

Sunday, December 29, 2024



Rejoice and count your blessings!

Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.
Nehemiah 8:10

If you carry joy in your heart, you can heal any moment.
Carlos Santana

Joy is the serious business of Heaven.
C. S. Lewis

Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.
Mother Teresa

Order of Worship

Welcome & Update

prelude

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you!

Call to Worship: from Psalm 95

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

People: For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!

All: For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Songs of Praise

Good Christians Rejoice

Good Christians rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say
News news
Jesus Christ is born today

Ox and ass before Him bow
And He is in the manger now
Christ is born today
Christ is born today

Good Christians rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye hear of endless bliss
Joy joy
Jesus Christ was born for this

He has opened heaven's door
And man is blessed evermore
Christ was born for this
Christ was born for this

Good Christians rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye need not fear the grave
Peace peace
Jesus Christ was born to save

Calls you one and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall
Christ was born to save
Christ was born to save

Your Name (Christmas Version)

Humbly to the earth You came
Born into this world to save
God with us Emmanuel
Now we adore Your Name

Your Name
Is a strong and mighty tower
Your Name
Is a shelter like no other

Your Name
Let the nations sing it louder
For nothing has the power to save
But Your Name

Jesus in Your Name we pray
Come and fill our hearts today
Lord give us strength to live for You
And glorify Your Name

Your Name
Let the nations sing it louder
For nothing has the power to save
But Your Name

But Your Name
Is a strong and mighty tower
Your Name
Is a shelter like no other

Prayer for the World, the Church, and the City

Confession

Leader: Almighty and merciful Father, You have called us to be your people and have made us one body. Yet we have not lived like we are one body.

All: We have not loved one another as we ought. Selfish ambition has gripped us, and we have failed to look out for others' interests above our own. Conceit has gripped us, and we have failed to associate with and care for those who are different from ourselves. We have not treated one another as those in whom Christ dwells. Forgive us for our offenses against you, and go on to subdue everything in us that is contrary to your purposes. By the power of your Spirit make us a community that shows forth your acceptance, kindness and love. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Private Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 62:5-8

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from Him. He along is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; He is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge.

Song of Assurance

Wonderful Merciful Savior

Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh You rescue the souls of men

Counselor Comforter Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for

Almighty infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology

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

Scripture – 1 Peter 1:3-7, James 1:2-4
Habakkuk 3:17-18

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

God's Word Today: Tony Lee

Sermon: Rejoice and count your blessings!

Sermon Outline

1. What is the difference between happiness and true joy?
 - source of true joy
 - examples of people with joy in the face of adversity
2. What hinders our joy?
3. Cultivating joy; counting our blessings.

Song of Thanksgiving

Count Your Blessings

When upon life's billows
You are tempest tossed

When you are discouraged
Thinking all is lost

Count your many blessings
Name them one by one
And it will surprise you
What the Lord hath done

Count your blessings
Name them one by one
Count your blessings
See what God hath done

Are you ever burdened
With a load of care
Does the cross seem heavy
You are called to bear

Count your many blessings
Every doubt will fly
And you will be singing
As the days go by

When you look at others
With their lands and gold
Think that Christ has promised
You His wealth untold

Count your many blessings
Money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven
Nor your home on high

So amid the conflict
Whether great or small
Do not be discouraged
God is over all

Count your many blessings
Angels will attend
Help and comfort give you
To your journey's end

Benediction: Matt 5:12, 16

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Peace

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you all

People: And also with you.

Announcements

1. Zoom Prayer Meeting every Thursday at 7 to 7:45 pm. Zoom link is in Friday Notes & reminder sent on Thursday afternoon
2. Hospitality Needed! Please sign up on back table to provide snacks
3. Lunch for Alex and Nicole Jan 5th
4. Office Closed Dec 24-Jan 1

5. Prayer requests. Please send to mail@gracevancouver.com

Tithes up to November 31, 2024

Yearly Budget	\$250,000
Budget Year to Date (Nov 30)	\$229,167
Actual Giving Year to Date (Nov 30)	\$185,672
Actual Giving Last Week	

CC and other options such as e transfers are available via mail@gracevancouver.com

Ministry & Contacts

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Office Hours: Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays 12m-4pm

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GRACE VANCOUVER CHURCH



UPWARD

INWARD

OUTWARD