

Whare Karakia

Home prayers

10 October 2021
Judges 6:36-40 and 7:15-21

Grace wins every time

Opening Prayer

Thankyou God for opportunity.
Here is a new day, and we have drawn
aside to meet with you.
It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O most
high; to declare your steadfast love in
the morning and your faithfulness by
night.

For you Lord have made me glad by your
work; at the works of your hands I sing
for joy. Thankyou God. Lord Jesus meet
us here.
Amen

Confession

God of all power and healing,
God of strength and wholeness,
we offer to you this day, our sins, our failings, our brokenness and the times we forget
that you are Almighty God.

*Let us take a moment to bring to mind those things that we have said and done that
have saddened us and God.*

Absolution

The God of love brings us back to himself,
forgives us our sins,
and assures us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song

Your grace is enough, more
than I need.
At Your word I will believe.
I wait for You, draw near
again, let Your Spirit make
me new.

And I will fall at Your feet,
I will fall at Your feet,
and I will worship You here.

Your presence in me, Jesus
light the way.
By the power of Your word,
I am restored, I am redeemed.
By Your Spirit I am free.

And I will fall at Your feet,
I will fall at Your feet,
And I will worship You here,
oh Lord.

Freely You gave it all for us.
Surrendered Your life upon that
cross.
Great is the love poured out for
all, this is our God.

Lifted on high from death to life,
forever our God is glorified.
Servant and King rescued the
world, this is our God.

If you are in need of support (prayer or otherwise) please contact us:
Rev. Learné 021 984 002 or office@northwestanglican.org.nz



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Northwest Anglican

Scriptures

Judges 6:36-40 and 7:15-21 (or read chapters 6-8 to get the whole story of God's working with Gideon and the Israelites under his leadership)

Reflection: From Learne

Have you ever wondered how far God's grace will go? Gideon is a fascinating person that God chooses and even before he starts in this role, God's grace stands at the head of the story. Chapter 6 starts with the oft repeated phrase – "The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord". So God let the opposing army have the power, and subsequently the Israelites were living with marauding armies ravaging their crops and land. They were miserable and once again cried out to the Lord. With God, grace always wins. Enter God's call to Gideon. He is found hiding away threshing his wheat in a wine press for fear of the Midianites, and God comes to him and calls him "mighty warrior". Or you might know an older version – "mighty man of valour". My response when I read that – oh my goodness he is hiding away fearful for his life. With God, grace always wins. If you read through verses 13 – 40 of chapter 6 you will find six different moments when Gideon questions God's call and the process that is happening. But God I am too small. God would you show me a sign that its truly you? Okay I will do it but at night because I am afraid. God would you show me another sign? With God, grace always wins. At every request God steps in, and out of pure grace responds to Gideon. God's call to Gideon was nurturing, encouraging, coaxing, meeting him at every point with his requests. All of this happens before we even get to the story of the victory over the Midianites and how that eventuates. It happens nothing like it might have done in Gideon's head. Gideon's story can remind us always that no matter how we feel or what we think about what God calls us to do, God is always ready to hear our objections or to answer our questions. God's plans for us often stretch our faith and our strength and even our capacity to fulfil them, but as Philip Yancey says "Indeed, how could we experience grace at all except through our defects?" and I would add limitations.

Questions

1. Where have you seen God's grace at work in your own life?
2. John 1:16 says that out of God's fullness we have all received grace upon grace already given. Spend some time talking to God, writing in a journal or drawing a picture of your experience of God's grace and loving kindness toward you.
3. Spend some time praying for a person or situation where God's loving grace is needed.

Intercessions

We focus our prayers today on the pandemic and its effects on our nation.

- Pray for those in leadership that they would be wise decision makers. Pray for their emotional and physical pressure under the immense stress they must be under.
- Pray for unity in the nation and amongst Christians over decisions to vaccinate or not.
- Pray for those who have covid and for those caring for them. Pray for the family and church of the gentleman who died this past week.
- Pray for those at the front lines of this pandemic battle – for contact tracers, and people taking tests. For nurses and doctors working in ICU's and emergency departments.

Closing Prayer

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

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