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## Worship Order

#### Prelude

Call to Worship - Psalm 27:1,6

The LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Songs of Praise Corporate Prayer The Lord's prayer

Scripture Reading — Ephesian 3:14-21 Sermon — "Rooted and established in love"

Response Song
Offertory Prayer

Welcome & Family News

Monthly Bible Verse - 1 Corinthians 15:10a

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.

Doxology & Benediction Postlude

Speaker:Rev. Kenneth ChongChairperson:Joshua KanPraise Leader:Joshua Kan & TeamScripture Reader:Timothy NgPianist:Lilian ChowPowerPoint:Bonnie Chin

Welcome Team: Couples Fellowship - Heidi Kan, Claire Liao, Roland Bruce

Offering Counters: Veronica Tamondong, Jasmin Delos Reyes Sound System: Amanda Chan, Bono Lee, Clarence Fok

# Be Grateful for Grace, Seek Grace, Give Grace and Receive Grace

By Rev Gordon Siu

God loves to bless His children "abundantly" and even with "grace upon grace." God does not want us to be content with just what we have received and not to seek the full measure of His grace.

After the Israelites had entered Canaan and taken some of the promised land, they were unwilling to proceed any further as they had obtained some basic security and satisfaction and were scared of their formidable foes. Joshua reprimanded them: "How long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has given you?" (Joshua 18:3) God very much wants to give us all of His spiritual blessings. But if we take grace lightly, thinking it will somehow be given and do not actively seek it, then we will still not receive it.

The Bible says, "You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures" (James 4:2b-3). The receipt of grace must start with prayer. But prayer is not a condition for grace. It is to make the person who prays open himself up to God and express his longing for blessings and confidence in the promises of God. God has invited Solomon to take the initiative to ask for grace after his wholehearted sacrificial offering: "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon only asked for wisdom so that he could "judge your people" for the benefit of the people. The Bible says, "The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this." The Lord even gave him what he had not asked for — wealth and honor (see 1 Kings 3:1-15). This is the Old Testament version of "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

A secondary school teacher thanked God for his teacher qualification and the ability to teach. Then he asked for God's grace: "Give me, Lord, the class of which I am head teacher!" Then by faith, he made use of various channels to bring his students to the Lord. Another brother earnestly longed for his faith in God to strengthen and that he would better learn to rely on the Lord and lift up His name in all matters in daily life. He fervently asked God for His grace in these. Later, he met with some unexpected obstacles but he deeply learned to trust in the Lord under all circumstances. Yet another person sought the grace to better serve the Lord during his prime; and one other asked for the grace to love the Lord more during the remaining time of his life... Supposing the Lord asks you today: "Ask for whatever you want me to give you," what would you ask for?

When one knows how to be grateful, it is then that he would know he should ask for grace. In the wilderness, the Israelites kept complaining that they were being ill-treated by God. Their "prayer" was really to test God and challenge God. If we in poverty and difficulties can still see God's abundant blessings, our faith will definitely be strengthened in thanksgiving. We will also have the courage to ask for more grace, not just for what we need but also for being able to give out the grace received. This was exactly what the Macedonian churches did: "In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity (grace)" (2 Corinthians 8:2). They were grateful for grace and they sought grace, and they gave out grace and received more grace.

Read the article online: <a href="https://npacem.org/ps20221016/">https://npacem.org/ps20221016/</a>

# **Family News**

## 1. Regular meetings

a. Gatekeepers (secondary school): Fri, 7:30-9:15pm, Rm 219

<u>Oct 21</u> Topical: Gaming <u>28</u> Treasure Room: Persecuted Christians

Nov 4 Bible Study: God's Attribute 11 Special: Minecraft Selfie

b. Peacemakers (uni students & above): Fri, 8-9:45pm, Rms 217-8

Oct 21 Prayer Meeting: Supplication 28 Topical: Spiritual Friendship

<u>Nov 4</u> Bible Study: Jeremiah <u>11</u> Evangelism Prayer Meeting

c. Tentmakers (young working adults): 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat, 5-6:45pm, Rms 217-8

Oct 29 Bible Study: Joshua Nov 12 Outing: TBC

- d. **Joint Adult Fellowship**: Prayer Meeting; <u>Sun Oct 16</u>, 1:30-3pm, Rms 217-218; Children's Room: Rm 215
- e. Women's Fellowship: OT Character (11): David; Sun Oct 30, 1:30-3:15pm, Rm 219
- f. **Couples Fellowship**: Book Study: Growing Old Gracefully; <u>Sun Oct 30</u>, 1:30-3pm, Rms 217-218; Children's Room: Rm 215
- g. EM Prayer Meeting: Sun morning, 8:30-9am, Rm 204 (No Prayer Meeting on Sun Oct 9)
- h. Sunday School (Children, youth and adults): Sun from 9:15-10:20am
- i. Children's Program: For children aged 3-10 during English worship service
  - CP2: Rm 219, CP3: Rm 217-218

### 2. Other meetings

- a. Sunday School Teachers Monthly Prayer Meetings: Sun Nov 6, after worship service
- 3. Sermon Theme: "To Light Up Lives with God's Love"
- **4. Communion Pack:** If you are participating in our worship service online, you can collect communion packs at the Main Church reception from Mon to Fri (closed 1-2pm).
- 5. NPAC 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Revival Meeting "LORD! You Are Our Shepherd": *Date & Time: <u>Fri Oct 28 & Sat Oct 29</u>*, 8-9:45pm. *Venue*: Main Church. *Speaker*: Dr Bernard Wong (President of CGST). *Topic*: 1st night: "Follow the Lord before us"; 2nd night: "Walk together all life long with the faithful Shepherd". *Language*: Chinese.
- 6. NPAC's Spiritual Legacy Tour: To learn about NPAC's "DNA," come to join the sharing meeting and guided tour of NPAC's "Historical Document Archive Room." *Date & Time*: Sun Oct 23, 2:30-4:30pm. Venue: Worship Hall, 1/F, Truth Centre. Speaker: Rev Raymond Chan (volunteer pastor, former director of NPAC's Communications Dept.) and Ms Esther Wan (person-in-charge of the NPAC Archives). Language: Chinese.
- 7. Faith Offering for Mission: The budget for the year Oct 1, 2022–Dec 31, 2023 is <a href="https://doi.org/li>
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- 8. NPAC Connect 1952: Besides your participation in the English Ministry, you can learn more about NPAC. NPAC Connect is a mobile application to keep you updated with NPAC's news and activities, such as meetings and short videos. Though the app is in Chinese, there is a link to the English Ministry in the dropdown menu of the updated app. For iOS: <a href="click here">click here</a>. For Android: <a href="click here">click here</a>.
- 9. Serve the Lord together! Speak to Rev. Stera or Pastor Lawrence if you want to serve in EM. We need people for the Praise Team, Welcome Team, PowerPoint operators, and Resource Team for our Resource Library! Feel free to talk to us!
- ★ What's at our Info Table? NPAC newsletter, Barnabasaid, Bible reading plans, devotional materials, gospel tracts, evangelism resources, and much more!

## **Prayer Corner**

We pray for your personal needs, your unbelieving friends, and families. Please find and join our prayer meeting outside the A/V Room after the worship service.

#### **Tithe & Offering**

Tithe & offering will be collected in the red offering bags at the end of the worship service at the entrance of the worship hall. Charity offering (every 4<sup>th</sup> Sun) will be collected in the green bag. Please prayerfully prepare beforehand. For other collection channels, please <u>click here</u>.

# **Prayer Items**

- 1. Poverty around the World: "All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along." (Galatians 2:10) The early church cares for the poor and so should we. Many places around the world are suffering from poverty. Poverty is a problem but also an opportunity for us to work with God. <u>Pray</u> that God will help the poor through Christian organizations such as <u>CEDAR Fund</u>. <u>Pray</u> that the gospel as well as necessary resources will reach the poor. <u>Pray</u> that people will experience God and find hope in Him. <u>Pray</u> that through our offering, we will grow in faith and Christian character.
- 2. Continue to pray for NPAC: We have 5 ministries based on age (children, youth, young adults, adults, and the elderly), the Dynamic Groups Ministry, Disability Ministry, Putonghua Ministry, and English Ministry, also the Departments of Administration & Finance, Mobilization & Leadership Training Development, Worship, Mission, Social Concern, and Media & Communications. There are thousands of worshipers attending our 14 worship services each weekend (online and onsite).
  - <u>Give thanks</u> for God's grace in the past 70 years, for giving us faithful people and resources.
     <u>Thank God</u> for keeping NPAC growing in the Spirit and in Truth. <u>Pray</u> that NPAC will continue to be an assembly of faithful servants passing on our spiritual legacy and lifting up Jesus as our only hope and example.
  - <u>Pray</u> for church staff, deacons, lay pastors and ministry leaders to follow the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
  - <u>Pray</u> for God's guidance in our mission works in the midst of worldwide pandemic.
  - <u>Pray</u> for every one of us to be faithful Bible students who will always learn, teach and practice what the Bible teaches.

Next Sun Oct 23: Speaker: Rev. Stera Chan ("Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, 1 John 1:1-2:2); Chairperson: Christina Bruce; Praise Leader: Marianna Yu & Fri Team; Pianist: Minnie Ho; Scripture Reader: Vincy Ng; Welcome Team: Josephine Kam, Matthew Kam, Faith Trinh; Offering Counter: Beverly Inao, Dawn Yiu, Jason Choi, Josephine Kwan; PowerPoint: David Yeung