

Lamplight

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.
~Psalms 119:105



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Lamplight Staff

Featured Contributor

D. Grady Scott, Pastor

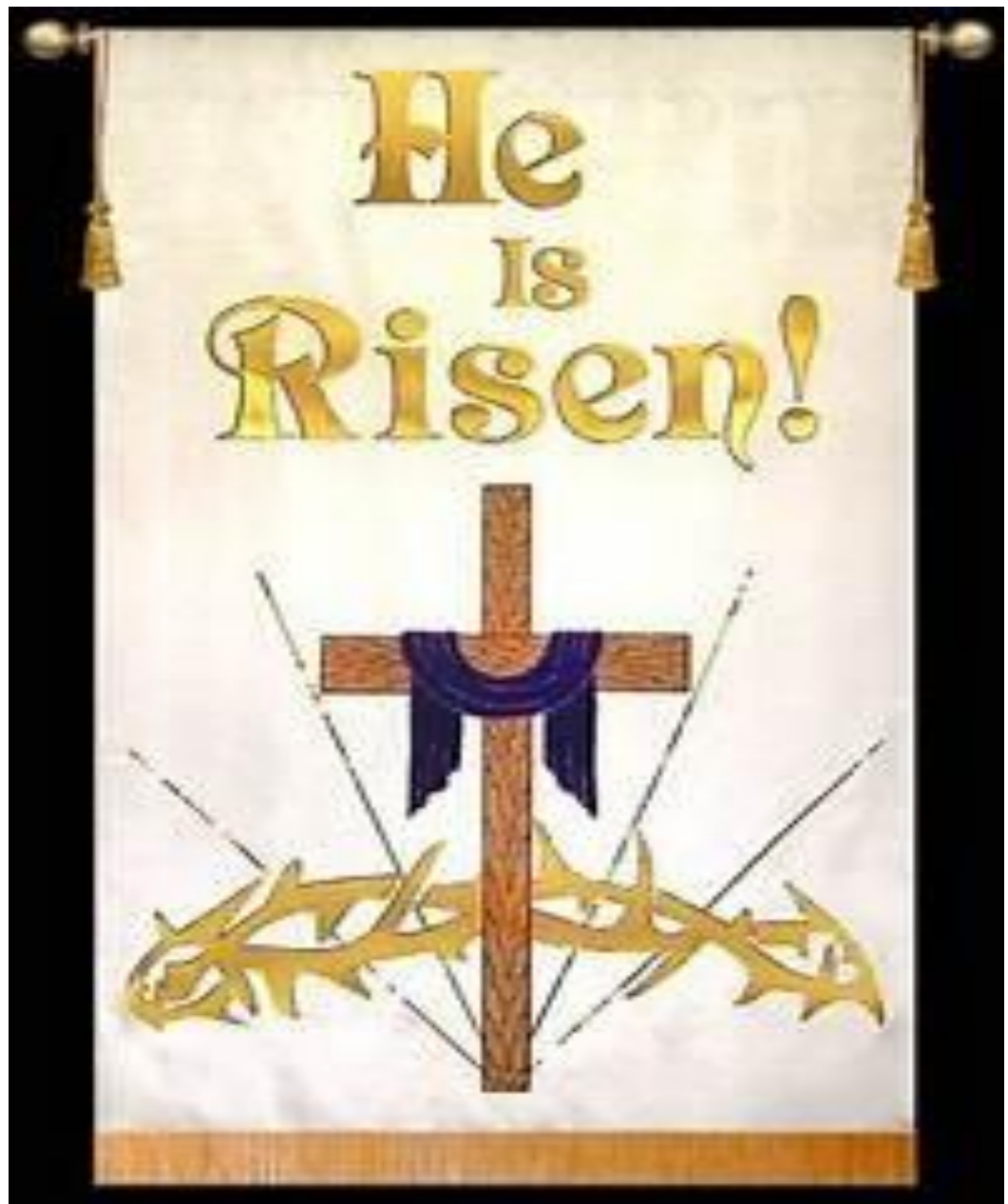
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**1 Corinthians 6:14, "And God raised the Lord
and will also raise us up by his own power."**

Happy Mother's Day

Margaret Hudson
Lamplight Editor

Prayer for Mothers on Mother's Day

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for godly mothers who give and serve selflessly day after day. Please bless them for the important role they play in the lives of their children and family members.

Just as mothers daily extend grace and encouragement, Lord, return that grace and encouragement back to them multiplied. Help them to give wise counsel, discipline, instruction, and to raise their children to know and love God.

Thank you for the example mothers are to their children and to others. Bless them, their children, and their families abundantly, and meet their every need. Please give these women of God health and strength to care for their loved ones. Fill their hearts with joy as they go about the mundane, day-to-day tasks. Carry their burdens, Lord. When they are weary, lift their spirits and restore their souls. Help them trust in you and lean on you alone for strength.

Let godly mothers recognize how important their lives are to their children and families. May they understand the vital role God has given them in their home and in the Kingdom of God. May they know how much they matter.

Amen.

—Author Unknown



Heaven Has Its Mother's Day

Heaven has its Mother's Day
This special time of year
No matter how much pain we feel Our mothers are
always near

We cannot touch, we cannot see
But in our hearts, they'll always be
Never forgotten, just gone away
To meet again on judgment day

Heaven has its deliveries
Of messages, chocolates, and flowers
No doubt there's a busy postman
Serving up all of ours

There isn't just one amazing mom
They're too numerous to count above
So share a word of thanks to God
For the mom you miss, the mom you love.

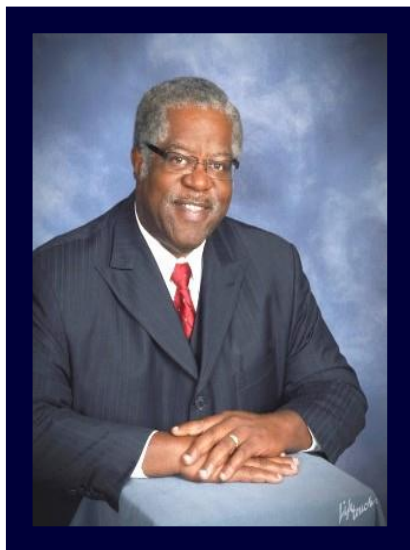
~ Gary Close



Miss You Mom!

D. Grady Scott, Pastor
Featured Contributor

PASTOR'S PAGE



Honoring Those We Lost In 2020

The **COVID-19** virus hit the world like a meteor. One week we were having in person worship the next week we were virtual. The impact of the virus, social distancing, wearing of masks, and limiting the number of people that could be in a room had one consequence that was particularly troubling. We were not able to celebrate the lives of our loved ones who transitioned as we were accustomed. While we had services, they were limited in scope. In a typical year we lose less than six to eight people, in 2020 we lost thirteen. Five were lost directly to the **COVID-19** virus. Because we were not able to honor our loved ones as we

a have a special service once it becomes safe to do so.

How COVID-19 Changed Worship As We Know It

The church post **COVID** will be a hybrid (combination) of in person worship and virtual worship. This transition is a result of growing popularity of worshipping online. While it was discouraged previously, it has become the only way to meet now. Once the church is able to meet again in person, some people will more likely not return. Meetings are another thing that we necessarily change. It will no longer be necessary to have meetings in person because technology has made it possible to see people, present material, and avoid the trouble associated with in person meetings. We have learned to cut unnecessary parts of our service. Attention is now paid to the use of time because people are not as likely to continue to watch when they are not interested. As we return to normal, we will (no doubt) bring back some things we did before the pandemic, some things that should never have been will be gone not to come back.

When We Come Back It Will Be Different

Our services are being viewed in many different states and in 9 different countries.

When we were worshipping in person, we averaged 150-300 people on a regular basis. Since going virtual we average 400 to 600 views (some weeks as high as 1,000) views. Because we are reaching people we have not been reaching, we have to return to excellence in our service. For a while even in person worship will be shorter. This is to lessen the time people are in person. It will impact how we conduct the Lord's Supper because handling and touch must be limited. Finally, contributions will be received differently; in person, online, drop off, via US mail.

Thank You For Your Commitment

Grace Temple is and has been a great church. The pandemic has revealed it in ways previously unknown. Completing our renovation without having to borrow money was a great accomplishment. People have been faithful in giving, worshipping online, attending Bible Studies, consistent in prayer and making a difference.

The Marriage Ministry Picking Up the Pieces

Carmen Wallace
Lamplight Staff

There are times in our lives when picking up the puzzle pieces and putting them together were so simple. Especially when these were large puzzle pieces that our children strewed all over the family room. However, what do you do when the puzzle pieces are monumental, parts are missing, some are worn out, torn in pieces, or cannot be found.

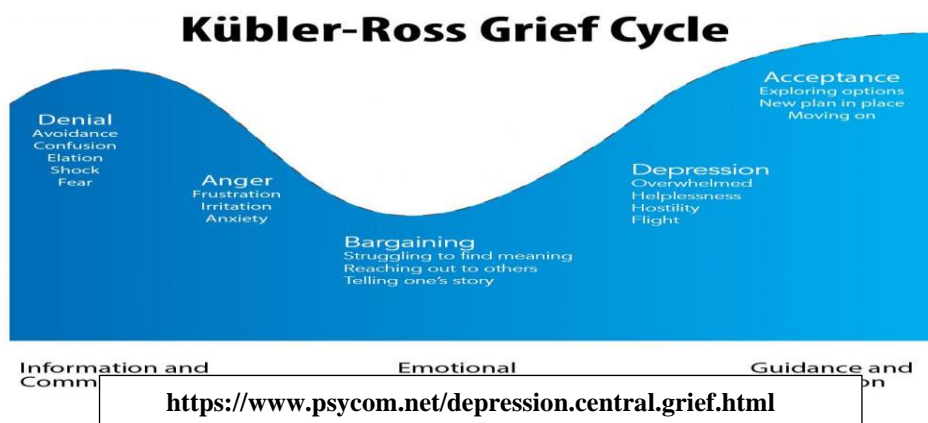
Life as we know it over the past year has handed us all kinds of puzzle pieces. **COVID-19** pandemic has devastated the world, people dying without loved ones at their bedsides. People dying faster than they can be buried, so the morgues are filled, and the only other option is refrigerated trucks. Funeralizing loved ones has also taken on a new meaning. Funeral services limited to twenty-five or so family members and friends. Many times, family members could be in the hundreds; the next best thing are live streaming or zoom where grieving becomes so sterile lack of the human touch.

We have and are still facing social unrest, increased financial burdens, home schooling, increased suicides in school-aged children as well adults. Congregational worship in buildings dedicated for this purpose has also been impacted by the pandemic. The buildings that are opened are also limited to the number of people that can occupy that space.

Life seems overwhelming, husbands and wives dying hours apart, children dying ahead of parents. How do we process what is happening, how do we process so many losses? Amid this all we still have an “anchor that holds despite the storm.” The Psalmist said, “God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble” (**Psalm 46:1 NLT**).

Picking up the puzzle pieces of our lives is hard enough, but the hardest part is when pieces are missing. Whether we are Christians or not we all grieve the loss of something or someone. The loss of health, financial security, loss of a loved one to name a few.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross wrote extensively about the stages of grief: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression and Acceptance. Each person grieves differently and may not go through the grieving process sequentially. The important thing is being able to transition through the stages until you can get to a place of accepting the loss or losses. In all things, we must remember the promise from God, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you” (**Hebrews 13:5 NLT**).



To Grace Temple Family...A Love Letter from Jesus

Margaret Hudson
Lamplight Editor

I love you very much. You are so precious and valuable to Me. I think about you all the time and have wonderful plans for you. The thoughts and plans that I have for you are to give you a future and a hope that is beyond what you could ask for or ever think. (John 1:1-4, 14;3:16, Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 103:1-18; Ephesians 3:20; Isaiah 55:8,9).

You are My child. You belong to Me for I not only created you, I died on the cross for all the sins of the world. (Psalm 139:13; John 3:16,17; Colossians 1:12-16; Galatians 3:10-13; 1 John 2:2; 1 Peter 1:1:18,19).

God Is Not Counting Your Sin Against You

Through my perfect life and death, you have been reconciled to God. No matter who you are or what you have done, God is not counting your sin against you. You are free to come to Him just as you are and be reconciled to Him. (2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Romans 12:1).

I will tell you the same thing I told a woman who had committed adultery. "I don't condemn you! Go and sin no more." You are free to experience My unconditional love for you and leave your life of sin and pain. (John 8:11; Romans 2:4; 5:18; 6:14-16; 8:1).

When you call to Me, I will answer. When you seek Me with all your heart, you will find Me, for I am anxious to be found by you. When you give Me permission, I will make My home with you. (Jeremiah 29:12, -13; Mathew 11:28-30; John 12:23; Revelation 3:20).

Healing the Broken-hearted and Setting People Free

I love you with an everlasting love! Nothing can change that. When you hurt, I am hurting with you, just as a parent suffers when their child is in pain. (Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 8:31-39; Mathew 23:37-39 25:34-45; Hosea 11:1-8).

All human pain and suffering is ultimately a result of Adam and Eve's choice to learn about evil. When they sinned, I immediately stepped in to be the Savior of the world. (Genesis 2:15-17; Revelation 13:8; Romans 5:12-18; Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:29; 4:42; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 John 2:2).

When I was on this earth, My mission was to share good news with the poor, heal the broken-hearted, and free people enslaved by sin. Satan has told many lies about Me in on order to lead people to reject Me. He seeks to steal, kill, and destroy as many as he can. I came so everyone might experience the abundant life that was originally intended for the human race. (Luke 4:18; Revelation 12:7-9; 1 Peter5:8; John 8:31-36,44; 10:10).

Will Soon Bring an End to All Sin and Death

Soon the day will come when I return to earth and take to heaven all who want to live with Me forever. All those "who have fallen asleep" trusting in Me will be resurrected with brand new bodies. (Jhon 14:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Thessalonian 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54).

I long for the day when we will be together again in person. After all sin is destroyed and the earth is cleansed by fire, I will create a new heaven and new earth. All tears will be wiped away and there will be no more pain, crying, sorrow, or death. (John 14:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10-13; 1 Corinthians 15:26; Revelation 20:14; 21:1,4).

Until then, trust Me! I will take care of you, for I love you with all My heart. (Mathew 6:33; Philippians 4:19; 1 Peter 5:7; Romans 6: 5-10; 8:31,32). ~SignsTime.com.

With Love Always, Your Creator, Savior Friend.

Jesus

YOUNG ADULTS, TEENS and CHILDREN

Cynthia Herring
Lamplight Staff

APPRECIATION... { Say It, Show It, Share It }

YOUNG ADULTS and TEENS. WE learn at a very young age the importance of saying “please” with a request and “thank you” when someone does something nice or gives us a compliment. These words might sound simple to some, but they can mean the world to others. Everyone wants to be shown gratitude or appreciation at some point in their lives. It makes us feel good when we know that someone appreciates us. How do you show your appreciation to your friends, family, and God? Or are you too busy with daily activities, texting, games, and social media sites.

Christ constantly showed gratitude toward people. He always took time out to talk with people and often gave thanks to God, showing us the importance of thanking God. The Bible gives us specific instruction on the persons toward whom we should express our **APPRECIATION**:

1. **GOD.** We should always remember to give thanks to God at all times. There are over 170 Scriptures in the Bible that talk about the importance of giving thanks to the Lord. Give God thanks throughout the day for being there. Read Psalm 106:1
2. **OTHER PEOPLE** {family friends, and foes}. Studies show that recognition and appreciation lifts people up. Showing appreciation is not limited to only those we love. The next time we see a person who may be looking a little down and sad, we are encouraged to take time out to brighten his or her day.
3. **THE CHURCH.** Attend services, be attentive and active, volunteer to help others, keep the church clean, give tithes and offerings, and respect the importance of the Church.

Take time out this week to simply say thanks and remember the key to appreciation is to **say it, show it, and share it**. Please do not use Coronavirus as an excuse, because you can always make a telephone call. Always remember to pray for yourself, family, and others. **MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU!**

CHILDREN. For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16.

MY PRAYER CORNER

Day by Day, Dear Lord of Thee,
Three things I pray,
To see Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly, Day by Day!

AMEN



What's Happening

GRACE TEMPLE EVENTS:

The Marriage Ministry: Will be having a 5th Sunday Event in the Kitchen/ Dining room, following the 10:00 A.M. Service.

The Prayer Ministry: Meets in the Sanctuary from 7:00- 8:00 A.M. for prayer on the Saturday before the First Sunday of every month. Let's remember that it is PRAYER that changes things!

Rena's Movie Night: Every 2nd Saturday from 3:00-7:00 P.M. featuring biblical movies, refreshments, open discussion about the movie, and personal reflection. Please join Rena Washington for "Christian Movie Night," in the Education Wing!

Men of Grace Gospel Group: Every 2nd Sunday at 8:00 A.M. Service.

The Young Adult Ministry: Invites all young adults ages 18-35 to bible study every 1st and 3rd Friday from 6:30-7:30 P.M. in the Education Wing. Rev Terry Dodd (Facilitator).

Diaper Giveaway: Every third Saturday at Annex # 3. Starting at 9:00 A.M.

Some events above may be canceled due to Covid 19.

Some community announcements provided courtesy of: **Rev. Amos L. Lewis**, Senior Pastor and IMA CAT Facilitator
Rising Star MBC
allewis@risingstarbaptist.org.

Scripture for the "Spring" season.

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." **Isaiah 43: 18-19**



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Continue to support the Church!

REMINDER: MORTGAGE GRANT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE - The City of Tucson is offering a program to assist homeowners within city limits behind on their mortgages as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Homeowners must have a pre-foreclosure notice or a foreclosure scheduled. The program is administered by the Community Investment Corporation (CIC), through Family Housing Resources (FHR), and provides \$3,000-\$5,000 per homeowner to assist in mortgage payments. Payments will be verified and paid directly to the mortgage loan servicer and will include fees incurred due to nonpayment of mortgages. These funds are only available until Dec. 31, and income limits apply. Call (520) 318-0993 (ext. 114), or email info@fhrinc.net for more information and eligibility requirements.

What's Happening

Dr. Fauci "To My African-American Brothers and Sisters" ...Woman Developed COVID-19 vaccine

Dr. **Anthony Fauci** wants Black Americans skeptical about the COVID-19 vaccines to know a Black woman was at the forefront of creating one of them ... so fear not.

The nation's leading infectious disease expert spoke Tuesday at an event hosted by the National Urban League and, while discussing racism in medical research and how it is created mistrust ... Fauci put a spotlight on the contributions of Black scientists in the historic development of COVID vaccines ... most notably **Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett**.

While it might have sounded awkward, Fauci was simply addressing the elephant in the room -- a new study shows only 14% of African Americans trust the vaccine will be safe and only 18% trust it will be effective. That is alarming, considering a large portion of the country needs to get vaccinated in order to beat the virus which has disproportionately affected people of color.

Corbett's a pretty big deal in the medical research world. She is the lead scientist for coronavirus vaccine research at Fauci's National Institute of Health. She was also part of the team that worked with **Moderna** to develop its vaccine that is expected to get emergency use authorization from the FDA and be rolled out later this month.

Fauci added, "So, the first thing you might want to say to my African-American brothers and sisters is that the vaccine that you're going to be taking was developed by an African-American woman. And that is just a fact. "~REUTERS.



The Lamplight will be published quarterly. Please submit your announcements, events, photos, or articles to: [GTLamplight@gmail.Com](mailto:GTLamplight@gmail.com) Thank you!

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GRACETEMPLE
becoming a ministering community