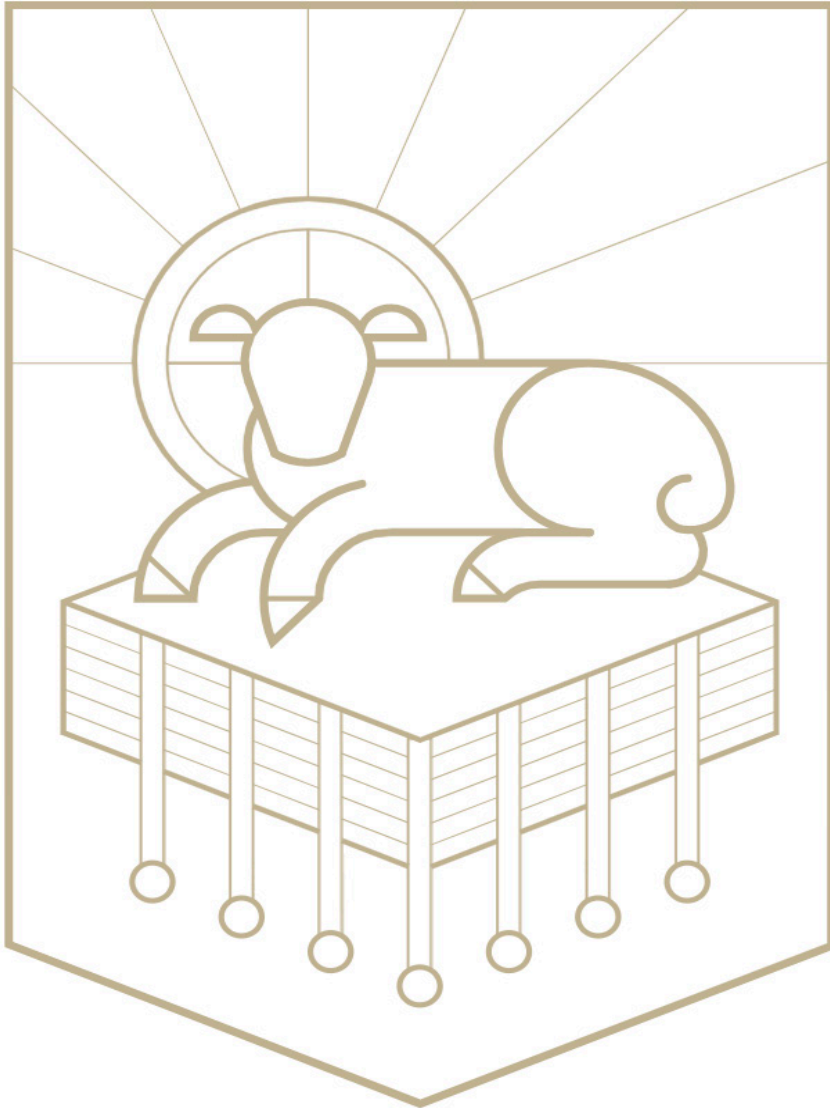




GRACE + PEACE
A U S T I N



Fifth Sunday in Eastertide
April 28, 2024



Welcome | Grace + Peace is a gospel formed family for the city. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, whether skeptical, curious, or a committed follower of Jesus Christ, there is room for you.

Nursery | Nursery for children ages birth through 4 years old is available during the entire worship service. Babies and toddlers are in two separate rooms. To get to the nursery, you will exit out the back of the sanctuary and go through the glass double doors on the left. From there, you will walk down the ramp and take a right when you get to the end of the sidewalk. Enter through the double glass doors where you will find our Nursery Coordinator sitting at a table ready to check in your child and show you to their rooms. Children ages 0-2 will be in Room S102 and children ages 2-4 will be in room S101. Many parents choose to pick up their child just prior to communion for the last part of the worship service. This is a great way to introduce them to worshipping corporately. You may also opt to have your child remain in nursery for the duration of the service, as childcare is provided the entire time.

Family Room | We have a room set up in Stedman Hall for families if you would like a more private place to comfort your babies. To get to the family room, you will exit out the back of the sanctuary and go through the glass double doors on the left. From there, you will walk down the ramp and take a right when you get to the end of the sidewalk. Enter through the double glass doors where you will find our Nursery Coordinator sitting at a table ready to direct you to the room which will also be marked with a sign. A live stream will be running so that you may continue to listen and participate in worship.

Children's Ministry | Children in Pre-K through 2nd grade are invited to attend our "Grapes + Peas" class. Children in Grapes + Peas participate in the first part of worship with their family, are dismissed during the sermon for a lesson, and return with their teachers to the sanctuary before communion. For first-time visitors, please escort your child with us to the classroom so we can introduce ourselves.

Preparation for Worship

Prelude | *Bring Me Back to My First Love*

Bring me back to my first love oh, God. Nothing else has satisfied
Lesser loves have held my gaze, but left me dry.
Bring me back to my first joy oh, God. Nothing else has brought true life
From my soul, I cry for love, for joy, for life

Help me turn from bitterness, from hate, from lust, from all the things
That keep my eyes away from you, remind me when your hope was new
When all my heart and all my soul and all my mind and all my strength
Were given each in love for you, your presence felt in all I do

Words and Music: Mac Meador, 2024.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Celebrant: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

People: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

Celebrant: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy
to flow in the wasteland.

*People: We are the people God has formed through Christ;
we worship him, and we rejoice!*

Celebrant: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

People: We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Worship | *The Church's One Foundation*

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend.
to guide, sustain and cherish, is with her to the end;
though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
against both foe and traitor she ever shall prevail.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore,
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

Words: S. J. Stone, 1866. Music: Brian Moss, 1996.

Song of Worship | *I Shall Not Want*

From the love of my own comfort,
From the fear of having nothing,
From a life of worldly passions,
Deliver me O God!
Deliver me O God!

From the need to be understood,
From the need to be accepted,
From the fear of being lonely,
Deliver me O God!
Deliver me O God!

Refrain:

*And I shall not want, I shall not want
when I taste Your goodness I shall not want
when I taste Your goodness I shall not want*

From the fear of serving others,
From the fear of death or trial,
From the fear of humility,
Deliver me O God!
Deliver me O God!

Refrain

Words and Music: Audrey Assad 2013.

Confession of Sin

God of grace, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above you. We have made idols of possessions and people. We have permitted our busy schedule to crowd out our worship of you. We have trusted and delighted in your creation rather than in you, and have looked to our idols to make us glad, complaining bitterly when they fail us.

[Silence for self-examination and personal confession.]

*Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of your glory.
Help us to learn to live together according to your ways through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon | *Titus 3:4-8, NRSV*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure.

Celebrant: Christ is risen!

People: *He is risen indeed; Alleluia!*

Covenant Promises of Baptism | *Isaiah 43:1-2, ESV*

¹ But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
 “Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.

Responding Profession

Having heard God’s gracious promises to us in Christ, do you desire that Isla be baptized?
We do.

As members of Christ’s body, the church, do you receive the teaching of the Christian faith, which we confess in the Apostle’s Creed?
We do.

*All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 Born of the Virgin Mary,
 Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 Was crucified, dead, and buried;
 He descended into hell;
 The third day he rose again from the dead;
 He ascended into heaven,
 And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit;
 The holy catholic Church;
 The communion of saints;
 The forgiveness of sins;
 The resurrection of the body;
 And the life everlasting. Amen.*

Do you acknowledge Isla's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

We do.

Do you claim God's covenant promises in her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?

We do.

Do you now unreservedly dedicate Isla to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

We do.

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Joel and Louise in the Christian nurture of Isla?

We do!

Banner Verse | *Matthew 11:28-30*

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Sacrament of Baptism | *Caroline Isla Pinckney*

Prayer of Blessing and Thanksgiving

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
The Bible tells me so

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*People: 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 and ever.
Amen.*

Song of Response | *The Love of Christ is Rich and Free*

The love of Christ is rich and free;
Fixed on His own eternally;
Nor earth, nor hell, can it remove;
Long as He lives, His own He'll love.

His loving heart engaged to be
Their everlasting Surety;
'Twas love that took their cause in hand,
And love maintains it to the end.

Refrain:

*Love cannot from its post withdraw;
Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law,
Can turn the Surety's heart away;
He'll love His own to endless day.*

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood;
And love will bring them safe to God;
Love calls them all from death to life;
And love will finish all their strife.

He loves through every changing scene,
Nor aught from Him can Zion wean;
Not all the wanderings of her heart
Can make His love for her depart.

Refrain

At death, beyond the grave, He'll love;
In endless bliss, His own shall prove
The blazing glory of that love
Which never could from them remove.

Words: William Gadsby. Music: Sandra McCracken, 2001.

Grapes + Peas Blessing

At this time children from Pre-K through 2nd grade may come up to the front of the sanctuary to be prayed over. After the prayer, they will meet their teachers at the door in the front right corner of the sanctuary to walk to their classroom in the Stedman Hall for a short lesson. Pre-K through Kindergarten will meet in Room S106, and 1st through 2nd grade will meet in Room S105. They will return just before communion. For first-time visitors, please escort your child with us to the classroom so we can introduce ourselves.

Passing of the Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Ministry Partner Update | *Becca Coley, Ananias House*

New Testament Reading | *Revelation 17; 19:1-10, ESV (Pew Bible page 1030)*

17 ¹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, ²with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.” ³And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. ⁵And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.” ⁶And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

When I saw her, I marveled greatly. ⁷But the angel said to me, “Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. ⁸The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. ⁹This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; ¹⁰they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. ¹¹As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. ¹²And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. ¹³These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

¹⁵And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. ¹⁶And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, ¹⁷for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. ¹⁸And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”

19 ¹ After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

² for his judgments are true and just;
for he has judged the great prostitute
who corrupted the earth with her immorality,
and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

³ Once more they cried out,
“Hallelujah!
The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”

⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” ⁵ And from the throne came a voice saying,

“Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”

⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,
“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

⁷ Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;

⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure” —
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

⁹ And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

¹⁰ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Celebrant: This is the Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Sermon Series: Revelation: Seeing and Believing

Sermon: Be the Bride | *Rev. John Sweet*

Sermon Notes:

[Please pass the blue sign-in pads on the left end of the row at this time.]

Offertory | *Bring Me Back to My First Love*

Bring me back to my first love oh, God. Nothing else has satisfied
Lesser loves have held my gaze, but left me dry.
Bring me back to my first joy oh, God. Nothing else has brought true life
From my soul, I cry for love, for joy, for life

Help me turn from bitterness, from hate, from lust, from all the things
That keep my eyes away from you, remind me when your hope was new
When all my heart and all my soul and all my mind and all my strength
Were given each in love for you, your presence felt in all I do

Bring me back to my first song oh, God. When I first sang out your praise
Let that melody surround me all my days
Bring me back to my first hope oh, God. Standing firmly in your grace
Fully trusting that through Christ my debt is paid

Show me my idolatry, the earthly things that I don't need
That keep my eyes away from you, remind me when your hope was new
Return my feet to solid land, to build on rock and not on sand
My every step in line with you, the Spirit leading all I do.

Words and Music: Mac Meador, 2024.

Celebration of Communion

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

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

Celebrant: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing,

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!

Arrangement: David Lutes and David Breeding.

Words of Institution

Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant: Let us now proclaim the mystery of the faith:

*People: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.*

Prayer of Consecration

Table Blessing

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose again for you, and feed on him by Faith, with thanksgiving.

Table Welcome

We welcome all baptized Christians who believe in the Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ to participate in the Communion meal. This includes all Christians, whether members here or not. Children who have been baptized and interviewed by the elders of this church or the ruling body of another church are also welcome to the table. If you're still investigating Christianity, not sure what you believe, or simply choose not to participate in the Eucharist, you may either remain in your seat or come forward, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing.

Note: Grape juice is provided in the center of each tray. All bread is gluten free.

Prayer of 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 leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Believing:

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 of Struggling Against Sin:

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and 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 to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen.

Communion | *Christ is Mine Forevermore*

Mine are days that God has numbered, I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure, and forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer, though I fall, his love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing, I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel, where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from heaven, and the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted, Christ completes his work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter, harm and hatred for his name
But mine is armour for this battle, strong enough to last the war
And he has said he will deliver, safely to the golden shore

Refrain:

*And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore*

Come rejoice now, O my soul
For his love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure
Christ is mine forevermore!

Refrain

Words and Music: Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson, 2016.

Communion | *Be My First Love*

Be my first love.
Lead my heart away from lesser idols.
Remind me it was You that I was made for.
Jesus, You're the center of it all.

Be my first love.
Let my worship only be for You, Lord.
Let it be in spirit and in truth, Lord.
Jesus, be the center of it all.

Refrain:
You're the reason I live, the treasure I run for,
The theme of my song, my portion forever.
You're where I belong, the rock that I stand on.
For me, there is no one but You.

Be my first love.
All of my delight is in Your presence.
All that I desire is Your nearness.
The only thing that satisfies is You.

Words and Music: Kristian Stanfill, Frankie Orella, Gary Rea, 2022.

[Please stand to sing.]

Sending Song | *We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

Refrain:

*We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed, by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up.

Refrain

In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength.

Refrain

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom.

Refrain

Words and Music by Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore, 2015.

Easter Acclamation

Celebrant: Christ is risen!

People: *He is risen indeed; Alleluia!*

Benediction | *based on Hebrews 13:20-21*

May the God of peace, who raised to life the great shepherd of the sheep, make us ready to do his will in every good thing, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

Sending

Celebrant: Go forth, remembering who you are and to whom you belong.

People: *With God's help, we will!*

Calendar

This Week

4/28	9:30 am	Sunday School
4/28	10:45 am	Sunday Worship Service
4/28	12:15 pm	Ananias House Update from Becca Coley @ G101
4/28	3 pm	Grace Teens Student Ministry Meeting @ Gym
4/29	7 am	Men's Morning Bible Study @ Central Market
5/1	9 am	Joy Club @ G102
5/3	6 pm	Hymn Sing @ Sanctuary
5/4	11am	Parish Group Takeover @ The Pitch

May

5	12:15 pm	G+P Birthday Celebration
6	8 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting @ Church Office
17	7 pm	Spring Songwriter Concert
18	9:30 am	King's Crafters: Knitting and Crochet Club @ Office Library
26	6:30 pm	Grace Teens Movie Night Fundraiser @ Gym

**Note: Sunday morning worship services stream live on YouTube at 10:45 am*

Announcement Highlights

Parish Group Takeover

Join us for a parish group takeover this **Saturday, May 4th from 11am-3pm**. This will be a time for all parish groups to meet together at the same time and same location to “take it over” for fellowship and fun. This time we’re planning to “takeover” The Pitch which has food, pickle ball, and all kinds of fun. There’s no agenda, just a gathering of parish community. Make sure to represent your parish group by showing up!

Ananias House Trip Update

Please plan to stick around after the service today to hear an update from Becca Coley about her recent trip to the Middle East with the Ananias House ministry. We’ll meet in room G101 of the gym 10 minutes after worship ends, so grab a bagel and coffee and head on over.

Announcements

Hymn Sing | Join us this **Friday, May 3rd** in the sanctuary for a Hymn Sing from **6-7pm!** We'll sing old hymns, new hymns and everything in between. While not a formal service, it'll be a great time lifting up the Lord's praise in song together. Let Mac (mac@graceandpeaceaustin.com) know if you have any questions.

Men's Clothing Donations Needed | The Austin Transitional Center (ATC) is in urgent need of men's clothing in all sizes. Just about all of these residents are newly released from jail/prison, and hoping to have a second chance in society. A nice shirt and pair of pants goes a long way in restoring and offering that second chance. We will have a box set up in the Atrium to collect any men's gently used or new t-shirts, pants, shorts, shoes, socks, and sweaters. Please bring your donations by **Sunday, May 5th**, and reach out to Laura Perez with any questions.

Grace Teens Movie Night Fundraiser | Church, join us **May 26th at 6:30PM** for a movie night fundraiser in the Gym. All proceeds will go towards our Student Ministry Summer Retreats and provide scholarships for those who would otherwise not be able to participate! If you cannot attend please consider giving towards the Student Trip Fund through our giving page on the website or the QR code below. Thank you for your support!



Announcements

Men's Morning Bible Study | Guys, we'd love for you to join us **Monday mornings at 7:00am** as we apply the gospel to our lives using the sermon discussion questions and pray for one another. We meet every week at Central Market (North Lamar) in the upstairs cafe area! For more info email Eric Buescher (edbuescher@hotmail.com).

Women's Prayer Group | Hello Ladies! Please join us in praying through the Psalms, **Friday mornings at 7:00am** on Zoom. We spend 30 minutes praying through the Psalms of the day and individual prayers and petitions. It is a delightful and refreshing way to start your Friday! Reach out to Jeanette Sands at jeanette.sands@gmail.com to RSVP and get the Zoom link.

Contemplative Prayer Meeting | Please join us at **8pm the first Monday of each month** for a short time (30-45 min) to intentionally pause from the busyness and anxiety of our weeks, and make time to be still, quiet our thoughts, and open ourselves to God's presence and action within. All are welcome!

Vacation Bible School | Registration is open for VBS, happening **June 24-27 from 9am-12pm**. This is for all rising Kinder-5th graders, Youth Helpers (6th-12th grade), and Adult Volunteers! RSVP by scanning the QR code below and reach out to Laura Perez (laura@graceandpeaceaustin.com) with any questions. We can't wait to welcome you to a fun week of VBS this June!



Sermon Series Scripture Readings

4/28/2024 Revelation 17-19

5/5/2024 Revelation 20:1-15

5/12/2024 Revelation 21

5/19/2024 Revelation 22

A P R I L 2 8 , 2 0 2 4

Giving to Grace + Peace

You can give in several ways, including online through our secure website, graceandpeaceaustin.com/give. If you choose to give online, paying by bank versus credit/debit is preferred to avoid fees coming out of your tithe.

Connect on a Deeper Level

Our Parish Groups are a great way to get to know people in the church.

To get connected with one of these groups, reach out to

Avery Kelly: avery@graceandpeaceaustin.com

Grace + Peace Prayer List

If you have a prayer need and/or would like to be added to the Prayer List, please contact Laura Perez: laura@graceandpeaceaustin.com

Facility Requests

If you would like to rent any of our rooms, please go to: graceandpeaceaustin.com/facilityrequest

Discussion Questions

1. We're called by this passage to resist the lesser loves of Babylon that seek to distract us from Jesus. How can we work to identify the lesser loves in our life? What about our relationship with Jesus helps us resist those idols?
2. The church is called to be a blessing to the world by pointing people away from idols and to Jesus instead. How can we work as the body of Christ to reveal the danger and folly of idols in our world? In our city and neighborhoods?
3. This passage encourages us to embrace our "bride identity." What does it look like to embrace and live out a "bride identity" in the mundane spaces of life? How do we live out a bride identity in front of those we see regularly?



GRACE + PEACE AUSTIN

Session Contact Info: You can contact the Session at session@graceandpeaceaustin.com with any questions or directly at any of their individual emails below.

- Jeff Brown | jsbrown@gmail.com
 - Brent Coley | robertbcoley@gmail.com
 - Jon Kim | jonaikim@yahoo.com
 - Jeff Marshall | marshall.jeff@gmail.com
 - Ryan Motola | ryan.motola@gmail.com
 - Marvin Olasky | marvin.olasky@gmail.com
 - Barrett Raven | barrettraven@gmail.com
 - Matt Williams | matthew.e.williams@gmail.com
- (Peter Croft is on sabbatical in 2024)*

Diaconate Contact Info: If you or someone you know has a need (big or small!) or crisis, the G + P Diaconate wants to help care for you. Please email us at activedeacons@graceandpeaceaustin.com. You may also seek us out to speak with one of us directly. The Diaconate members are:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Justin Barclay | Casey McMahan |
| Charlie Brown | Susan Olasky |
| Margaret Brown | Mary Kate Peters |
| Robert Douglass | Mark Schwarz |
| John Lamb | |

(Lance Lawhon and Anna Marshall are on sabbatical in 2024)

Grace + Peace Staff

- John Sweet, *Senior Pastor*..... john@graceandpeaceaustin.com
- Avery Kelly, *Director of Parish & Adult Discipleship* avery@graceandpeaceaustin.com
- Mac Meador, *Minister of Music* mac@graceandpeaceaustin.com
- Laura Perez, *Director of Children's Ministry & Administration* laura@graceandpeaceaustin.com
- Jose Perez, *Student Director* joey@graceandpeaceaustin.com
- Alisha Ligon, *Facilities & Sunday Operations Manager* facilities@graceandpeaceaustin.com