

# Worship Service ~ "Why Grace Matters"

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter, Year B,

21<sup>st</sup> April, 2024

1 John 3:16-24 ESV / Galatians 3:1-14 ESV

## Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,

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## Opening Music (video) - [Blessing of Abraham](#) By Donald Lawrence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Weik03H5zX4> CCLI song

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## Welcome / Announcements

I'm glad to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church. We seek to welcome all of God's children to join us in bearing witness to the radically transforming power of God's love. As we gather today, let's share the joy and peace of Christ with each other by greeting each other as we pass the peace.

## Pass the Peace

*Now that you are back in your seats, please stand in body or spirit as you are able and join together in singing the opening hymn*

## Opening Hymn

*There's a Wideness In God's Mercy ~ 145*

## Call to Worship

One: There is no greater love than this,

**All: For Christ laid down his life for us.**

One: Love must be lived out,

**All: To meet the needs of others.**

One: Our hearts will let us know when we've let each other down,  
but God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

**All: Lived-out love is greater than words.**

One: God will forgive us and restore us to the work of loving one another.

**All: For the commandment that the faithful must obey is to believe in Jesus Christ, and to love one another.**

## **Invocation**

O living Christ, Come to us in the glory of your risen power; come to us in the humility of your wondrous love. Come and reign among us! Let new life course through our veins, New love bind us together, And new visions spur us on to follow you forever. Even so, come Lord Jesus. AMEN

## **First Epistle Reading ~ 1 John 3:16-24 ESV**

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

## **A Time of Prayer**

### **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**Today we come together as a community to share together our joys and concerns, and lift them to God in prayer.**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Hymn**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less ~ 343*

## Second Epistle Reading ~ Galatians 3:1-14 ESV

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

**Message ~ *Why Grace Matters***

*Guest Preacher - Jonny Finlayson*

## **Call to Serve**

As we continue to seek to become a place of compassion and support to our community, we ask that you give prayerful consideration as to how you may support our efforts. If you would like to make a donation, there are envelopes by the collection plate at the entrance. Online donations can be made through our website. Prayers and suggestions are also welcome! Thanks again for all your support, and may we continue to work together to keep being a place of ministry that seeks to promote the growth of God's shalom around us. Today, as we listen to Annie play, let's reflect on how we celebrate our faith, and how we might use our gifts and talents to inspire others to do the same.

## **A Time for Reflection**

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## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken.  
Amen.

## **Hymn**

## **Sweet Hour of Prayer ~ 11**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

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