



ENCOUNTERS
with **JESUS**

WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

- ➔ Praise & Worship
- ➔ Welcome/Announcements
- ➔ Offering
- ➔ Message: Pastor Bob Poley
- ➔ Prayer
- ➔ WATER BAPTISMS



Thank you for joining us today. We're glad you're here. If this is your first time with us, please visit the Welcome table in the front lobby. We have a gift for you and would like to meet you.

NEWS & EVENTS



Baptism is a public declaration of ones' faith and newness of life in Christ. Please stay after service today to witness and celebrate with those who are taking this important step of water baptism!

GU HOSPITALITY MINISTRY - NEW OPPORTUNITIES

We are putting together a group of folks who are interested in volunteering at upcoming Grace Union events. We would like to hear from men and women who would be able to help with everything from setting up chairs, to decorating, putting away tables, cooking/barbecuing and more. When we have an event such as an all church bbq, food truck night, or even our Easter egg hunt, we would send out an email with descriptions of the event and places we need help. If you are interested or have ideas, email us to let us know. If not, we won't bug you until the next event.

If you would like to be a part of the GU Hospitality Ministry, or have questions about it, talk to Karen today, or email her at karenmomma@live.com.

Community Outreach

SIGN UP TODAY!

May 20th 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Hamburgers/Hot Dogs, Children's Games, Inflatable, Face Painting

Contact Janet McFarland at 314.448.9691.



Each year we partner with Oasis International to serve the refugee community in St. Louis with a summer outreach! Sign up in the lobby today to bless families in the Bevo Mill area through this event!

A promotional poster for "Breakaway Kids Camp '17". It features a large yellow emoji wearing sunglasses on the left. The text "Breakaway Kids Camp '17" is written in a playful, hand-drawn font. Below the emoji, it says "COMPLETED 1st-6th grade". The dates "JUNE 19-23" are prominently displayed in the center. To the right, it says "EARLY BIRD REG. \$199 BY 5/1". At the bottom, there is a row of seven smaller yellow emojis with various expressions: laughing with tears, smiling, smiling with a sweat drop, neutral, laughing with tears, laughing with a wide open mouth, and smiling.

If you would like your child to go to camp this year, registration is open at ilsmonline.org! Payment is made to Grace Union Church. The camp leaders and their contact information are:

- *Girls completing 1st-2nd grade:* Carrie Clifton - lcclifton@aol.com
- *Girls completing 3rd-6th:* Stacey Bush - newagainexteriors@gmail.com
- *Boys completing 3rd-6th:* Pastor Bob Poley - bobpoley78@gmail.com



GU Students are going to camp June 12-16. There are only 25 spots, so you'll want to get your registrations in early! You can also visit smyonline.org for more information about the camp. Contact Pastor Patrick Daniels today at patrickdaniels1137@gmail.com

OUR MISSION

We are helping people to live in union with Christ by grace.

- Union with God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Union with Others through investing in people through Biblical community.
- Union with Ourselves with a wholeness found in a new identity in Christ.
- Union with our Broken World by being an agent of change in our society by caring for and serving those who are poor, oppressed or marginalized.

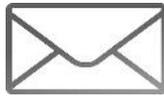
We value sharing the love, life and power of God to our communities and world, joining Christ in his mission to rescue fallen humanity.

WAYS TO CONNECT



For any special needs, prayer partners are available after service. You can also email gucprayer@gmail.com.

WAYS TO GIVE



ENVELOPE

Offering or Giving Box



TEXT TO GIVE

Text GIVE to 314.888.5188



ONLINE

graceunionstl.org

MAILING ADDRESS

3900 Union Road, St. Louis, MO 63125

Visit us online to learn more about Grace Union at graceunionstl.org.

All of our message recordings can also be found on our website.



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ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

PART 1: WORD WORLD

I. Problem: All too often words end up being hollow.

Text: *Mark 1:16-28*

II. Point: Jesus' words carry the power to conceive.

- A. When Jesus said, "Come follow me," it brought something to life inside those people.
- B. This same authority and tendency to conceive reality was displayed as Jesus taught.
 - These people listened to extremely educated and well-studied people talk about truth their whole lives.
 - But there was something all together different about the way Jesus described the world, people, and God.

Romans 4:17

God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

- The words of God possess Declarative Creational Power.

Colossians 2:19

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

- Jesus was the full expression of God and God's ability in human form.

- C. At their best, our words DESCRIBE reality; Jesus' words DETERMINE reality.
- D. With Jesus we have a figure who's words we can built our world on.
 - Our self image.
 - Our expectations of life and God.
 - Our hopes for the future.
 - A solid and wholesome set of marching orders for our lives now.

III. These are the Realities Jesus speaks ABOUT US.

A. You are Loved.

John 15:9

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

- Jesus speaks out an endless unquenchable love for us, and he admonishes us to make the choice to remain inside of it.

B. You are known and cared for by Almighty God.

Matthew 10:29-31

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

- God is more in touch with my circumstances than I am.

C. We are built to find shelter and strength in Him.

Matthew 11:28-29

28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- The closer we pull into Jesus, we find our source of shelter and strength.
- 3 p's Pursue, Prayer, Party
 - We draw close as we internalize his WORD (Pursue).
 - We draw close in prayer & worship (Prayer).
 - We can even draw close in FELLOWSHIP (Party) with other Jesus followers.

D. You derive shelter and strength in direct relation to your closeness to Jesus.

E. You are safe and secure with Jesus.

John 10:28

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

- When you sincerely repent and put your faith in Jesus, you are not grabbing on to God, God is grabbing on to you.

IV. These are the realities Jesus speaks To Us.

A. The ongoing posture of people should be Repentance.

Matthew 4:17

Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near.

- On the most basic, fundamental level, our responsibility to God is to stop moving away from him and begin moving toward him.
- Repentance is a state of mind that says, *"I am going to consistently find things that I do wrong, and as I find them I will adjust them. It is not a question of if I will submit; I am submitted and waiting to be shown what to do, or what not to do."*

B. Repenting is closely tied to FOLLOWING.

Matthew 4:19 – After saying repent Jesus said, “Come follow me.”

- Part of what Jesus came to do was to show humanity the way forward.

C. Jesus tells us to mimic his love for us in the way we love other Christians.

John 13:34

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, by this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another.

D. God wants to give to us, when we ask him.

Matthew 7:7-11

7 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask.

- God does not just give, give, give on autopilot. He wants us to Ask, Seek, and Knock. But when we do, He WANTS to GIVE.

Matthew 7:24-29

24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” 28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

- To put the words of Jesus into practice in your life is to link yourself to a foundation that will not fail you, even when the storms of life RAGE.
- God wants to give you a life of Blessing. God wants wholeness and stability for you. He wants joy and peace for you. **He wants better stuff for you than you want for you.**
 - All the necessary building blocks for THAT LIFE have already been given.
 - Build your life OUT OF and ON TOP OF the WORDS of Jesus.
 - Make his WORDS your WORLD.

THIS WEEK

Visit us online for information about these events and more.
graceunionsil.org or facebook.com/graceunionsil

MONDAY (4/24)

Alcoholics Anonymous (GU Family Room) - 7 pm
(Led by Jeff Hall - 314.620.6635)

TUESDAY (4/25)

WEDNESDAY (4/26)

Prayer Group (Main Auditorium) - 5 pm
GU Students (Youth Auditorium) - 6:30 pm

THURSDAY (4/27)

FRIDAY (4/28)

Men's Conference

SATURDAY (4/29)

SUNDAY (4/30)

GU Small Groups
M&M Village Women's Group (Conf. Room B) - 9 am
Men Alive in Christ (Conf. Room C) - 9 am

Adult/Student Service (Main Aud.) - 10 am
GU Kids (Early Childhood-Elementary) - 10 am

SAVE THE DATES

5/3 - Elementary Book Club
5/20 - Oasi Int'l BBQ Outreach

6/12-16 - Youth Camp
6/19-20 - Kids Camp

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

OFFICE: 314.892.2757

PRAYER: GUCPRAYER@GMAIL.COM

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