Grace *Today*

November 22, 2026
Vol. 31, No. 47



Today at Grace

9 and 11 am
Worship Services
Fellowship Groups
Grace Kids
Spanish Ministries

After Morning Services
Welcome Center
Member Center
Grace Books
Scholar's Desk
Steeple House Coffee

On the Patio
- Christmas Concert Tickets
- Fundamentals of the Faith
- Local Outreach
- TMAI Book Giveaway

1 pm
Neighborhood Outreach
(Tower Basement)

5 pm
Prayer Meeting (H114)

6 pm
Thanksgiving Communion Service

See back for building locations.

During the 11 am service, interpreting in ASL is available in the Worship Center. Foreign-language livestreams for the morning and evening services are available at gracechurch.org/live.

We preach Christ, continuing the legacy of **Pastor John MacArthur** (served 1969–2025).

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Morning Worship Service — 9 and 11 am

Nathan Busenitz, Pastor-Teacher
Bill Brandenstein, Minister of Music

I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Stephen Sturz, Organ Prelude • Hatton/Sturz

Call to Worship

Hymn 373 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*
Hymn 435 *We Gather Together*
Congregation

Baptism

Scripture Reading & Prayer

Praise the Lord of Love
High School Choir, directed by Susi Johnson • McDonald/Lawrence

Hymn 7 *Sing Praise to the Lord*
Congregation

Announcements & Offering

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
String Quintet & Woodwinds; Ed Lan, piano • Trad./Hart-Rice

MESSAGE

Global Warning
Nathan Busenitz • Mark 13:1–13

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners
Organ Postlude • Prichard/Willan

TODAY

Thanksgiving Communion Service

Join us at 6 pm for our Thanksgiving Communion Service, a special evening of praise to our Lord, featuring the Grace Church Orchestra and Worship Choir. A family room will be available in the Grace Grill (Fireside) for parents with young children.

New Here?

Visit the Welcome Center for more information about the ministries of our church. If you would like to learn more about membership and baptism, visit the **Member Center**.

See back for locations.

Thanksgiving Communion Service — 6 pm

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded · Hassler/Sturz
May the Mind of Christ, My Savior · Barham-Gould/Sturz
Stephen Sturz, Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn 436 ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come***
Hymn 433 ***Now Thank We All Our God***
Congregation

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Orchestra · Ellor/Rice

Scripture Reading & Prayer

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Worship Choir · Beethoven/Enloe

Offering

The Day He Wore My Crown
Meagan Carlson · Johnson/Pickett-Rice

The Wondrous Cross
Worship Choir · Mason/Sterling

Hymn 296 ***Hallelujah, What a Savior!***
Congregation

MESSAGE

Thanks for Everything

Nathan Busenitz • 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Communion

The Solid Rock
Organ Postlude · Bradbury/Sturz

FEATURED BOOK

The Grace of Giving

by John MacArthur
Pastor John explains that when we ignore the responsibility of generosity, we forfeit the joy and blessing of obedience. But when we steward money God's way, we become cheerful givers God loves.



Available today for **50% off** retail at Grace Books and the Scholar's Desk.

Annual Bible Sale

All Bibles are up to **50% off retail** throughout November.

GRACE KIDS

Sunday School

9 and 11 am

The Transfiguration of Jesus
Matthew 16:13–17:13
Main Idea: Believers recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of God.
Application: Believe that Jesus is God and worship Him.
Featured Hymn: *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* (Hymn 391)
Review: What does it mean that Jesus was "transfigured"?
Next Week: John (Jesus' I AM Statements)

Adventure Club

Adventure Club will not meet this evening due to the Thanksgiving Communion Service.

Next Week: Review Week (Afternoon service at 4:30 pm)

For Sunday School room locations, visit Children's Check-In.
gracechurch.org/gracekids

ANTHEM

Praise the Lord of Love

With a song of praise, we come into Your house to worship.
With a song of thanks, and words of gratitude;
With a melody, we offer our hearts in one accord,
To the Father, to the Spirit, we sing praise, we sing praise to the Lord!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord who reigns above.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We praise the Lord of love!

Praise His mighty pow'r, His everlasting goodness,
With the sound of strings and horns, with instruments and dance.
Let the voices of His people resound in one accord,
And ev'ry tribe and nation lift their praise, lift their praise to the Lord!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord who reigns above.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We praise the Lord of love!

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord who reigns above.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We praise the Lord of love!

Amen! Amen!

Words and music by Mary McDonald. Orchestrated by Michael Lawrence.
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Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee!

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
Draws us through the Son of Man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us onward,
In the triumph song of life.

Lyrics by Henry van Dyke.
Music by Ludwig van Beethoven.
Arranged by C. Enloe, 2026.

The Birth *of* the King

An interview with
Dr. Abner Chou
on his new Christmas devotional

What sets *The Birth of the King* apart from other Christmas devotionals?

Christmas is not just in the Gospels but throughout the entire Bible. It is prophesied and built up in the Old Testament with great hope and anticipation, and it is fulfilled in a majestic way in the New Testament. *The Birth of the King* focuses on Christmas in this entire flow of divine revelation. Such compounding context is important. We may know the stories and what happened, but we do not always know why certain moments took place or the significance of all the details. *The Birth of the King* does not just rehearse the history or celebrate the feelings we may have at Christmas but explains the theology that is unfolding in the coming of Christ. This devotional helps us to see Christmas the way God intended it.

How does understanding that anticipation in those early promises transform how a believer encounters the manger in Matthew?

It is often and rightly said that Christ had a perfect life. To be sure, Christ's life was perfect because He is perfect, did no wrong, and only did what was absolutely right. But Christ had a perfect life for another reason. Every moment and detail of His life was perfectly designed. No detail of what He did was incidental. No place He went to was an accident. No occasion was ever random. God planned every aspect of Christ's life so that every part of it was epic, culminating history and theology, and that began with Christ's birth at Christmas. From the genealogies to His birthplace in Bethlehem to the prayers given to the people He met to those that were present, every component of the story is glorious, and the context of the Old Testament unveils that splendor. God ordained this moment from before the foundation of the world. He revealed and set history in motion to prepare for it since the beginning. And as we learn the Old Testament, we can perceive this moment to be as special as He intended it.

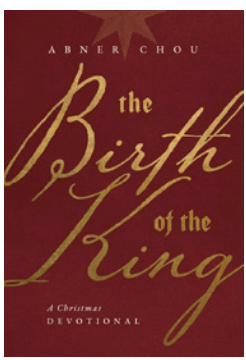
How can readers use the narratives of the incarnation to push back against the widespread fatigue and cynicism that often infiltrates the Christmas season?

Familiarity can breed contempt. Distraction is easy at this time of year, and with all the shopping, festivities, emotionalism, cooking, and decorating, it is easy to become tired and lose sight of what is actually meaningful and what makes the incarnation so special. That is a tragedy since Christmas is one of the greatest opportunities to consider the glory of Christ and what He has done for us. What can we do about this? In the busyness of the Christmas season, a great temptation is to read the Christmas story fast. But the key is to learn in those moments to read it slower and deeper, to break through our superficial understanding and see truths that were always there but we failed to notice and be convicted by truths we failed to contemplate as we should have. To do that takes both time and perhaps some guidance, and I pray that this devotional can help people take the time to contemplate *The Birth of the King*, and in seeing its wonder, recover the moment of Christ's incarnation as a treasure.

How should looking back on the fulfillment of God's promises in the birth of Christ give us hope and encouragement as we look to the future?

We may often think about Christmas as just a past event. But it is equally about the future. Gabriel announced that Christ will reign on the throne of David forever (Luke 1:32–33). Mary proclaimed that one day the corrupt will be toppled, God's people will receive mercy, and God will remember His servant Israel (Luke 1:50–55). Zechariah announced that all God's promises will be fulfilled and that all the elect will serve Him without fear (Luke 1:70–74). Simeon declared that Jesus is that salvation (Luke 2:30), and Anna expressed her joy over the redemption of Jerusalem (Luke 2:38). All of this looks forward to the time when Jesus returns and establishes His kingdom on earth, and all things are fulfilled and restored. Christmas anticipates that time of renewal, and it is even a window into it. The multitude of heaven that praised God saying, "Glory to God in the highest…" will have such worship to God in the end (Revelation 19:5). The shepherds who beheld the angels not only saw heaven but received a taste of what is to come. Christmas is so epic in part because it is the intersection of the past and the future, and the reality of Christmas is a reminder of the reality of our hope. ●

Available today for $9 at Grace Books and the Scholar's Desk.



GRACE AROUND THE WORLD



William & Katie Benjamin

Missionaries since 2026
Serving in Germany

Pray that the Lord would give William and the elders wisdom, unity, and discernment as they seek to lead the church into its next season. Pray for Katie as she continues to learn German, and pray that the Lord would continue to open doors for meaningful relationships with our church family, neighbors, and old friends.

gracechurch.org/dmg

Faith Promise

Last week you generously gave **$8,911**. Thank you for your ongoing support of our missionaries.

gracechurch.org/fp

LOCAL OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

Adoption Awareness Month

Every November here at Grace Church, we celebrate National Adoption Month. Whether through adoption or by serving families who adopt, the church ought to be a picture of the gospel by leading the charge in serving children who do not yet have a family. As a ministry of our Local Outreach Department, Hands for Hope exists as a support base for those interested in or new to adoption and foster care.

818-909-5721
handsforhope@gracechurch.org
gracechurch.org/handsforhope

Upcoming at Grace

11/25–27	Thanksgiving Break, Campus Closed
11/29	Afternoon Worship Service, 4:30 pm (No 6 pm service)
12/11	Spanish Christmas Concert
12/13	Communion
12/17–20	Christmas Concerts

gracechurch.org/calendar

HIGHLIGHTS

Thanksgiving Break

Please note that the campus will be closed for Thanksgiving break, November 25–27.

Next Week's Afternoon Service

Please note that next Sunday, November 29, our evening worship service will meet at **4:30 pm**. There will be no 6 pm service.

Christmas Concert Tickets

Christmas Concert tickets are available on the Patio today after morning services. Starting tomorrow, Monday, November 23, tickets will be available at the Office Center reception desk, Monday–Friday, 8 am–5 pm (closed November 25–27 for Thanksgiving), while supplies last. The concert series will run from Thursday, December 17, through Sunday, December 20. Please prayerfully consider bringing your unsaved friends, coworkers, or family members as a way of sharing the true meaning of Christmas with them.

gracechurch.org/concert

Homebound Christmas Cards

All are invited to send a Christmas card to our homebound saints. Simply make or write a card with your own creative touch, making sure to write the name of the homebound saint in the center of the card, and we can do the rest. Hand your cards in at the Office Center through December 23, and we'll deliver these special messages of encouragement through the holiday season. For a list of homebound members, contact Pastor Rick McLean at 818-909-5519.

Prayers *of a* Thankful Heart

In this season of thanksgiving, we remember the words of 1 Chronicles 16:34: "O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting." On this Lord's Day, we want to focus our hearts on what it means to be thankful to God. The following is a short collection of prayers from faithful men throughout church history that remind us what the outworking of thankfulness looks like in the life of a believer.

We give you thanks, Lord God, for all the benefits we continue to receive from your generous hand. You not only give us what we need in this life, but in your free mercy you have fashioned us anew into an assured hope of a far better life—declared to us in the gospel.

—

John Knox,
Grace from Heaven

Giver of all, another day is ended and I take my place beneath my great redeemer's cross, where healing streams continually descend, where balm is poured into every wound, where I wash anew in the all-cleansing blood, assured that Thou seest in me no spots of sin.

Yet a little while and I shall go to Thy home and be no more seen; help me to gird up the loins of my mind, to quicken my step, to speed as if each moment were my last, that my life be joy, my death glory.

I thank Thee for the temporal blessings of this world—the refreshing air, the light of the sun, the food that renews strength, the raiment that clothes, the dwelling that shelters, the sleep that gives rest, the starry canopy of night, the summer breeze, the flowers' sweetness, the music of flowing streams, the happy endearments of family, kindred, friends. Things animate, things inanimate, minister to my comfort. My cup runs over.

—

Unknown,
The Valley of Vision

JUNIORS WINTER CAMP

LOST AND FOUND

The Heart of Jesus

January 8–10, 2027
Forest Home

Grades 3–5

Speaker:
Trent Mabs
Children's Pastor

JUNIORS

Registration
Early Bird: $320 (Nov 8–29)
Regular: $375 (starts Nov 30)

gracechurch.org/juniorswintercamp

Complimentary TMAI Advent Devotional

All are invited to pick up a complimentary copy of ***The Nativity for the Nations*** after morning services today, provided by The Master's Academy International to help you reflect on the glory of Christ throughout the Christmas season.

> For more information, visit tmai.org/gift/nativity.

Giving to Winter Camps

You can bless a student in Juniors or middle school by supporting their trip to camp this winter.

> To give, visit gracechurch.org/give, scroll down, and select "Juniors Camp Scholarships" or "Middle School Camp Scholarships."

Grace to You: Sermons Anytime, Anywhere

GTY provides easy access to John MacArthur's extensive sermon archive. Download the GTY app, subscribe to the podcast and YouTube channel, and find your local radio station or television broadcast by visiting gty.org.

GTY Featured Sermons

AUDIO: "Giving Thanks for Redemption," "The Unfailing Promises of God," & "What Makes Christians Most Thankful"
VIDEO: "A Model for Giving Thanks"

> gty.org

Service Opportunities

Facilities Team

Volunteers are needed for watering plants and groundskeeping on campus. Experience is helpful but not necessary. To apply, contact Morgan Hughes at mhughes@gracechurch.org.

Maintenance Team

Volunteers are needed for light ongoing maintenance and campus repairs. Responsibilities vary; current tasks include replacing HVAC filters and light bulbs, as well as retouching trim and molding on campus. Experience is helpful but not necessary. To apply, contact Morgan Hughes at mhughes@gracechurch.org.

Primary Christmas Party

Students in grades 1–2 are invited to our Primary Christmas Party. Children should dress in game-appropriate attire and bring a sack lunch, along with canned goods for needy families. Drinks and desserts will be provided.

> Saturday, December 5, 9:45 am–12 pm
> Info: childrens@gracechurch.org or 818-909-5631

Job Openings

PT: Part-time; FT: Full-time

Grace Church

Applicants must, upon employment, be members of Grace Church and biblically qualified as deacons or deaconesses.

- **Accounting Manager,** FT
- **Chief Financial Officer,** FT
- **Customer Service Representative,** PT
- **Dishwasher,** PT
- **Nursery Supervisor,** PT
- **Grace Academy Substitute Teacher (Long-Term/Short-Term),** PT
- **Security Patrol,** PT
- **Special Projects Accountant,** FT
- **Web Developer,** FT

> For job descriptions and benefits, visit gracechurch.org/jobs. To request an application, contact hr@gracechurch.org or 818-909-5672.

The Master's Academy International

- **VP of Finance and Accounting,** FT

> For more information, visit tmai.org/jobs or email hr@tmai.org.

The Master's Seminary

- **Director of Marketing,** FT

> For more information, visit masters.edu/jobs or email humanresources@masters.edu.

The Master's University

- **General Maintenance**
- **HVAC Technician**
- **History & Social Studies Teacher, grades 6–12 (Legacy Christian Academy)**

> For the maintenance and HVAC positions, email humanresources@masters.edu. For the teaching position, apply at legacy-christian.com/about-us/employment-opportunities. For more information, visit masters.edu/jobs.

Sunday Ministries

For a complete list of Sunday and midweek ministries, including those for men, women, and specific age groups, visit gracechurch.org/ministries.

9 am

Anchored *T360*
Pastor: Carl Hargrove

Cornerstone *T370*
Pastors: Mark Tatlock, Mark Zhakevich

GraceLife
Family Center
Pastors: Phil Johnson, Mike Riccardi

Steadfast *T270*
Pastors:
Brian Biedebach, Brian Milam

Xchange (Middle School)
T70 (Tower Basement)
Pastor: Adam Bossom

11 am

180 (High School)
T70 (Tower Basement)
Pastor: Isaías Muñoz

Commissioned *T270*
Pastors:
Rodney Andersen, Brad Klassen

Crossroads (College & Young Adults)
Family Center
Pastor: Steve Crawford

Joint Heirs *T360*
Pastors: Tom Patton, John Street

Sojourners *T370*
Pastors: Abner Chou, Joe Zhakevich

9 and 11 am

Grace Kids
For room locations, visit Children's Check-In.
Pastor: Trent Mabs

Developmentally Disabled
CC130E
Pastor: Rick McLean

Spanish Ministries
Chapel
Pastor: Josiah Grauman

Campus Map

13248 Roscoe Blvd
Sun Valley, CA 91352
818-909-5500
gracechurch.org

Public Wi-Fi:
Grace Church Wi-Fi

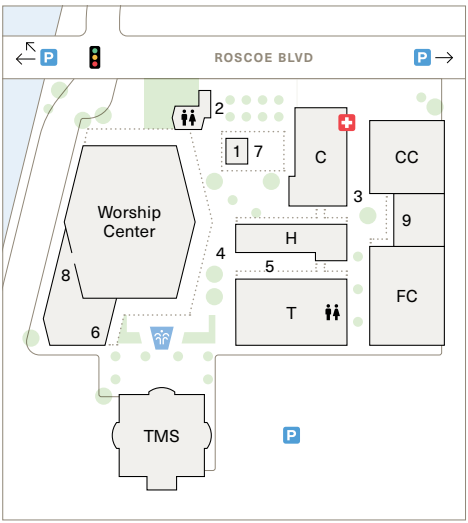
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Proverbs3:5-6

Please note that today's worship services are being livestreamed and recorded. In addition, your likeness may be recorded or photographed while on campus. Your presence on campus constitutes your permission to Grace Community Church to use images or video of your likeness.

Legend

T Tower
H Heritage
CC Children's Center
FC Family Center
C Chapel

1 Welcome Center
2 Member Center
3 Children's Check-In
4 Patio
5 GraceWalk & Steeple House Coffee
6 Grace Books
7 Scholar's Desk
8 Prayer Room
9 Well-Baby Cry Room
PM Location: Welcome Center (1)



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To glorify God by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, for the salvation of the lost and edification of the church.

Thank you for faithfully partnering in the ministry of our church as an act of worship to our Lord. Give during any of today's services or at **gracechurch.org/giving**.

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