

Welcome

to



GraceUnion
CHURCH

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

3900 Union Rd, St. Louis, MO 63125 | graceunionstl.org
Email: graceunionstl@gmail.com | Phone: 314.892.2757

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



PARENTS AND STUDENTS grades 1st-12th! Today's practice is for **ALL STUDENTS**. This is our final Sunday practice; **dress rehearsal is Saturday at 8:45am!**

Our annual Children's Production is **NEXT SUNDAY** with **TWO SERVICES**. **Note: The PreK/K performance will only be during the 9am service.** The two elementary performances will be identical; just choose the time that works best for your family. Free cookies and photos with Santa will be in the Family Room after each performance.



Our annual Ladies Christmas Party is **TONIGHT!** For our gift exchange fill a stocking with \$15 (max) of things you think another woman would love, and we'll have a fun swap. Bring a dish to share. See Karen or Ashley today with any questions. All of the details are also on our FB page!



Christmas Season
at  GraceUnion
CHURCH

<i>The Gift Series</i>	<i>Children's Production</i>	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
DEC 2,16,23 10AM	DEC 9 9AM & 11 AM	DEC 24 6PM

We have a great Christmas schedule of events coming up! We hope you'll be with us as we focus on the true Gift of Christmas.



**Water
BAPTISM**
12.16.18

Water Baptism is a public declaration of ones' newness of life in Christ. If you would like to take this important step of faith, please fill out a Connection Card noting "Baptism," place it in the offering, and we will contact you.



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**
DECEMBER 22 – 8AM
Golden Corral – 6110 S. Lindbergh Blvd
Contact Glenn Adams at glennmadams81@gmail.com.

All men are invited to breakfast Saturday, December 22nd at Golden Corral here on Lindbergh. You can contact Glenn Adams with any questions

The Gift (Part 1): The Perfect Priest

- 1) When given with thought and purpose, gifts always reveal something about everyone in the transaction.

Matthew 2:1-12 tells us that Magi or Wise Men came from the East.

Matthew 2:11 – On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- 2) Remember, these gifts show something about who the givers think the receiver is.
- 3) It is evident that these Magi knew something about who this baby was and what he would do in the world.

I. Question: What did Frankincense point to?

- A. Frankincense was a standard tool in the tool chest of a priest.
- B. So this Jewish baby born in a feed trough was somehow already a Priest the moment he entered the world.

II. What does it mean that Jesus is Priest?

- A. A priest is a mediator or a “go between.”
- B. One of the priest's primary roles was to know God himself, to understand God, to relate to God; and then to help the people understand, know, and relate to God, through him.
- C. A serious limitation of any priestly system is that people can only know God as well as the priest knows God.

III. Before Jesus, people were prone to gravely misunderstand and misrepresent God.

- A. “On the sixth day God made man in his image and every day since then man has been returning the favor.”
- B. Israel, God's people, were Violent, Angry, Judgmental, and hated outsiders; because somehow along the way they came to believe that's what God was like.

IV. The Incarnation of Jesus fixed and fulfilled the Priestly System.

- A. *Colossians 2:9* – For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form

- B. The Revelation of God was perfect. But our understanding of it and our communication of that understanding to others is where the problems always came in.
- C. But when God took on human flesh it changed everything.
 - Now any person can look to and interact with Jesus and receive a FULL understanding of who God is, and what he is really like.
- D. *John 12:49* – For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.
 - We can know exactly how God feels toward people.
 - He loved and cleansed lepers.
 - He gave value and new beginnings to prostitutes.
 - He welcomed and redeemed traitorous tax collectors.
 - People who never felt like God's kind of people, through Jesus, felt like God's eyes and hands were on their lives.
 - They didn't just stop doing bad stuff. They became part of the Good, Healing, and Beautiful work God is doing in the world.
- E. Through the Disciples, Jesus shows us HOW GOD ACTS TOWARD OUR IGNORANCE:
 - In gentleness, honesty, directness, grace, and love Jesus walked with them toward truth and justice
- F. This is why Reading the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) is SO POWERFUL and CRUCIAL.
 - When you are reading Jesus' words you are Reading God's authoritative and completely clear thoughts on whatever Jesus is talking about.

V. When those Magi handed that baby their Frankincense, it marked the fulfillment and end of the Priestly system.

- A. *Hebrews 6:20* tells us that Jesus has become "High Priest Forever."
 - He was the final fulfillment of that Priestly system.
- B. Jesus permanently filled the gap between people and God.
- C. One of the Great Gifts God gave Mankind that first Christmas was a Perfect Priest.
 - A permanent and exactly accurate representation of God.
 - All we ever need to know about God, in a way that we can understand it.
 - Continual access to his thoughts, attitudes, heart, and actions.

When those Magi handed over that Frankincense they handed in the tools of the trade for every imperfect priest everywhere and for all time.

2018-19 PRAYPURSUEPARTY

DECEMBER

- 2 Healthcare Team Meeting
Ladies Christmas Party
Children's Final Sunday Rehearsal
- 8 Children's Dress Rehearsal
- 9 Straight Outta Bethlehem (9a & 11a)
- 16 Water Baptisms
- 22 Men's Breakfast
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 31 Youth Lock-in
- 3,10,17 Food Addicts Anonymous

JANUARY

- 6 Healthcare Team Meeting
- 11 GU Leadership Night
- 24 Men's Dinner
- 25 Regional House Parties Resume
- 27 Men's Event
- 30 Wednesday Night Experience
- 7,14,21,28 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



PRAYER NEEDS
Email: gucprayer@gmail.com



SUNDAYS
Adults Group @ 9am



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

WAYS TO GIVE



ENVELOPE
Offering/Giving Box



TEXT TO GIVE
314.888.5188



ONLINE
graceunionstl.org

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

- **Rev. Bob Poley, Lead Pastor**
bobpoley78@gmail.com
- **Rev. Jason Myers, Associate Pastor**
jscott5157@gmail.com
- **Patrick Daniels, Student Ministry Pastor**
patrickdaniels1137@gmail.com
- **Carrie Indelicato, Worship Leader**
cindelicato@live.com
- **Crystal Myers, Early Childhood Director**
crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com
- **Carrie Clifton, Publications & Media**
lcclifton@aol.com