

Reflections

Christ became what we are that he might make us what he is.

— St. Athanasius (c. 293-373)

On the Incarnation of the Word of God

Whoever heard of a suffering God? The idea is plain daft. God is up in heaven, and there he will stay. But wouldn't it be wonderful if it were true? If God came to visit us, like a great king visiting his subjects? Or, even better, if he came among us as one of us, sharing our way of life, with all its tragedy, sorrows and grief?

— Alister E. McGrath

What Was God Doing on the Cross?

The God of power, as he did ride
In his majestic robes of glory
Resolv'd to light; and so one day
He did descend, undressing all the way.

— George Herbert

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day, September 5, 2010

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship

Praise

Call to Worship

Psalm 108:3-5

Leader: I will praise you, LORD, among the nations;
I will sing of you among the peoples.
For great is your love, higher than the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

*ALL: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.*

Song of Praise

All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

Be Still My Soul

Private Praise and Adoration

_____ *Renewal* _____

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 44:21,22

“Remember these things, Jacob,
for you, Israel, are my servant.
I have made you, you are my servant;
Israel, I will not forget you.
I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,
your sins like the morning mist.
Return to me,
for I have redeemed you.”

Confession of Sin

*Minister &
People:*

Our Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of you and for ignoring your immensity and greatness. Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that you rule the nations and our small lives.

Holy Spirit, we offend you in minimizing your power and squandering your gifts. We confess that our blindness to your glory, O triune God, has resulted in shallow confession, tepid conviction, and only mild repentance. Have mercy upon us. In Jesus' name

Private Reflection and Confession

Words of Encouragement

1 Peter 2:9,10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Songs of Thanksgiving

*O For A Heart to Praise My God
Pensive, Doubting, Fearful*

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 may 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

Hebrews 2:5-18

5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What are mere mortals that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?”

7 You made them a little lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honor
8 and put everything under their feet.”

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. 9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. 11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. 12 He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

13 And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

“WHAT IF GOD WERE ONE OF US?”

HEBREWS: A CALL FROM DISTRACTION

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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

How Firm a Foundation

Benediction

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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
Hebrews 2:5-18
“WHAT IF GOD WERE ONE OF US?”
HEBREWS: A CALL FROM DISTRACTION

Worship Music

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

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 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.

Adult Sunday School Classes: There are three adult Sunday school classes meeting upstairs in the education wing at 9:30 a.m. and conclude before worship begins.

<i>Church History</i>	Mike Hume
<i>Intro to Grace</i>	David Wilcher
<i>The Gospel and Community</i>	Andy Yung

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.

Girls Night Out: Hey ladies, join us September 7th at Chuy's @ 7:00 p.m. for fun and fellowship. Contact Vicki Wilcher with any questions. All are welcome, and we hope to see you there!

Scrapbooking: Come join us for a time of fellowship and scrapbooking on September 10th from 6:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M. We will have tables and chairs set up and ready to go. All you need to bring is your supplies and a snack. If you plan to attend, please contact Hallie LaPell.

Save the Date: Wednesday September 22nd @ 7:00 P.M. You are joyfully invited to the Women's Ministry Kickoff. The evening will include door prizes and light hors d'oeuvre and a presentation from Vicki Wilcher. For more information please contact Benita Whittington.

Ladies' Bible Study: Beginning September 23rd, our ladies' Bible study will meet on Thursday mornings from 9:30 until 11:15. This year, we will be discussing the book of Judges, using material authored by Tim Keller. The cost for the materials will be \$10 per person. Free childcare will be provided. Please contact Sarah Sexton with any questions.

Men's Fraternal: Men, it's that time again! Join us for wings, suds, and fellowship on Tuesday September 14th. We'll meet at Wings' N More (242 and I-45), beginning at 7 pm.

Mark your calendars for the Grace Fall Festival: Sunday, October 3rd. That's right, it's fall festival time again! Join us for food, fun, laughter, and an all-around good time. Come ready to climb, jump, eat, and get your face painted to order. We will need volunteers to help with this event, please see Nanci Cranford.

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 Mark Cook or Jeff Cranford.

Children's Ministry-

- ◆ **Sunday School** classes for children are offered for: Preschoolers (2-3 years old), Pre-K & Kindergarten, 1st - 3rd Grade, and 4th-6th Grade. All of our classes will begin a new curriculum on Sunday, September 12th. Come join us!
- ◆ **Sunday Evening Activities** meet at the church from 5:30 pm - 7:15 pm and will begin on Sunday, September 12th.
- ◆ **SNiCK** (Sunday Night Club for Kids) is for children from 4 years to 4th grade. SNiCK is a time to see your friends, make new friends, and enjoy the wonderful blessings of God's kingdom through food, fellowship and fun!
- ◆ **56ers** is for students in the 5th and 6th grade. We meet in the 56ers Lounge located on the second floor of the education wing for dinner, games, and leisurely, lounge-tactic fellowship.

STUDENT Ministry - Events and More!

WEEKLY:

- ◆ **Youth Sunday School:** Join us in the youth room @ 9:30AM! We are studying the Gospel of Mark and seeing how Jesus and His Kingdom apply to our every day lives. You should be there.
- ◆ **D Groups:** Weekly large group fellowship for Junior Highers with Junior Highers and Senior Highers with Senior Highers. We are on break for the summer. We will resume September 15th.
- ◆ **Sunday Night Fellowship:** Weekly large group fellowship for Junior Highers with Junior Highers and Senior Highers with Senior Highers. We will resume September 12th.

EVENTS:

- ◆ **Fall Kick Off Party** at Grace on Sunday September 12th from 6-9PM for both Jr. and Sr. High. Come and bring your friends! There will be food, games, prizes, and more! Come kick off the school year with a bang!
- ◆ **Attention Jr. and Sr. High Youth Parents** there will be an informational Coffee and Dessert on Tuesday September 14th from 7 - 8:30pm. More details to come.
- ◆ **D-group Prep Meeting:** September 15th and 22nd from 7-8:30PM at Grace in the youth room. If you are interested in or planning on being involved in D-groups this year, make this a priority! We will discuss what D-groups are and why we need them. You should definitely be there!

GraceCares: Grace seeks to be actively involved in meeting all kinds of needs. Any valid need - a lack of adequate shelter, a lack of caring relationships with others, a lack of food, a lack of employment - is a lack of peace. Below are several service opportunities, find one that fits you.

- ◆ **Tutoring at TCC:** Beginning September 14th and continuing throughout the school year, we have the opportunity to work with the Tamina Community Center's after school care program helping children with their homework. Most of the students are in kindergarten through the second grade. We assist with this tutoring on Tuesday afternoons. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Sexton.
- ◆ **Women's Shelter Ministry:** Houston is at the center of the sexual slavery trade in the United States. A local group is in the midst of setting up a secure house in The Woodlands for rescued victims, and there are several opportunities for us to be involved, both as individuals and as a community. Talk to Tim Matthews for more information.
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity:** Mark your calendars and bring your tools!! We will be joining others with Habitat in building a house in Montgomery County on October 16th. If you are interested, please contact Carl Yung.
- ◆ **Autumn Grove Cottage Ministry:** Twice a month, Grace sends teams to serve the residents at Autumn Grove Cottage, an 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! For more details on how you can get involved contact Rich Saadeh.
- ◆ **Immigrant Ministries:** If you might be interested in serving Hispanic immigrants in the communities surrounding the Woodlands, please call Gail Hume.
- ◆ **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. We meet behind Denny's in Shenandoah and 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.
- ◆ **Interfaith Food Pantry** is running low! The following items are needed to help continue to serve our neighbors in need: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Dry Beans, Green Beans, Hamburger Helper, Chef Boyardee or Canned Meats. Your support of

our pantry is greatly appreciated! All donations can be dropped off at Interfaith of The Woodlands.

Building on Grace Pledges: We continue to welcome pledges and gifts toward our new 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.

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 August 2010.

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Projected Budget	43,600	348,800
Actual General fund	42,918	344,220
Actual Building fund	17,733	108,287
Haiti Relief	9,318	
Variance	(682)	(4,580)

Banners Explained: In Christian tradition, green came to symbolize the life of the church following Pentecost, as well as symbolizing the hope of new life in the resurrection. This color indicates ordinary time, which is the time between the major Christian Seasons.

The Banner on right symbolizes the Trinity, the belief that God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and yet, one God. No part of the Trinity is ever out of alignment (moving independently) from the other parts of the Trinity. The circle represents eternity. The circle is frequently seen with the Trinitarian symbol, representing the eternal qualities of each part of the Godhead.

On the left, the circle of the Celtic Cross is a symbol of eternity as well but emphasizing the endlessness of God's love as shown through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The IHS in the center is the abbreviated name of Jesus in the Greek and is a very old symbol, dating back to the first century. Each panels focuses on a central aspect of

His work. The cross is framed with grapes, a symbol of our Lord's bloodshed on the cross for us.

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 @ (281) 296-0911.

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.

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/Oklahoma State 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
Jason Bobo/Arizona State
Paul Miller/Texas A&M: Corpus Christi

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.