

Reflections

Life has an orientation, a final end toward which everything moves. I realize, however, that I can say this only because I am a Christian. I know that the human adventure moves on to fulfillment, not in glory, but in a rupture followed by a re-creation which is the consummation of this whole history. If I step outside this faith, the human adventure has no orientation of its own. It is not true that history as such has meaning...Human history is in fact a tale told by an idiot.

— Jacques Ellul
What I Believe

There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it."

— C.S. Lewis
The Great Divorce

Brad Pitt: Man, I know all these things are supposed to seem important to us—the car, the condo, our version of success—but if that's the case, why is the general feeling out there reflecting more impotence and isolation and desperation and loneliness? If you ask me, I say toss all this—we gotta find something else. Because all I know is that at this point in time, we are heading for a dead end, a numbing of the soul, a complete atrophy of the spiritual being. And I don't want that.

Rolling Stone: So if we're heading toward this kind of existential dead end in society, what do you think should happen?

Brad Pitt: Hey, man, I don't have those answers yet. The emphasis now is on success and personal gain. [smiles] I'm sitting in it, and I'm telling you, that's not it. I'm the guy who's got everything. I know. But I'm telling you, once you've got everything, then you're just left with yourself. I've said it before and I'll say it again: it doesn't help you sleep any better, and you don't wake up any better because of it.

— Brad Pitt
interviewed in *Rolling Stone*

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day, March 7, 2010

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

Leader: Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace;
approach our God, who is full of mercy.

*All: We will praise God with all our heart
and glorify the name of the Most High forever.*

¹ As a courtesy, please program all communication devices to silent mode. Thank you!

Confession of Sin

*Minister &
People:*

O God, our great shepherd, you tenderly gather us as lambs, carrying us with your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we wander from you: following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions. Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust. Refresh us once again by your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by your redeeming love. Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely. Through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, we pray.

Private Reflection and Confession

Words of Encouragement

1 Peter 2:24,25

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Song of Thanksgiving

Psalm 62

The Peace of God and Announcements

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you!

*If parents prefer, their children can now be dismissed for
Children's Church, 4 year olds – 2nd grade.*

The Prayers of the People (*concluded with the Lord's prayer*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

_____ **Commitment** _____

The Offering

The offering is a way for members and friends of Grace Church to support the church's mission and ministry. If you are our guest today, please feel under no compulsion to give.

Scripture Reading

Daniel 7:1-28

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

2 Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. 3 Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and a human mind was given to it.

5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'

6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

9 "As I looked,

"thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was as white as snow;
the hair of his head was white like wool.
His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.
10 A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from before him.
Thousands upon thousands attended him;
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
The court was seated,
and the books were opened.

11 "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. 12 (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of

man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

15 "I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. 16 I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this.

"So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: 17 'The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. 18 But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever – yes, for ever and ever.'

19 "Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws – the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. 20 I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell – the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. 21 As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

23 "He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. 24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. 25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.

26 "But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. 27 Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

28 "This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

"SAINTS AND BEASTS"
Daniel: Faith In Adversity

Communion

Guidelines for Reception of Communion

Communion is a family meal of Christians. We welcome all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer using the prayers that follow as guidelines. We hope that this time is helpful as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ, and with his people, the church.

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: Therefore, lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Song of Communion

Jesus, I Come

Prayer of Consecration and the Words of Institution

Prayer for those not communing:

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Grace Presbyterian uses wine in the celebration of Holy Communion. If you prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please take a cup from the outer circle of the tray.

Song of Commitment

Jesus Shall Reign

Benediction

Hebrews 13:20,21

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Dismissal

Minister: Now, let us go forth to serve this community and the world as those who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes
Daniel 7:1-28
"SAINTS AND BEASTS"
Daniel: Faith In Adversity

Community Group Questions

1. What discourages you the most when you look at our world? Read Daniel 7:1-28.
2. Describe the situation of God's people at the time of Daniel's dream. How would they view themselves in that culture? How would the culture view them? How would most people respond to these circumstances?
3. Who are the beasts of our world? How do they show themselves?
4. Why is it important that we are not naive about our world? How does our naivety show itself?
5. What are the ways that we judge Christian reality based on our western experience? Is that helpful? Is that what the majority of Christians around the world experience?
6. What is the overall purpose of the vision?
7. What are the two ways that the vision addresses the nightmare?
8. Who is the Son of Man in the text? What does he do?

Worship Music²

Brent Allmon, saxophone
Matt Bottorff, drums
David Fox, keyboard
Damon Henrichs, guitar
Jeffery Knox, saxophone
Debra Moses, flute
Rae Moses, piano
Tim Mulder, bass
Leslie Uffman, violin

² All songs except hymns are copied under CCL # 1214497. The hymns are reprinted from *Trinity Hymnal* (© 1990, Great Commission Publications). Used by permission. All Scripture is quoted from the *New Revised Standard Version* unless otherwise noted.

Grace Presbyterian Bulletin Board

Welcome, Guests! We are excited you're here with us today. We hope that you were warmly welcomed and would love for you to be a part of Grace. Please take a moment to fill out the tear-away card at the back of the bulletin.

Parents of Infants through Three-Yr.-Olds: Please use our nursery and early-childhood classes. They provide a warm, nurturing, and well-supervised environment. Our workers welcome the opportunity to love your child! *When using the nursery, please sign in, pick up a pager, and label all items (bags, cups, etc.) with your child's name.*

Cry Room: A cry room is available for the comfort of our new parents in order to ensure that everyone enjoys our services. It is located in the back of the sanctuary and can be accessed through the foyer. It is well equipped (comfortable rockers, changing table, etc.) but if you are in need of anything, one of our ushers will be glad to assist.

Sundays at Grace

8:30am	Prayer
9:30am	Sunday Morning Classes
10:15am	Fellowship
10:30am	Worship

Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry: To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world. We would like to invite you to be a part of this uprising at 8:30 each Sunday morning in the room to the right of the stage. Join us as we pray for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

Sunday School Classes: The Adults meet upstairs in the education wing at 9:30 a.m. The following classes are now meeting:

<i>Ephesians</i>	Matt Hines
<i>What is Reformed Theology?</i>	Andy Yung

He has risen! Join us Sunday morning, April 4th, as we celebrate Easter. Services will be held at 9:00 and 10:30. Childcare is available during both services. *Note: Sunday School classes will not meet on Easter Sunday.*

Adult Singers are invited...to join us for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday special music. We will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings in March at 9:00 AM, and would love to have you. See Debra Moses for more information.

Easter Lilies: If you would like to purchase an Easter lily to place in the sanctuary for Easter morning, in honor of or in memory of someone, please pick up an order card from the table at the back of the sanctuary. Place the card and your check, earmarked lily, in the offering plate. Sunday, March 28th is the deadline to place your order. After the service on Easter be sure and take your lily home with you.

Kids of Grace Preschool is now enrolling for the fall. Please call Dianna at the church office for more information 281-296-0911.

Men's Fraternal: Dudes, it's that time again! Join us for wings, suds, and fellowship this Tuesday. We'll meet at Wings'n More (242 and I-45), beginning at 7 pm.

Tamina Tutoring: This is a great opportunity to help the elementary-aged children of Tamina with homework. We meet at the Tamina Community Center on Tuesdays @ 4:30. Stay as long as you like! See Matt Hines for more info.

Community Groups: CGs are the nerve center of our church. They are gatherings of 6-12 people who share a meal, talk about our week, and reflect on the sermon from that morning. Sign up now! If you need more information, please contact the church office or Sam Sexton.

Thursday morning Ladies' Bible Study will meet at 9:30am from now until April 1st. Please join us upstairs in the education wing for our discussion of "The Gospel of Mark," material put together by Tim Keller. For more information contact Sarah Sexton.

SNiCK and 56ers ARE meeting tonight! Our Sunday evening kids programs meet from 5:30 to 7:15 pm. Nursery provided. Join the fun! *Note:: SNiCK/56ers will not be meeting next Sunday due to Spring Break.*

Register now online for VBS 2010! The High Seas Expedition embarks June 14-18. Register at www.gracewoodlands.org.

Volunteers needed for High Seas Expedition! There are still opportunities for **adults, youth, and 56ers** to help with VBS this summer. See Cyndi Garlinger or Matt Hines if interested.

STUDENT Ministry - Events and More!

Weekly:

- ❖ **Youth Sunday School:** Join us in the youth room @ 9:30! We are doing an overview of the OT. It's not as boring as it sounds. You should come. Seriously.
- ❖ **D Groups:** Weekly discipleship groups for students to walk alongside each other. We will resume this week.
 - **Jr. High Guys:** Wed. 7:00-8:30 @ Church with Tim Mulder
 - **Jr. High Girls:** Wed. 7:00-8:30 @ Bobos' house with Megan Bobos

- Sr. High Guys: Wed. 7:00-8:30 @ Church with Kyle Bobos
- Sr. High Girls: Tues. 7:30 @ Ryan's house with Amy Brink
- ❖ **Sunday Night Fellowship:** Weekly large group fellowship for Junior Highers with Junior Highers and Senior Highers with Senior Highers. Tonight, the Jr. High will meet at the Routh's (5:30-7:00) and the Sr. High will meet at the Bogenschutz's (7:30-9:00). Dinner will be provided. Friends are always welcome. See you there!
- ❖ **Grace Coffeehouse:** Grace Coffeehouse is on for tomorrow, March 8th, from 4:00-6:00 PM. This is a great time to spend time with each other, drink some coffee, have some good conversation, and get some homework done.
- ❖ **Jr. Movie Night:** If you are in Junior High, come to Grace this Saturday, March 13th, from 6:00-9:00 PM for a movie, dinner, and snacks. This is a great time to bring your friends and to watch and discuss a great movie. Be there!

Autumn Grove Cottage Ministry: Twice a month, Grace sends teams to serve the residents at Autumn Grove Cottage, a new Alzheimer's home in the Woodlands. We meet at Autumn Grove at 1 pm on Sunday afternoon for a short time of worship and fellowship. Our children's presence at the meeting means a great deal to the residents, so the kids are welcome! Talk to Rich Saadeh for more details or to find out how you can get involved.

GraceCares: If you might be interested in serving Hispanic immigrants in the communities surrounding the Woodlands, please call Gail.

Christian Restorative Justice Mentors: Mentors needed to meet with parole-eligible inmates at the Eastham Unit near Lovelady, north of Huntsville, on the 4th Sunday afternoon/evening of each month. Meeting behind Denny's at Shenandoah, we carpool leaving promptly at 4 p.m. and returning home by 9:30. Training is available. A person can go in twice without a commitment to see if this is a fit. To continue, an application is required that will involve a background check. If interested or have any questions, contact David Moncla.

Many hands make light work: You may have seen the recent e-mail from the Deacons about coordinating a list of people who are willing to help out in various areas on an occasional basis. Areas of need include: Building Maintenance/Repair, Grounds keeping, Handyman/woman, Elderly Outreach, New Moms Ministry, General Labor/Moving, and Miscellaneous Justice Ministries. If you would be willing to be contacted for an occasional need in one or more of these areas (and haven't yet responded to the e-mail), please contact Matt Hines at the church office.

Prayer Ministry: Our desire at Grace is that we take seriously the privilege of prayer, and there are several ways that you can participate. If you become aware of a prayer need, please communicate this to us in one of the following ways:

- ❖ **By e-mail:** admin@gracewoodlands.org (Church Office).

- ❖ **By phone:** 281-296-0911 (Church Office)
- ❖ **In Writing:** Fill out the perforated tear-off sheet on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

Your requests will be communicated to our Church Staff, Officers, and our Prayer Team. If you would like to be on our Prayer Team, please let us know.

Stewardship Update: Grace thanks you for your generous gifts and offerings for the month of February 2010.

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Projected Budget	43,600	87,200
Actual General fund	38,919	73,978
Actual Building fund	12,288	29,956
Haiti Relief	9,318	
Variance	(4,681)	(13,222)

Building on Grace Pledges: We continue to welcome pledges and gifts toward our new nursery and education building. Pledge/donation envelopes are available in the foyer and can be sent to the church office or given in the Sunday offering. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Ryan.

Redeemer Sugar Land: Bradley and Jamie Wright have moved to Sugar Land in Southwest Houston to begin a new work. Grace is teaming up with Christ the King in Houston and the Southwest Church Planting Network to plant this new church. Please go to www.redeemersl.org to sign up for prayer updates and newsletters.

Banners Explained: The change of colors for Lent and the following Sundays helps communicate the movement of sacred time as well as our journeys. The color purple is a visual reminder of our need for repentance and self-examination.

On the banner to the right is an acanthus. It is the leaf that you see all over classic Greek and Roman architecture. It is a thorny plant, and a few have speculated that it may have been the source of the crown of thorns. Within Christianity, the thorns are a symbol of pain, and of sin and its punishment. It was regarded in ancient times by pagans as a symbol of death and rebirth.

On the other is a thistle. The thistle is a symbol of temporal sorrow and the curse of sin from the story of the Fall. Because the thistle is a thorny bush, it also is often portrayed as the source of Christ's crown of thorns. Because thistles flourish to crowd out useful crops, they have also been used to represent the "tares" or weeds written of in Matthew 13.

Interfaith Food Pantry Needs: Canned Proteins (*Main Dish Items*), Cereals, Beans, Powdered/Canned Milk, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Dry Soup Mix, Tuna Fish, Spaghetti Pasta/Rice, Pasta Sauce, Boxed Macaroni & Cheese, Hamburger "Helper", Tuna "Helper", Crackers & Nuts, Popcorn, Fruit Juice, Jell-O/Pudding, Canned Meats,

Canned Pasta & Stew, Cans Of Coffee, Tea Bags, Personal Care Items, Toilet Paper, Cleaning Supplies, Laundry Detergent, Diapers: 3, 4, 5, & 6. Last year over 13,900 individuals received food from Interfaith's Food Pantry - many of them young children. Each family is interviewed by a Family Service Counselor and then provided with groceries based on the size and immediate needs of the family. All donations can be dropped off at Interfaith of The Woodlands Monday- Friday 8:00- 5:00 p.m.

Missed a Recent Sunday Worship? MP3s of Sunday morning worship services are available on the website at www.gracewoodlands.org. Look under Resources/E-sermons. If you need help or are having trouble, please contact the church office at 281.296.0911.

For Your Information: The following are ministries beyond our immediate community, which Grace Presbyterian Church is engaged through prayer for, support of and service to monthly.

Local:

The Community Clinic, Shenandoah, TX.
Interfaith of the Woodlands, Family Services Department
Pregnancy Assistance Center North (PACN)
Tamina Community Center, Shenandoah, TX.

National:

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)
Justin Clement/Trinity University
Steve Percifield/Texas Tech University
Peter Dishman/University of Mexico, Mexico City
Ben Hailey/Texas A & M
Pete Hatton/Baylor University
Rob Hamby/Texas Christian University
Jeff Jordan/Tyler Junior College
Daniel Killian/Southern Methodist University
John Knorr/University of Tulsa
Derrick McDonald/University of Texas-International
Shaynor Newsome/New Mexico State University
Billy Crain/Rice University
John Roberson/Rice University Intern
Doug Serven/University of Oklahoma
Derek McCollum/University of Texas
Parker Tenent/University of Arizona
Southwest Church Planting Network
David Avila/Emanuel PC/Austin, TX
Lou Best/Hill Country PC/Killeen, TX
Scott Brown/New Valley Church/Tempe, AZ
Jonathan Dorst/Grace PC/Stillwater, OK
Josh Geiger/Cristo Rey Ministries/Dallas
Francisco Gonzales/Hispanic/Tucson, AZ
Ricky Jones/Redeemer PC/Tulsa, OK
Mike McLaughlin/Crossroads F'ship/Albuquerque, NM
Kyle Oliphint/Grace Community/Fort Worth, TX
Providence PC/Lubbock, TX
David Rae/Providence PC/Dallas, TX
Allen Taha/Trinity PC/Bourne, TX
Lou Tiscione/Weatherford PC/Weatherford TX
David Wilson/Church Plant/Denton, TX
Brad Wright/Redeemer PC/SugarLand, TX

International:

Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO
Francis Schaeffer Institute in St. Louis, MO
Mission to the World in Atlanta, GA

If you would like more information or if you would like to discuss being involved, please contact the church office.

Bulletin Board Announcements: Please note that the deadline for announcements is Wednesday at noon. Announcements must be submitted in writing (e-mail is preferred) to the church office. Due to limited space, only announcements regarding church business or related ministries should be submitted for consideration.