



GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

where GOD'S FREE GRACE roots us,
renews us, and reaches through us.

PENTECOST



A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

May 28, 2023

GRACE NOTES – May 28

PENTECOST. Today we celebrate the occasion in which the Holy Spirit invested himself within the whole church – and he’s been with us ever since. We pray for the reverberations of that same Spirit to be with us now, convincing us of the Gospel and giving us strength to battle sin and live for Christ within the world.

WEAR RED! It’s a fun tradition to wear red on Pentecost, as a visual reminder of the fire that descended on the original Pentecost.

BRING THE DESSERT YOU’RE MOST PROUD OF. After worship next Sunday, we’ll feast on our best desserts and share them with each other. Please bring a dessert to share and place it in the over-flow room before worship. Also, if you can’t make one, or you’re not really a baker, please just purchase one for people to enjoy 😊.

NEXT SUNDAY is Trinity Sunday in which we’ll consider God’s inner-nature as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

SUMMER IN THE PSALMS. Anglicans use the Book of Common Prayer as their official liturgy. It’s a Book for worship and it tells us what to say and pray as we gather together as a praising community. The Book of Common Prayer for the Old Testament was the Psalter – or what we call the Book of Psalms. It contains prayers and hymns of praise to God. These prayers and hymns deal with a variety of subjects – the human condition, creation, history, fallenness, repentance, rage, enemies, depression, etc. We’ll be moving through a Psalm per Sunday, exploring all the glories therein. Please join us.

HELPING WITH PAID NURSERY IN FRANKLIN. Redeemer Anglican in Franklin is looking for 1 or 2 people to help us through the summer by running the nursery. The pay is \$40 per Sunday served. Contact the Rev’d Eric Phillips if interested: choice1080@gmail.com

REDEEMER ANGLICAN, our plant in Franklin PA, moved their service time. They now worship at First Baptist’s fellowship hall at 11AM. Please visit and support this new plant as it more deeply establishes itself.

WANT TO GET BAPTIZED? Do you have an interest in or questions about baptism? Please contact Pastor Ethan and he’ll be happy to chat with you about it!

SUMMER SOFTBALL. In mid-May, various churches will begin playing Summer Softball. Want to play? Interested? Contact David Beck at davidmichaelbeck2@gmail.com.

CASA is our youth ministry. While we don’t have weekly, every-Tuesday-gatherings this Summer, we will have plenty of things to do for kids and teenagers. Steve Matson will be in touch regarding the opportunities to connect and grow.

BEST PODCASTS. If you want a little boost in your daily walk, check out these Gospel-oriented podcasts:

- Grace Anglican / Grove City (sorry, couldn’t resist!)
- 1517 Project
- The Bible Project
- MockingPulpit
- Gospel in Life (T. Keller’s ministry)
- Unbelievable?

+HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS+

KIDS AFTER WORSHIP. Please look after your kids after worship services. We make sure during Christian education (at 4pm), nursery, and children’s liturgy that your kids have times to connect and be ministered to, but after the services we entrust them back to you. Please help us by staying near your beloved children. Thank you for your help.

THE BALCONY IS RESERVED for those who prefer social distancing.

WAYS TO GIVE AT GRACE

- Offering plate
- Mail: PO Box 45 Grove City PA 16127
- Venmo: [GraceAnglicanChurch](https://www.venmo.com/GraceAnglicanChurch)
- PayPal: [donate@graceanglicanonline.com](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.graceanglicanonline.com)

Invocation of the Holy Spirit – Come, Holy Ghost

Minister

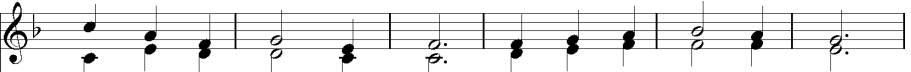
Congregation



1. Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire.
2. Thou, the anointing Spirit art, who dost thy sev'nfold gifts im-part.
3. Thy blessed unction from above is comfort, life, and fire of love.
4. Enable with perpetual light the dullness of our blinded sight.
5. Anoint and cheer our soiled face with the abundance of thy grace.
6. Keep far our foes, give peace at home: Where thou art guide, no ill can come.
7. Teach us to know the Father, Son, and thee, of both, to be but One,
8. That through the ages all along, this may be our endless song:
9. Praise to thy eternal merit, – Father, Son, and Holy Spir-it.

Processional Hymn: Come Thou Almighty King

Words: Unknown, 1750 Tune: Italian Hymn



- 1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy Name to sing,
- 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, by heaven and earth a - dored;
- 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
- 4 To Thee, great One in Three, the high - est prais - es be,



help us to praise. Fa - ther whose love un - known all things cre -
 our prayer at - tend: come, and thy peo - ple bless; come, give thy
 in this glad hour: thou, who al - might - y art, now rule in
 hence ev - er - more; thy sov - ereign ma - jes - ty may we in



at - ed own, build in our hearts thy throne, An - cient of Days.
 word suc - cess; stab - lish thy right - eous - ness, Sa - vior and friend.
 ev - ery heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spi - rit of power.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.





Minister. The Lord will pour out his Spirit upon all flesh,
People. And your sons and daughters shall prophesy.
Minister. Your old men shall dream dreams,
People. and your young men shall see visions.
Minister. You shall know that the Lord is in the midst of his people,
People. that he is the Lord and there is none else.
Minister. And it shall come to pass
People. that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall
be saved.
Minister. Let us pray [together, saying]

The Collect for Purity, said by all

ALMIGHTY God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Summary of the Law

HEAR what our Lord Jesus Christ says. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it; You shall love your neighbor as your self. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. -MATTHEW 22:37-40.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ALMIGHTY Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify, and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of your laws, and in the works of your commandments; that, through your most mighty protection, both here and always, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Song of Praise: Come Thou Fount

Words: Robinson, 1758 Tune: Nettleton

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood;

3. O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with your spirit.

Minister. Let us pray.

The Collect for Pentecost

LORD God, who at Pentecost taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit; grant that by the same Spirit we may have right discernment in all things, and always rejoice in His holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 11:1-9 (ESV)

Reader. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words.² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar.⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."⁵ And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.⁶ And

the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.⁷ Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."⁸ So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Reader. The Word of the Lord.

Answer. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104.

O LORD, how manifold are your works; *
in wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
25 So is the great and wide sea also, *
in which are things creeping innumerable, creatures both small and great.
26 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *
whom you made to take its pleasure therein.
27 These all wait upon you, *
that you may give them food in due season.
28 When you give it to them, they gather it, *
and when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
29 When you hide your face, they are troubled; *
when you take away their breath, they die, and are turned again to their dust.
30 When you let your breath go forth, they shall be made, *
and you shall renew the face of the earth.

The New Testament Lesson: Acts 2:1-11 (ESV)

Reader. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered,

because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

Reader. The Word of the Lord.

Answer. Thanks be to God.



Sequence Hymn: Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Verses 1-2 are sung before the reading of the Gospel, 3-4 after it.

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do or to en - dure.
till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

The Gospel Lesson: John 14:12-17 (ESV)

Reader. The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Answer. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

† Jesus said, ¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

Reader. The Gospel of the Lord.

Answer. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Ethan James Magness, Rector

The Nicene Creed

LET us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

WE believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.

WE believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

WE believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers

LET US PRAY. Almighty God, we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit. We ask to be strengthened by him to serve you with single-heartedness and heavenly courage. Gracious Father, **fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to make us wise to understand your will for our lives, our families, our churches, and our world. All-knowing Savior, **fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to make us confident of our reconciled status with you through the mediation of Christ. Merciful God, **fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to bring restoration where there is division, suffering, or animosity. Loving Christ, **fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to equip us for our labor in the Lord, and make us faithful citizens of your everlasting Kingdom. Lord of all creation, **fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to create in our lives the undefiled character of Christ. Holy One of Israel, **fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit, breathed upon the disciples by the risen Lord. Inspire your Church with the enlivening truth of the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Ever-living Christ, **fill us with your Spirit.**

We welcome your spoken prayers ... In your mercy fill us with your Spirit; that we may love and serve you always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

ALL who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and seek to live in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking in his holy ways: draw near with faith and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

General Confession, said by all.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker and judge of us all: We acknowledge and lament our many sins and offenses, which we have committed by thought, word, and deed against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your righteous anger against us. We are deeply sorry for these our transgressions; the burden of them is more than we can bear. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may evermore serve and please you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Comfortable Words

HEAR the comfortable words from the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.
Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
-MATTHEW 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. -JOHN 3:16

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. -1 TIMOTHY 1:15

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. -1 JOHN 2:1-2

Minister. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People. And with your spirit.

Offertory Sentence. I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ROMANS 12:1

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (the 1662 Order)

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with your spirit.

Minister. Lift up your hearts.

Answer. We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Answer. It is right to give Him thanks and praise

IT is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;

THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord; according to whose most true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth, giving them boldness and fervent zeal constantly to preach the Gospel to all nations; by which we have been brought out of darkness and error into the clear light and true knowledge of you, and of your Son Jesus Christ.

THEREFORE we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

The Prayer of Humble Access, said by all, kneeling.

WE do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The People continue to kneel. The minister stands and continues.

ALL praise and glory is yours, O God our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption. He made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and he instituted, and in his Holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again. Hear us, merciful Father, and grant that we receiving these gifts from your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Savior Jesus Christ's institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood; For on the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." **AMEN.**

Distribution of Communion. All baptized, believing Christians of an understanding age who are admitted to the Sacrament within their own church are encouraged to receive it with us. Please come down the middle aisle to receive the bread, and then a small cup of communion wine, consuming the elements after receiving them.

Intercessory prayer is available in the hall behind the chapel. This takes place during the distribution of Communion. If you want prayer for healing (physical or otherwise), you can also request anointing with oil (a biblical symbol for healing and restoration).

Holy Spirit, Source of Gladness

Words: Paul Gerhard, 1870 Tune: Beecher

1. Holy Spirit, source of gladness, Come with all Thy radiance bright;
O'er our weariness and sadness breathe Thy life and shed Thy light!
Send us Thine illumination, banish all our fears at length;
Rest upon this congregation, Spirit of unfailing strength.

2. Let that love which knows no measure, now in quickening showers descend,
Bringing us the richest treasures man can wish or God can send;
Hear our earnest supplication, every struggling heart release;
Rest upon this congregation, Spirit of untroubled peace!

Take My life

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

3. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.

4. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasurestore.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

It is Well with My Soul

Words: Spafford, 1873 Tune: Ville Du Harve

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain: It is well, with my soul; It is well, it is well, with my soul.

2. Tho' Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come, let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate and hath shed his own blood for my soul

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul

4. And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be roll'd back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul

The Lord's Prayer, said by all

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer, said by all

ALmighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out into the world in the power of your Spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Pentecost Blessing

MAY the Holy Spirit lead you into all truth, give you power to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the redeeming works of God; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Words: Wesley, 1789 Tune: Hypherdol

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling. Joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, Al - might-y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee with thy hosts a - bove, pray and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
 Thanks be to God.

WHAT I CARE MOST ABOUT IN WORSHIP

You may know that the rector (which means the head pastor of an Anglican church) is technically the ‘worship leader’ of any service. I select the hymns, the lessons (quite often in light of the lectionary), the sermon-subjects, etc. This is a big responsibility, and I don’t take it lightly. Here are my goals as your worship leader here at Grace.

BIBLICAL FIDELITY. I care most about being faithful to the Bible when it comes to worship. We do not, as worshippers, stand upon our own personal opinions, tastes, or interests, but upon the steady truths of Holy Scripture. The Bible exists as the foundation for the church, and the church (in worship and in practice) gets weird and wonky when we leave our Charter behind. So, when it comes to liturgy and preaching and practice, we’re all about the Bible.

VERTICALITY. Paul Zahl, my mentor and buddy, once wrote that the genius of Anglicanism is its ‘Bible-Based Verticality.’ I love that phrase. It means that worship in our tradition is God-centered rather than people-centered. Worship is not primarily a social event between persons, though this happens, and ought to. Worship is primarily a social event between God and ourselves. Most of our liturgy is prayer, because we’re dealing with what is Ultimate rather than pen-ultimate.

PASTORAL CONTACT. I want people to be personally met by Jesus Christ every single Lord’s Day. I want some truth from the service to truly connect with your life, your crisis, your bad dreams, your besetting sin, etc. It’s hugely important that a worship service helps you to be met by God, fed by God, and formed by God. Close contact!

THE ORIGINAL ANGLICAN VISION. The Anglican Church is currently a rather ‘broad’ institution – meaning that you can find Anglicans who do all sorts of things in worship. Some entirely scrap the Prayer Book (many British evangelicals are fond of this type of abandonment) while other Anglicans look more Roman Catholic than Roman Catholics (in fact, some of my Roman buddies are unnerved by the lofty liturgical practices in some Anglican churches!). While Anglicanism is a big church, not every Anglican expression has equal claim, and some are just plain ... wrong. But at Grace we are governed by the official standards of Anglicanism (called ‘Formularies’ – official doctrinal and worship-oriented texts that ‘form’ us, and they are the 39 Articles of Religion and the 1662 Prayer Book). These Formularies shape and limit what we do in worship. They connect us to catholicity (the church’s long story) and the biblical, freeing insights of the Reformation.

SIMPLICITY. In connection with the previous point, I love Anglicanism’s preference for chaste, biblical simplicity in worship rather than extravagance (I know that some folks who grew up in non-denominational or Baptist circles might think we at Grace are extravagant, but in terms of current Anglican expressions, we are not). Medieval Christianity had strengths, but its liturgies were a jungle of countless secretive signs and symbols and Latin-prayers spoken in near-silence by the clergy. Worship then (no doubt unintentionally) obscured the Gospel, and some forms of worship still do. I’m committed to us *not* obscuring the Gospel. When we are on a deathbed, we won’t care about intricate rituals or what the priest was wearing or if he was chanting things or how shiny the communion chalices were – we’ll care about if God securely loves us (he does) and if Christ securely saves (he has). I don’t want anything to obstruct the biblically established means of Grace – the word proclaimed & the sacrament administered.

SERVICE AT GRACE THIS SUMMER

Please Circle One: Wine Bearer Communion-set-up Usher

NAME:

EMAIL:

NUMBER:

Are you new to Grace?

If we do not have your information, please fill out this box, and place it in the offering plate so we can keep you in the loop!

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL: