and Catholicism**

**September 23–November 4 (Mondays) • 6:30–8:30 p.m. • Instructor: Nathan Busenitz**

**Biblical Counseling 1 (Spanish)**

**September 9–December 2 (Mondays) • 6:00–9:00 p.m. • Instructor: Jonathan Tucker**

For more information or to register, visit [gracechurch.org/logos](http://gracechurch.org/logos).

**8:30 a.m.**

**Anchored** (All ages) T360s  
Pastors: Carl Hargrove,  
Bill Shannon

**Children's Sunday School**  
Visit the Welcome Center for  
room locations.  
Pastor: Ace Davis

**Cornerstone** (All ages) T370s  
Pastors: Nathan Busenitz,  
Hohn Cho, Mark Tatlock,  
Harry Wallis

**Developmentally Disabled**  
CC130E  
Pastor: Rick McLean

**GraceLife** (All ages)  
Family Center  
Pastors: Phil Johnson,  
Mike Riccardi

**Junior High** (Grades 7–8)  
T70s (Basement)  
Pastor: Jay Lennington

**Spanish Adult Sunday School**  
H221-222  
Teachers: Josiah Grauman,  
José Soria, Santiago Armel

**Spanish Worship Service**  
Chapel  
Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,  
Michael Mahoney,  
Josiah Grauman

**Steadfast** (All ages) T260s  
Pastor: Brian Biedebach

**10:30 a.m.**

**Children's Sunday School**  
Special needs class available  
Visit the Welcome Center  
for room locations.  
Pastor: Ace Davis

**Crossroads**  
(College & young adults)  
Family Center  
Pastor: Austin Duncan

**Developmentally Disabled**  
CC130E  
Pastor: Rick McLean

**High School** (Grades 9–12)  
T70s (Basement)  
Pastor: Josh Petras

**Joint Heirs** (All ages) T260s  
Pastors: Tom Patton, John Street

**Mainstream** (All ages) T360s  
Pastors: Rich Gregory,  
Carlos Chung

**Sojourners** (All ages) T370s  
Pastors: William Varner,  
Joe Zhakevich

**Spanish Adult Sunday School**  
H221-222  
Teachers: Rubén Pidal,  
José Martínez, Josué Pineda

**Spanish Worship Service**  
Chapel  
Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,  
Michael Mahoney,  
Josiah Grauman

**12:30 p.m.**

**Neighborhood Outreach**  
H223-224

**5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Night Prayer Group**  
T385

**6:00 p.m.**

**Adventure Club**  
Family Center (Grades 4–6)  
Chapel (Grades 1–3)  
T270s (Ages 3–5)

**Mondays 9:00 a.m.**

**Monday Morning Prayer  
Group**  
Welcome Center

### Building Abbreviation Key

T = Tower  
H = Heritage  
CC = Children's Center

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

**Administration**  
818-909-5500

**Children**  
818-909-5631

**Logos Institute**  
818-909-5500

**Membership**  
818-909-5644

**Men**  
818-909-5537

**Outreach**  
818-909-5700

**Pastoral Care &  
Counseling**  
818-909-5537

**Prayer**  
818-909-5519

**Spanish**  
818-909-5722

**Special Ministries**  
818-909-5519

**Student**  
818-909-5593

**Women**  
818-909-5521

**GRACE**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**13248 Roscoe Blvd.  
Sun Valley, CA 91352**

Visit our website at

**GRACECHURCH.ORG**

*Our mission is to glorify God  
and extend His kingdom by  
living and proclaiming  
His truth in the world.*

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Grace Community Church