



# GRACE NOTES

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 46 WOODLAND STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06105 860-527-7792

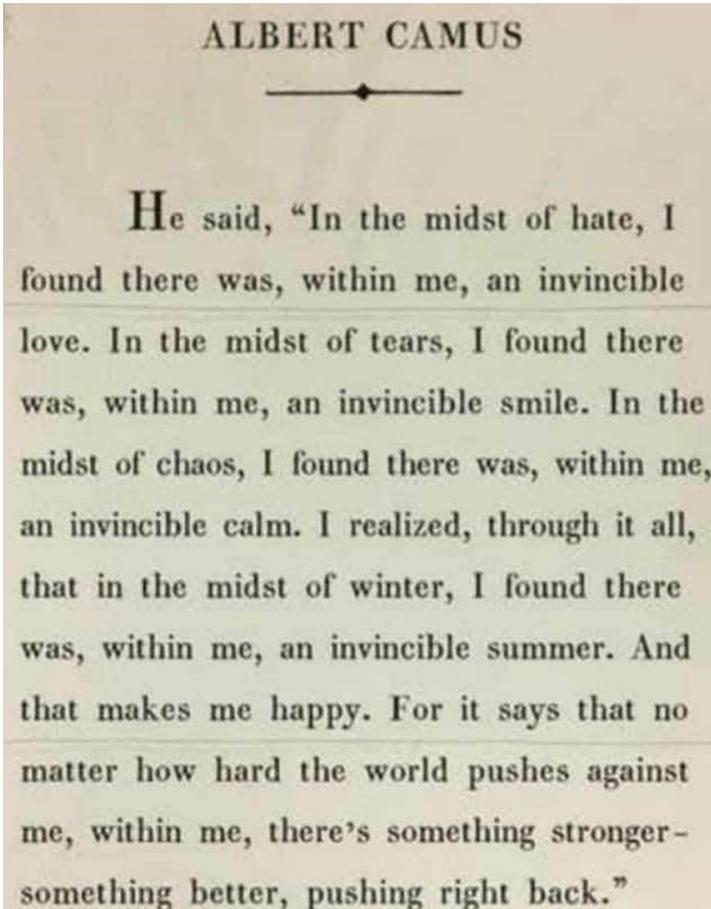
October 2020

## 2016 - 2020

We have lived through the most difficult four years of my life, and I bet many of yours. Our country, the one we hoped to aspire to be great, is spinning downwards with frightening speed, unimpeded. We once hoped we might become the light of the world.

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In the last four years we have undergone a comprehensive and dramatic metamorphosis. Now, divided like never-before in recent memory, the lights are almost out. Over generations one can imagine that a country might change dramatically. However, the United States of America has in a relatively short time become lost in corruption, power mongering and the exercise of corporate and individual wealth unseen perhaps in the history of the world. We



must take stock and do it now. With our national elections approaching, and a threat from the incumbent to refuse to leave office even if he loses the popular and electoral votes, he threatens what could lead to armed conflict, if not civil war. In less than four years led by a reality TV- show host president, one who promised to "drain the swamp", did so by removing large numbers of talented, knowledgeable and experienced people, while creating the largest swamp in this country's history. And, this is not simply about matters of political differences and maneuvers.

His policies have led to more than 206,000 deaths by mismanaging the Pandemic, and has used vengeance as a tool of governing, along with bribery, fraud, and language so inappropriate that parents turn off the TV when the president is speaking. We are not the country we once were.

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## **Pastor's Message — One Month to Go!**

I am praying for November, not because I love Thanksgiving, even though I do. It's more like: "Wouldn't it be wonderful if by Thanksgiving (1) we knew we would have new leadership in our country, (2) a new administration would be under construction, and (3) the pandemic team would be led by my scientists and medical experts! And, gathered at the table at Thanksgiving were all of our family members, wearing masks and distancing with wonderfully broad smiles of hope on what we could see of their faces, and what we knew was in their hearts.

Of course, this will not happen unless there is a major landslide and Mr. President and his cronies all receive their walking papers in November, before din din. Why not, if they can do what they have done in four years, we can begin to clean up and out within days, weeks and months. Let's pray for that outcome, but rather than regurgitating as I have in this issue some of the ugliest and worst moments of the last four years, let us begin to celebrate that the end is near. Not the end of the world, but our last change has been given to us by our collective commitment to care for all of our people, with love and compassion.

That we will plan for the proper response to the pandemic, we will join together in moving our country into a deep and lasting response to slavery and its vestiges, justice is returned with genuine interest and collective effort and that our planet will once again become a focus of our leadership and our hope for our children and their children. None of that will happen overnight but all of that may begin if we have shown the door to the existing administration, not with vindictiveness but with hope. We won't treat them as they have treated us. We will try something "holy" and different.

But nothing happens unless we vote and we vote in large numbers. That can be done and our State should be a lay-up. If we have friends and family in other states this is the time to have very serious conversations about the importance of moving on and trying out new solutions. Again, to do that, we must have a huge voter turnout. John Lewis encouraged us, Ruth Bader Ginsburg tried to hang on with her life until we might all have the chance to cast our vote for change. And her prayers were for all of us to have that opportunity, not just those that were permitted to vote, or enabled to vote. We all need to be enabled to vote.

There has never been a significant instance of voter fraud in the history of this country. Let's understand that any stories that suggest something different were simply constructed to sew further doubt into the fabric of our country. We don't have presidents who say before the voting that I believe this election will be rigged against me and I will not allow that to happen. I will just stay in power. There is no need for a change of leadership.

And in the midst of all this... the words, the truth and the lies, are our children watching how we pivot towards their lives, hopes and dreams? Watch us rejoin the Paris Accords, rejoin with our allies, draw clearer lines for those who follow an authoritarian vein, and begin to demonstrate how we can deal with our problems with love, not hate, unity not separation, love and not wealth and power. This is a test for us of humankind. When we write the November Grace Notes may it be at a time of emerging joy. Yes, people will still be suffering, and particularly those poor, sick, oppressed, imprisoned and separated from families and friends. That won't change overnight, but we will begin to see signs of change even before the inauguration in January. Vote now, and let's celebrate real soon. Amen.

A Republican member of the coronavirus task force said, "the president showed a "flat-out disregard for human life." Our enemies put bounties on our soldiers; soldiers who have given their lives in combat, and those who served with distinction are characterized as "suckers" and "losers." He decries the need to shake "the filthy hands" of those in his own base.

What this article will seek to do is to point out proven losses that we have incurred in the last four years, and the gains those losses have given him in the same period. Like you, we are under near constant stress and agitation by way of what our government does or says, and what it doesn't tell us about, but does in secret. There has to be a way to find a place where we can rebuild what's left of our democracy.

Camus so well captures my better self in these times. I also believe to the depth of my soul that God is here, present, and He is in control. For the president who believes he has Christian America behind him, I say, "No, you don't." You have little understanding of anyone's faith, but you do know how to mock, shame and denigrate anyone and everyone as long as that treatment satisfies your wants and needs.

May these words, should you agree with them or not, move you to vote. Voter suppression is one of many strategies being employed to disrupt the 2020 vote. Russian interference denied by the president but put forth by the professionals of the FBI and CIA, the dismantling of the post office, and spreading lies about non-existent voter fraud are designed to assure at best a questionable outcome. It is his intention that he will serve at least two more terms as president.



The remarkable truth is to be found in the numerous books now published that shed light on his intentions and actions, and the large number of past members of his administration who now are speaking the truth, and making it clear that our worst fears are all true about the state of our domestic and international relations, they simply belie his claims. The reporting of the New York Times about his tax returns point to his paying no taxes in ten of the last 15 years. In 2016 and 2017 my son, David, paid more in taxes than the president of the United States a so-called billionaire. And he is indebted to others to the tune of over \$400 million dollars. Security risk? Yes!

May we hope that this all soon shall pass, and that we as a people find our better selves and

"Let us treat each other equally for we are all equal in the eyes of the Lord."

take steps to end this terrible period in our country's history. I apologize for the length and detail that follows, but it is not about me or us. It's about what has happened to our country and its reputation under four years of his lack of leadership and his focus on himself and his business and little else.

(continues on page 8)

## **WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN WHEN WE PRAY?**

This is one of the nicest e-mails I have seen and is so true:

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around.

We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received"

I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them."

I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally! At the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section," my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed.

"How is it that there is no work going on here?" I asked.

"So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked.

"Simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord."

"What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead, and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy."

"And if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity."

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day."



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## WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN WHEN WE PRAY?

(continued from page 4)

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 700 million people in the world."

"If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are envied by and more blessed than three billion people in the world."

"If your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare".

"If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm. You're unique to all those in doubt and despair."

"Okay. What now? How can I start?"

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special, and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Have a good day. Count your blessings. And if you care to, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.



### ATTN: Acknowledge Dept.

"Thank you Lord for giving me the ability to share this message and for giving me so many wonderful people with whom to share it."

(Courtesy of Lloyd Smith)



## Ginsburg's death on Rosh Hashanah significant for some Jewish Americans

News of her death traveled quickly via social media, and became a focal point in many New Year's services, religious leaders and observant Jews said.

By REUTERS SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 01:38

US SUPREME COURT Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, delivers remarks during a discussion hosted by the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington in 2019. (photo credit: REUTERS/SARAH SILBINGER)



WASHINGTON - Just as many Jews in the United States were sitting down to a post-sunset Rosh Hashanah dinner on Friday, preparing to dip apples in honey to signal the sweetness of the year to come, news came of [Ruth Bader Ginsburg's](#) death.

Ginsburg, the first female Jewish member of the US Supreme Court, died on one of the holiest days in Judaism, as many of the country's nearly six million Jews welcomed the new year 5781, based on the Hebrew calendar.

Ginsburg was raised in a secular household, but explained in 2018 that her religious background influenced her life's work: "I am a judge, born, raised and proud of being a Jew. The demand for justice, for peace and for enlightenment runs through the entirety of Jewish history and Jewish tradition."

News of her death traveled quickly via social media, and became a focal point in many New Year's services, religious leaders and observant Jews said.

"I heard of Ruth's death while I was reciting the Mourner's Kaddish at the [Rosh Hashanah](#) service," fellow Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer said in a statement, referring to a prayer in memory of the dead.

Ginsburg was "a great Justice, a woman of valor, a rock of righteousness, and my good, good friend," the statement said. "The world is a better place for her having lived in it."

Her death on the eve of Rosh Hashanah also has significance in Jewish tradition, rabbis and friends said. "One of the themes of Rosh Hashanah suggest that very righteous people would die at the very end of the year because they were needed until the very end," said Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism.

Those who die on the new year holiday are considered "tzadik," a title given to the righteous and saintly. "God has held back until the last moment because they were needed most & were the most righteous," National Public Radio journalist Nina Totenberg, a close friend of Ginsburg, wrote on Twitter.

Ginsburg, born in 1933 - the year Hitler was appointed as Chancellor of Germany - said her life's work was shaped by the Holocaust. "It makes you more empathetic to other people who are not insiders, who are outsiders," she said in an interview in 2018.

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Jacobs also noted Ginsburg was named for the biblical Ruth, the grandmother of the Jewish king David, and the person through whom redemption is supposed to come. "I like to think of our Ruth, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in terms of the generation to come that will carry on her legacy and do what she did - which is to repair many of the injustices of our world," he said.

"All of us are her descendants and we must carry on the challenging work of fighting for justice."

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## **Robert Graetz, the white minister who helped organize the 1950s Montgomery Bus Boycott, dies at 92**

The Rev. Robert Graetz, whose support of the 1955-56 Montgomery Bus Boycott made him a target of segregationists and sparked a career dedicated to social justice, died Sunday, at 92 while in hospice.

Graetz, who ministered to the Black majority-Trinity Lutheran Evangelical Church in Montgomery, Alabama, helped organize the early stages of the boycott and helped drive people to and from work. He was the only white clergyman to support the boycott, and like other participants in the boycott, the reverend and his family persisted in the face of harassment, terrorism, and death threats that extended to their preschool children. Vandals poured sugar in their gas tank; slashed their tires and sprayed acid over their cars. White students on segregated school buses shouted "n---r lover" at Graetz and his wife, Jeannie, as they walked the street. The family home was bombed twice, and while arrests were made, no one was ever convicted. Graetz often became emotional remembering the bombings in later years.

"People often said we had courage," he said in 2001. "There were times when I was scared to death."

Robert Graetz was born on May 16, 1928, in Charleston, West Virginia. In the mid-1940s, He entered Capital University in Bexley, Ohio, where he helped organize a "campus race relations club." Walter White, the longtime leader of the NAACP, once spoke to the club and said race relations were improving because of the growing presence of whites in civil rights battles. "Naturally I just beamed," Graetz said, "because that depiction really fit me."



### **The Montgomery Bus Boycott**

Graetz had spent barely six months as the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Evangelical Church in 1955 when Black leaders in the city organized the boycott following Parks' arrest on Dec. 1. The Sunday after the arrest and first organizational meetings, Graetz encouraged his congregation to unite behind the protest. "Let's try to make this boycott as effective as possible because it won't be any boycott if half of us ride the buses and half don't ride," Graetz told the congregation. "So if we're going to do it, let's make a good job of it."

From 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. each day, he drove a Chevrolet in support of the boycott, shuttling as many as 50 people a day between home and work. As a member of the Montgomery Improvement Association, Graetz organized car pools and raised money to pay for gas and automotive expenses.

**GAINS (2016 - 2020)**

Wealth for the wealthy; wealth for the Trumps; freeing of felons and traitors, street language in the Whitehouse; paying off of porn stars; no responses to subpoenas; removal of lots of inspector generals; ignoring checks and balances; use of U.S. resources or assets for political gain; presence and activity of Russian hackers and oligarchs; empowering white supremacists; loading up police with military equipment; creation of nameless paramilitary; use of crises for political and personal gain; lies with no consequences; playing one group against another; equating Nazi's with protestors; firing all tasked as watch dogs; vacancies in key positions; more hiring of cronies; more hiring of incompetents; no disclosures: financial, health, etc.; no recording of presidential meetings with foreign leaders; cabinet members under control; no consequences for anything; no bi-partisan effort at all; use of Fox News as spokespeople; meddling in Ukraine; lying about relationships with Russia, Saudi Arabia, etc.; opposing European Union and other allies; inviting Russia, China and others to interrupt our elections; use of Trump properties for commerce and government purposes; takeover of Voice of America; 26 alleged sexual harassments ignored; relationship with sex offenders; use of tear gas, paint guns and rubber bullets against peaceful protestors; unlimited Twitter; demeaning of the press; State Department; Supreme Court; name calling.

**LOSSES (2016 - 2020)**

Truth; justice; decency; respect; appreciation; collegiality; collaboration; teamwork; delegation; competence; intelligence; science; lives (more than 206,000); health care; relationship with the press; poverty; jobs; attorney general for the U.S.; justice department; FBI; EPA; CDC; Climate accord; using tear gas, rubber bullets, cabinet and military brass for unauthorized photo op; demeaning the military; disses hero John McCain - "he likes soldiers that aren't caught"; re-writing coronavirus directives with no medical or scientific review; routinely provides incorrect or dangerous direction relative to COVID-19; people have died after going to his rallies or events without protection; W.H.O.; supporting the killing of journalists and protestors who challenge dictators; anti-Muslim; immigration policy involves caging children and separating them from parents; before election pro-DACA; after election anti-DACA; policies on immigration in this country and his approach to them all over the world; bribery; fraud; money laundering; Palestinians; Iranian anti-nuclear agreement.

If the act would be helpful to you, please send us other "gains" and "losses" that we have missed to be added to our November issue. It is clear that we have only touched the surface.

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One of my favorite quotes from Dr. King (and there are so many noteworthy ones) is

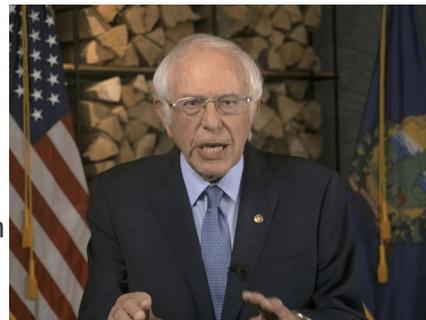
**"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools".**

This is still as appropriate now as it was many years ago when first shared by him. Since I know he is one of your favorite people I just wanted to share considering today's climate in this country.

(Courtesy of Lou Oliver)

## Bernie Sanders Says Americans Must Prepare To Stand Up For Democracy

One day after President Trump told reporters that he might not accept the results of the presidential election, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders said that Americans of all political stripes must be prepared to defend democracy and the rule of law.



"We must ensure, in this unprecedented moment in American history that this is an election that is free and fair, an election in which voters are not intimidated, an election in which all votes are counted and an election in which the loser accepts the results," Sanders said. "This is not just an election between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. This is an election between Donald Trump and democracy – and democracy must win."

Speaking from a mostly empty auditorium on the campus of George Washington University, Sanders sought to take on a visible role for Democrats raising alarms about the possibility that Trump will refuse to concede this fall if he loses.

On Wednesday, a reporter asked Trump during a White House press conference whether he would commit to a peaceful transfer of power, no matter which candidate comes out ahead.

"We're going to have to see what happens," Trump said. "You know that. I've been complaining very strongly about the ballots. And the ballots are a disaster," Trump told reporters, pointing to his unsubstantiated claims about mail-in ballot fraud.

"Get rid of the ballots and you'll have a very peaceful — there won't be a transfer, frankly, there'll be a continuation," Trump said. "The ballots are out of control. You know it. And you know who knows it better than anybody else? The Democrats know it better than anybody else."

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany sought to walk back those comments on Thursday, saying: "The president will accept the results of a free and fair election."

Trump has made similar comments before, including during a July interview with Fox News. Some Republicans rejected the sentiments on Thursday, but supporters argue the response is overblown; House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said on Thursday he thought the exercise was pointless because he believes Trump will win the election and simply go on to a second term.

Sanders said in his speech that the public should not brush off Trump's statements as a political distraction.

"I think it is terribly important that we actually listen to, and take seriously what Donald Trump is saying," he said.

The Vermont senator batted down Trump's attacks on voting by mail and warnings of widespread voter fraud and the possibility of a "rigged" election. Sanders also raised concerns about slowdowns at the Postal Service and Republicans pushing through a Supreme Court nomination in a year when key election litigation could end up before the high court.

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# Monthly Energy Production Report for Grace Evangelical Church

Enphase Energy maximizes your solar energy production and keeps you informed about your system. Your monthly energy report shows how your system performed and how much you contributed to offsetting the global carbon footprint.

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
08/01/2020 - 08/07/2020	0 W	0 Wh
08/08/2020 - 08/14/2020	0 W	0 Wh
08/15/2020 - 08/21/2020	14.6 kW	81.7 kWh
08/22/2020 - 08/28/2020	14.8 kW	592 kWh
08/29/2020 - 08/31/2020	14.8 kW	234 kWh
<b>August 2020 Total:</b>		<b>908 kWh</b>
<b>Previous Month Total:</b>		<b>0 Wh</b>
<b>Year to Date:</b>		<b>908 kWh</b>

For more details on these production results, please visit your [Enphase® system](#).

Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 1,383 lbs  
 You have offset the equivalent of: **16 Trees**



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## Bernie Sanders Says Americans Must Prepare To Stand Up For Democracy

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Trump said earlier this week he thought the results of the election might depend on action by the Supreme Court.

Sanders also described a scenario in which Trump could try to claim victory before all the ballots are counted.

"All across the television screens people see Trump ahead before they turn in for the night," Sanders said. "But as more and more mail in ballots are counted, Trump's lead falls. Trump then announces, with no proof, that there has been massive mail in ballot fraud and that these votes should not be counted and that he has won the election."

Sanders ticked through a list of what he said needed to be done now to prepare for this fall. He said massive turnout and a landslide victory for Joe Biden would make it harder for Trump to question the results. States that currently cannot start counting mail ballots until Election Day should pass laws to change that, Sanders said, to head off days of counting after Nov. 3rd.

The Vermont senator also called on social media companies to "get their act together" to combat disinformation and for the news media to prepare the public for the possibility of extended uncertainty.

"Lastly, and most importantly, the American people, no matter what their political persuasion, must make it clear that American democracy will not be destroyed," Sanders said.

### October 2020 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sorry Walter, We missed your Birthday, September 20th.

Gladys Jackson	10/02
Mavis Smith	10/03
Joycelyn Agyemang	10/05
Sherri Brown	10/05
Joycelyn Roberts	10/05
Ty-rese Merrill	10/08
Cynthia Jones	10/13
Miles Edward Abrom	10/15
Pr. Richard Kremer	10/21
Gretchen Unfried	10/22
Ryan Wellington	10/25
Akeva Koulla	10/26
Anna-Marie Potter	10/30

### Happy Anniversary

Rudolph & Rebecca Lewis	10/04
Herbert & Anne Reiher	10/12
Catherine & Jerrold Abrom	10/10

*May you all be blessed as you celebrate your special days!*





**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**46 Woodland Street**  
**Hartford, CT 06105**



### **Our Staff and Council Leadership**

The Rev. Rick Kremer, Pastor

rickkremer@aol.com

Nilda Bolorin, Parish Administrator

officeatgrace@sbcglobal.net

Dorothea Glatte, Lay Minister

Lloyd Smith, Lay Minister

Louisa Barton-Duguay, Religious Worker

Artist in Residence for Outreach

Barbara Ruhe, President

Barbara Calogero, Secretary

Dale Eberhardt, Treasurer

Janice Potter, Financial Assistant

Dale Eberhardt, Organist

Walter Scott, Sexton

[www.graceistheplace.org](http://www.graceistheplace.org)

