

Welcome

to



GraceUnion
CHURCH

Encountering Grace through Jesus, right where we are.
Being moved by Grace toward all God has for us.

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WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

Thank you for joining us today! If it's your first time with us, please stop by the Connect Center in the lobby for a free gift. We'd love to meet you.

GU News & Events

LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY – TONIGHT

The GU Ladies Christmas Party, "God WITH Us" is tonight at 5pm! You can still sign up for a food item to share in the lobby. Bring a \$15 (max) gift to exchange during the party. All ladies are invited out for this night of fun games, yummy food, and time together.

FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING

GU will be hosting a First Aid/CPR class December 28th at 9am. The cost is \$45, and you can register in the lobby. Contact Mindy Adams with any questions at mindyadams82@gmail.com.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to come out to breakfast at Golden Corral on Lindbergh Saturday, December 28 at 8am. You can contact Glenn Adams at glennmadams81@gmail.com.

Christmas

AT GRACE UNION

**GOD WITH US
SERMON SERIES**
12/15 & 12/22 10am

**CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS EVE**
12/24 5pm

We hope you'll be with us these next few weeks as we celebrate God WITH Us.



Membership Meeting

DECEMBER 29

If you would like to find out more about GU and membership, please stay with us after service on Sunday, December 29.



God WITH Us Part 1: Vulnerability

Matthew 1:18-23

- 18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.
- 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.
- 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
- 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
- 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

I. In Jesus, the Eternal God emptied himself of divine privilege and experienced a human life.

- A. For some reason God put on human flesh and started his story in absolute Vulnerability.

Hebrews 4:15-16

- 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to EMPATHIZE with our WEAKNESS, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.
 - 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may RECEIVE MERCY and FIND GRACE to help us in our time of need.
- B. Our mediator has been where we are and knows how to ask the Father for just what we need.

II. Our lives are full of situations and feelings of Vulnerability.

- A. Vulnerability can be a terrible Feeling.
 - Sometimes our vulnerability is Real: we really are as weak as we feel.
 - Sometimes our vulnerability is more just how we feel inside our head.

III. God could immediately end our Vulnerability if He chose to.

- A. We walk through so many Vulnerable situations that God does ultimately change, so why doesn't he stop them before we suffer?

2 *Corinthians 12:7-10*

- 7 I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.
8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.
9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

B. When our Vulnerability drives us to rely on God, we are STRONGER FOR IT.

- Your weakness coupled with God's strength is far more powerful than your strength alone would ever be.

IV. The real win is not just getting your problem solved. The real win is doing so and developing a Deep and Sustained Dependence on the True Source of Life.

Psalm 23 - "God is my Shepherd, so I have Everything I need."

V. Conclusion:

- A. God does not promise a trouble free path.
- But He will be your shepherd, and his direction will ensure that you have all you need for where you find yourself.
 - And as you rely on him to do FOR YOU what you cannot do for yourself, his Great Power will be made Complete in your Weakness and Vulnerability.

2019

PRAYPURSUEPARTY

DECEMBER

- 1 Healthcare Team Meeting
- 5 Book Discussion Group
- 7 Children's Dress Rehearsal
- 8 Children's Christmas Play
- 15 Ladies' Christmas Party
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 28 Men's Breakfast (Golden Corral)
- 28 First Aid/CPR Training
- 29 Membership Meeting
- 31 GUSudents NYE Lock-in
- 2,9,16,23,30 Food Addicts Anonymous

JANUARY 2020

- 5 Healthcare Team Meeting
- 23 Men's Dinner
- 24 Youth Winter Retreat
- 29 Growth Track Begins
- 6,13,20,27 Food Addicts Anonymous

* See graceunionstl.org or [Facebook.com/graceunionstl](https://www.facebook.com/graceunionstl) for details about these and other GU Events! *

WAYS TO CONNECT



SUNDAYS @ 10AM
Nursery-Elementary



SUNDAYS @ 9AM
Adults



SUNDAYS (Middle School) @ 10:15
WEDNESDAYS (Gr 6-12) @ 6:30PM



DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN
americanbible.org



PRAYER NEEDS
Email: gucprayer@gmail.com

WAYS TO GIVE



ENVELOPE
Offering/Giving Box



TEXT TO GIVE
314.888.5188
Tithe-Missions-Hub



ONLINE
graceunionstl.org

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

- **Rev. Bob Poley, Lead Pastor**
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