

GRACE TODAY

Vol. 25 No. 31

August 1, 2021

John MacArthur
PASTOR-TEACHER

Bill Brandenstein / Minister of Music

Because he has loved Me, therefore
I will protect him;
I will set him securely on high,
because he has known My name
He will call upon Me, and I will
answer him;
I will be with him in his distress;
I will rescue him and honor him.

Psalm 91:14-15

G L O R Y

TO

G O D

FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS

10:30* am*Prelude in C Major* · Bach · Stephen Sturz, Organist**Hymns of Praise** · Congregation*The Majesty and Glory of Your Name* · Fetteke/Gassman · Worship Choir*The New Jerusalem* · Card/Rice · John Martin**Hymn 423 On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand** · Congregation**JOHN MACARTHUR PREACHING****Doxology Hymn** · Congregation*Sonata II: Allegro Maestoso* · Mendelssohn · Organ Postlude**6:00 pm***His Mercy Is More* · Boswell-Papa · Instrumental Prelude**Songs of Praise** · Congregation**Baptism**MESSAGE: **HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?**

Kevin Zuber • 1 Peter 3:8–12

Postlude

* Interpreting in American Sign Language (ASL) is provided during the 10:30 am service.
 Arabic, Italian, Korean, and Russian livestream translations are available
 at gracechurch.org/live.

Anthem*The Majesty and Glory of Your Name*

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of Your fingers;
 The moon and stars suspended in space.
 Oh, what is man, that You are mindful of him?

You have given man a crown of glory and honor,
 And have made him a little lower than the angels.
 You have put him in charge of all creation:
 The beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.
 But what is man, oh, what is man that You are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of Your name
 Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.
 O Lord, our God, little children praise You perfectly,
 And so would we, and so would we.

Alleluia, Alleluia! The majesty and glory of Your name.
 Alleluia, Alleluia! The majesty and glory of Your name.
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

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 Words by Linda Lee Johnson (based on Psalm 8); music by Tom Fetteke*

Doxology Hymn**Hymn 105 My Savior's Love**

I stand amazed in the presence Of Jesus, the Nazarene,
 And wonder how He could love me, A sinner, condemned, unclean.

Chorus

How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be:
 How marvelous! How wonderful Is my Savior's love for me!

When with the ransomed in glory His face I at last shall see,
 'Twill be my joy through the ages To sing of His love for me.

Campus Ministries

THE WELCOME CENTER hosts a reception for visitors following the 10:30 am Sunday service. Find helpful people with answers to any questions you have about our church, and receive one of Pastor MacArthur's books as a thank you for being with us today.

THE MEMBER CENTER has information about membership and baptism. It is located on the east side of the Upper Room, north of the Welcome Center.

Today's Membership Class
101 • 8:30 am • Grace Grill

THE PRAYER ROOM is staffed with counselors ready to offer pastoral care. It is open after every service and is adjacent to the Worship Center.

Generations of Grace Children's Sunday School



MESSAGE **John Testifies to the Exalted Jesus**

PASSAGE **Revelation 1**

PRINCIPLE Though trials and sufferings come, Jesus Christ continues to live, reign, and be faithful to His church.

FEATURED HYMN "Jesus Shall Reign" (*Hymns of Grace* No. 120)

ASK YOUR CHILD Why was Christ's message to John and the seven churches encouraging?

APPLY By submitting to Jesus, who reigns as King and Lord over the entire universe.

THIS WEEK As a family, read Revelation 1.

NEXT WEEK Revelation 5

Adapted from the Generations of Grace Family Devotional, available at the bookstore.

GraceWalk

- Local Outreach

On the Patio

- Children's Ministry Volunteers
- Expositores Conference
- Spanish Ministry (by the Chapel)

Bookstore

The Bookstore is open after each service and during the week. It is located on the south side of the Worship Center.

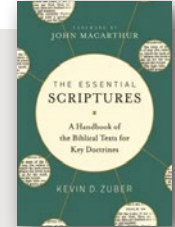
HIGHLIGHT

THE ESSENTIAL SCRIPTURES A HANDBOOK OF THE BIBLICAL TEXTS FOR KEY DOCTRINES

by Kevin Zuber

"Kevin Zuber has provided a fresh and dynamic book that shows us the essential connection between interpretation and its conclusion—theology. He does this in a very helpful way by identifying and presenting the relevant verses for each doctrine."—John MacArthur

Available today for 30% off retail.



Grace to You

RADIO gty.org/radio

How to Talk to a Heretic

- KKLA 99.5 FM LOS ANGELES M–F 6:30 am & 7:30 pm
- KDAR 98.3 FM OXNARD/VENTURA M–F 2:00 & 10:00 am; Sun 2:00 am
- KABC 790 AM LOS ANGELES Sat 7:30 am

TELEVISION gty.org/television

"Characteristics of a True Church, Part 2"

- NRBTV CHANNEL 378 ON DIRECTV Sunday 6:30 pm

ONLINE gty.org

- John MacArthur's sermons: audio, video, and transcripts
- Resource library: blog, devotionals, articles, Q&As, and more
- Mobile apps: "The Study Bible" and "Grace to You Sermons"

G L O R Y

TO

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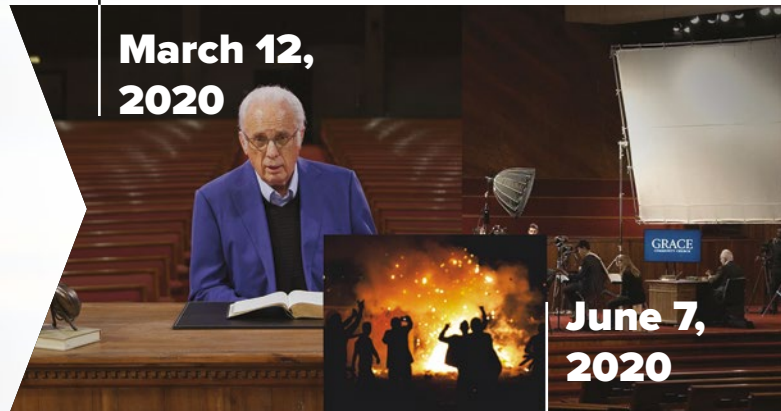
FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS



Against strong and comprehensive government opposition, Grace Church made a stand not to forsake the gathering of the saints. Though the potential consequences for this decision were threatening, we had no choice but to obey our Lord rather than men. He has shown His faithfulness to an obedient congregation by pouring out blessing we never could have imagined. Today, with thankfulness to our Lord, we look back at the events of the past year and a half.

Out of an abundance of caution and in deference to government officials, Grace Church decides to temporarily stop meeting for in-person services.

**March 12,
2020**



**June 7,
2020**

While cities around the country are being overtaken by riots, and protesters are calling for the abolition of the police, we invite local law enforcement to come to Grace Church for free lunch and a *MacArthur Study Bible* in thanks for their service.

Members begin returning to attend worship services of their own volition.

After careful deliberation, the elders of Grace Church agree that the church can no longer abstain from assembling. They publish the official statement, “Christ, Not Caesar, Is the Head of the Church,” which asserts the God-given authority of the church to hold worship services, regardless of the opinions or directives of the government. The elders affirmed that:

“Christ is the one true head of His Church, and we intend to honor that vital truth in all our gatherings. For that preeminent reason, we cannot accept and will not bow to the intrusive restrictions government officials now want to impose on our congregation.”

In an apparent act of retribution, Los Angeles County terminates the 45-year-old parking lease agreement with GCC.

**July 23,
2020**



**August 12,
2020**



Though protests and riots are allowed to go unimpeded, Los Angeles County ignores the Constitution’s protection of the free exercise of religion and seeks to prevent Grace Church from meeting at all. GCC sues Governor Newsom, Los Angeles County, and the city of Los Angeles: Los Angeles County countersues GCC.

**August 24,
2020**



Though an August 20 ruling favored Grace Church, the court rules that GCC can be fined and banned from gathering. However, in an apparent clerical error, Los Angeles County omits the ban from gathering in the legal documents. The judge, therefore, denies Los Angeles County’s renewed request to stop GCC from gathering.

**August 28,
2020**



**September
10, 2020**

Things take a bleak turn when a judge issues an order prohibiting GCC from holding in-person, indoor services.

GCC holds a packed morning service defying the court order.

**September 13,
2020**

Judge sets trial date for January 15, 2021, to consider the constitutionality of the restrictions placed on GCC. After being postponed five times, the trial never takes place.

**November 13,
2020**

The Supreme Court lifts California's unconstitutional ban on indoor church services.

**February 5,
2021**

**September 24,
2020**

Judge rules that he will not hold GCC in contempt for violating state health order without further ruling on the constitutionality of the order.

**November 25,
2020**

In the first of many favorable rulings from the Supreme Court, New York is barred from enforcing caps on indoor religious service attendance.

**April 8,
2021**

Two days after California announces an end for COVID restrictions on June 15, the court postpones GCC's hearing, rescheduling to June 23, eight days after the orders expire.





All through this legal battle, the Lord has continued to use Grace Church as a model of faithfulness in the face of opposition. Our goal has been to glorify God and extend His kingdom by fully being the church and proclaiming His truth.



**May 27–June 1,
2021**

Our lawyers secure two significant legal victories for other clients in California against Governor Newsom. The state agrees to never again impose discriminatory restrictions on houses of worship in California and to pay \$2.15 million in legal fees.

Over the past year and a half alone, the Lord has allowed Grace Church to:

- Welcome over 600 new members
- Baptize 125 people
- Reach 130 countries around the world through our livestreamed worship services
- Honor local law enforcement by hosting a number of events
- Give \$70,000 worth of food to 200 needy families in our church over a span of five months
- Continue to support eighty-seven missionaries in thirty-three countries
- Distribute 5,400 orchids to local hospitals, and police and fire stations
- Donate 25,000 MacArthur books to those in prison, in partnership with GTY and Only Hope Prison Ministries
- Launch the Ranger Joe videos, which have been viewed 300,000 times
- Continue to teach the Bible to more than 1,000 children each Sunday

It has been a privilege to be part of the Lord's unique work this past year and a half, and we are very excited to return to normal life at Grace Church. Next Sunday, August 8, we will resume meeting for Fellowship Groups and worship services during both morning services, which will now be from 9:00–10:30 am and 11:00–12:30 pm. This is the optimal format for ministry at our church, and we are grateful for the opportunity to enjoy it again.

Join us in praising the Lord for His great faithfulness and kindness to our church family!

What shall I give to Yahweh in return for all His bountiful dealings with me?

PSALM 116:12

8:30 am

Anchored (All ages)

T360s
Pastors: Carl Hargrove,
Bill Shannon

Children's Ministry

Visit the Welcome Center for
room locations.
Pastor: Jay Lennington

Commissioned (All ages)

Family Center 2
Pastors: Rodney Andersen,
Brad Klassen

Cornerstone (All ages)

T370s
Pastors: Nathan Busenitz,
Hohn Cho, Mark Tatlock,
Harry Walls

Crossroads

(College & young adults)
Tent
Pastor: Austin Duncan

GraceLife (All ages)

Chapel & Chapel Plaza
Pastors: Phil Johnson,
Mike Riccardi

High School (Grades 9-12)

T70s (Basement)
Pastor: Josh Petras

Joint Heirs (All ages)

Family Center 1
Pastors: Tom Patton, John Street

Jr. High (Grades 7-8)

Small Tent (behind TMS)
Pastor: Jay Lennington

Sojourners (All ages)

Family Center 3
Pastors: Abner Chou,
Joe Zhakevich

Spanish Adult Sunday School

H221-222
Pastor: Josiah Grauman

Steadfast (All ages)

T260s
Pastor: Brian Biedebach

10:30 am

Spanish Worship Service

Chapel
Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,
Josiah Grauman

Developmentally Disabled

CC130s
Pastor: Rick McLean

12:30 pm

Neighborhood Outreach

H223-224

5:00 pm

Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting

Upper Room

6:00 pm

Adventure Club

Family Center (Grades 4-6)
Chapel (Grades 1-3)
CC130s (Ages 3-5)

Mondays 9:00 am

Monday Morning Prayer Group

Welcome Center

Building Abbreviation Key

T = Tower H = Heritage
CC = Children's Center

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Administration

818-909-5500

Children

818-909-5631

Grace Equip

818-909-5674

Membership

818-909-5644

Men

818-909-5537

Outreach

818-909-5700

Pastoral Care & Counseling

818-909-5537

Prayer

818-909-5519

Spanish

818-909-5722

Special Ministries

818-909-5519

Student

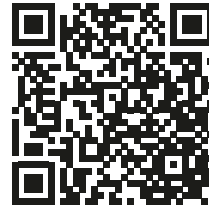
818-909-5593

Women

818-909-5521

Please note that next Sunday, August 8, we will begin meeting for Fellowship Groups and worship services during both morning service times, which will now be from 9:00-10:30 am and 11:00-12:30 pm.

For more information about Sunday fellowship time and location changes, scan the QR code or visit gracechurch.org/about/sunday-fellowships.



GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

13248 Roscoe Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352

Visit our website at

GRACECHURCH.ORG

*Our mission is to glorify God
and extend His kingdom by
living and proclaiming
His truth in the world.*

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