

# GRACE TODAY

Vol. 25 No. 36

September 5, 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

**9:00 & 11:00\* am**

*Fugue in D Major* · Bach · Stephen Sturz, Organist

**Hymn 435 We Gather Together** · Congregation

**Hymn 2 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* · Beethoven/Hart-Rice · Strings & Woodwinds Ensemble

**Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name** · Hebble/Rice · Worship Choir

**Hymn 431 God of Our Fathers** · Congregation

*The Precious Blood* · Gagnon/Rice · Lisa Martin

MESSAGE: **THE CHURCH: THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD, PART 2**

John MacArthur • Ephesians 2:11-22

**Doxology Hymn**

*Recessional* · Handel · Organ Postlude

**6:00 pm**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness* · Runyan · Instrumental Prelude

**Songs of Praise** · Congregation

**Baptism**

MESSAGE: **STEWARDS OF GRACIOUS GIFTS**

Josiah Grauman • 1 Peter 4:10-11

**Postlude**

**Anthem**

**Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name**

Savior again to Thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our grateful hymn of praise;  
We stand to bless Thee e're our worship cease,  
Then, lowly kneeling, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our heavenward way;  
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day;  
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light;  
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,  
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our early life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Amen.

*Words by John Ellerton (1826-1893); music by Edward J. Hopkins (1818-1901)*

**Doxology Hymn**

**Hymn 352 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord**

I love Thy kingdom, Lord, The house of Thine abode,  
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.

I love Thy Church, O God! Her walls before Thee stand,  
Dear as the apple of Thine eye, And graven on Thy hand.

\* Interpreting in American Sign Language (ASL) is provided during the 11:00 am service.  
Arabic, Italian, Korean, and Russian livestream translations are available  
at [gracechurch.org/live](http://gracechurch.org/live).

## Campus Ministries

**THE WELCOME CENTER** hosts a reception for visitors following each Sunday-morning service. Enjoy refreshments and find helpful people with answers to any questions you have about our church. You'll also 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 • 9:00 & 11:00 am • TMS Library (West)

**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	God Creates the Heavens and the Earth
PASSAGE	Genesis 1–2:3
PRINCIPLE	Everything God made was good.
FEATURED HYMN	“I Sing the Mighty Power of God” ( <i>Hymns of Grace</i> No. 26)
ASK YOUR CHILD	What did God say about everything He had made?
APPLY	By thanking God for creating the heavens and the earth.
THIS WEEK	As a family, read Genesis 1–2:3.
NEXT WEEK	Genesis 1:26–29; 2:7–24

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

## GraceWalk

- Christmas in September
- Local Outreach

## On the Patio

- 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.

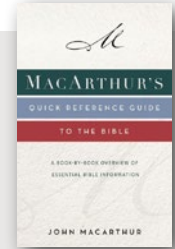
### HIGHLIGHT

## MACARTHUR'S QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE BIBLE

by John MacArthur

*MacArthur's Quick Reference Guide to the Bible* is an essential tool for anyone who wants to study the Bible seriously, deeply, and faithfully. This valuable companion to reading the Bible will help you develop effective Bible-reading habits and a greater understanding of the depth and breadth of God's Word.

Available today for 30% off retail.



## Grace to You

**RADIO** [gty.org/radio](http://gty.org/radio)

### *The Parables of the Kingdom*

- 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](http://gty.org/television)

### “The Glorious Gospel”

- NRBTV CHANNEL 378 ON DIRECTV Sunday 6:30 pm

**ONLINE** [gty.org](http://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

G O D

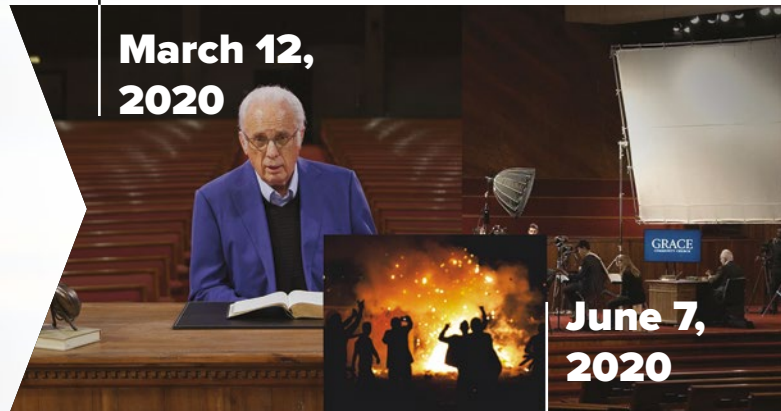
FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS



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.

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.

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

**September 13,  
2020**

**November 13,  
2020**

**February 5,  
2021**

**September 24,  
2020**

**November 25,  
2020**

**April 8,  
2021**

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

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

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.



A final settlement agreement is approved, thus signifying the end of the legal battle between GCC and the county.

**August 31, 2021**

**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.

A year after this trial began, we have settled our lawsuit with the county. In the opinion of our lawyers, this settlement is nothing less than a total victory and complete vindication of our position. In exchange for resolving the lawsuits, the State of California and County of Los Angeles agreed to drop all legal charges, lawsuits, injunctions, fines, and other penalties they were attempting to claim against GCC. In addition, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District agreed to fully reinstate the rental agreement for the parking spaces that they previously tried to terminate, an action that we and our lawyers viewed as retaliatory and improper. Perhaps most remarkably, and tellingly, the State and County agreed to pay \$800,000 for our legal fees. In the great majority of lawsuits, each party must pay for their own legal fees, and so for the State and County to cover the costs of both our lawyers as well as their own, appears to be a clear recognition that they would never prevail against us. All of these concessions were made by the State of California and the County of Los Angeles in accordance with the permanent injunction placed on them in several other lawsuits, which forbids them from imposing restrictions on churches that they do not impose on other businesses.

Join us in thanking the Lord that a settlement agreement has been reached between Los Angeles County and Grace Community Church. The following is a statement from Pastor John:

*We are very grateful for our Lord's protection and providence throughout this past year. Our commitment to the Word of God and His church has never wavered. We have simply continued to stand firm, as we always have and always will. We put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. Over the past year, our congregation has seen His hand of blessing in ways like never before, and the Lord's promise has been realized: "I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." I am thankful for the advocacy of our attorneys, Jenna Ellis and Charles LiMandri, and this outcome.*

**9:00 am**

**Anchored** (All ages) T360s  
Pastors: Carl Hargrove,  
Bill Shannon

**Children's Ministry**

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

**Cornerstone** (All ages) T370s

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

**Developmentally Disabled**

CC130s  
Pastor: Rick McLean

**GraceLife** (All ages)

Family Center  
Pastors: Phil Johnson,  
Mike Riccardi

**Jr. High** (Grades 7-8)

T70s (Basement)  
Pastor: Jay Lennington

**Spanish Adult Sunday School**

H221  
Pastor: Josiah Grauman

**Spanish Worship Service**

Chapel  
Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,  
Josiah Grauman

**Steadfast** (All ages)

T260s  
Pastor: Brian Biedebach

**11:00 am**

**Children's Ministry**

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

**Commissioned** (All ages) T360s

Pastors: Rodney Andersen,  
Brad Klassen

**Crossroads**

(College & young adults)  
Family Center  
Pastor: Austin Duncan

**Developmentally Disabled**

CC130s  
Pastor: Rick McLean

**High School** (Grades 9-12)

T70s (Basement)  
Pastor: Josh Petras

**Joint Heirs** (All ages) T260s

Pastors: Tom Patton, John Street

**Sojourners** (All ages)

T370s  
Pastors: Abner Chou,  
Joe Zhakevich

**Spanish Adult Sunday School**

H221  
Pastor: Josiah Grauman

**Spanish Worship Service**

Chapel  
Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,  
Josiah Grauman

**1:00 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

**Fridays 7:00 pm**

**Foundation** (Young professionals)

Family Center  
Pastor: Mark Zhakevich

**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**

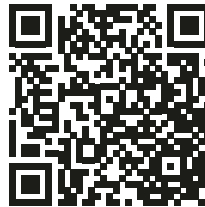
818-909-5519

**Student**

818-909-5593

**Women**

818-909-5521



For more information about Sunday  
fellowships scan the QR code or visit  
[gracechurch.org/about/sunday-fellowships](http://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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