

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Today is the thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDEOrgan | Greg Lowther

GATHERING

Holy, Holy, Holy

This I Believe

Blessing of the BackpacksPastor Denise Fogelsanger

The Song of Blessing

Offering*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

HEARING THE WORD

SermonPastor David Flowers

RESPONDING

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

SENDING

Benediction

SERMON granthamchurch.org/sermons



Our Sufferings in Gospel Perspective

ROMANS 8:18-28, 38-39
PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26
COLOSSIANS 1:24

Paul said that his “chains” were “for the sake of Christ” and the progress of the gospel. This ought to challenge the way we understand our own sufferings and cause us to be slow to judge the hardships of others. In the second message of our series, Pastor David invites us to put our sufferings in gospel perspective so that we can live for Christ, bless others, and trust God in all things.

Series Focus: In his final days on earth, the Apostle Paul wrote a heartfelt letter to the church in Philippi from a prison cell in Rome. What does it look like to be faithful to Jesus in a world of competing allegiances? Is it possible for the church to remain calm, be at peace, and live with joy in a society that is seriously lacking it? And how do we live as “citizens of heaven” in a world seemingly going to hell? In this series, we will be encouraged to view all of life through the lens of the cross and to live out our faith together in humility, service, and love—all the while anticipating the Lord’s return.

WANT TO JOIN A SMALL GROUP?

If you are interested in joining with others to share life and dive deeper into the sermon and what it means for our lives, go to our website to learn more about getting connected (granthamchurch.org/small-groups).

SERMON RESOURCES granthamchurch.org/sermons

Sermons are posted online every Monday along with small group discussion questions and other sermon resources (e.g. sermon slides, sermon audio, service video, etc.).

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EVENTS granthamchurch.org/events



TODAY

Baptismsafter service

THIS WEEK

Grandmothers in PrayerTHU, AUG 22, 9:30AM

NEXT SUNDAY Aug 25

Children’s Ministry Volunteer Training9AM
Philathea Learning Community9AM
Worship Service10:30AM
Kids Own Worship11AM
Child & Baby Dedicationduring service
Youth Group Kickoff Luncheonafter service
Youth Volunteer Trainingafter luncheon

SAVE THE DATE

Fellowship Meal KickoffSUN, SEPT 1, after service
College Student WelcomeSUN, SEPT 1, 12:15PM
Moms TogetherWED, SEPT 4, 9:30AM

STAFF granthamchurch.org/staff

David Flowerssenior pastor Linda Wormanoffice administrator
Melissa Lowtherdiscipleship pastor Tim Lynefacilities manager
David Perryworship arts pastor Cate Lewiscommunications
Denise Fogelsangerchildren’s pastor Mike Ryanhead custodian
Chrissy Hoffneryouth coordinator

GIVING & ATTENDANCE

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Year to Date Budget \$527,772

Year to Date Giving \$499,974

LAST WEEK

Giving \$13,682

Attendance 297



Rachel Owen

I grew up in a Christian household my entire life. I learned to trust God from a young age, yet I didn't feel like I knew God personally. As a missionary kid, I grew up surrounded by stories of faith and trust, yet I never felt like it could happen to me. I believed that God helped them so obviously because they were missionaries. I wasn't really on a personal level of trust with God, but more of a trust that he was there for my family, even if it didn't feel specific to me. I never understood how people could read the Bible or

listen to a song and suddenly hear God through the words. They would say "I really felt like God was there for me. It was exactly what I needed to hear." I never understood how it worked for them, and not me. A few months ago, I started feeling like God was truly there for *me*, not just other people. I started praying more, and I truly felt like God was there, listening to me and my middle schooler troubles. On one occasion, I had been feeling really bad about something I had done. As I lay in bed thinking, I confessed to God, and afterward, I felt as if God filled me up to the brim with peace. As I turned some music on, the songs were all about God's mercy and forgiveness, and I heard the songs in an entirely different way. I want to get baptized because now I really feel like God is there, a real God, and not something that I just believed in out of habit. I feel like I have really gotten to know God on a personal level and trust that he is there for me, whenever, no matter what.



Claire Reitnour

I grew up in a Christian home. My parents worked hard to teach me about Jesus, taking me to church, praying before meals, and reading me Bible stories. And although I don't clearly remember my life as a younger child, I know I would have considered myself a Christian. Lately, I've realized that my relationship with God has strengthened. Going into middle school, I faced more challenges as a student; however, as I began to seek God more, I began to feel more at peace. I've also discovered that I've gotten to know

God through prayer. Many times, He has quite literally replaced my anxieties with verses that encourage strength and trust (such as Philippians 4:6-7, Joshua 1:9, Psalm 27:1, Isaiah 41:10, and others). This past year, I made an important decision in my life: I wanted to be baptized. Before that, though, I struggled just with the thought of baptism; oftentimes, I would feel guilty, like I felt I should be baptized, but just wasn't ready. I wrestled a lot with the feeling that I wasn't good enough. However, my parents helped me understand there's nothing I can do to have God love me more. If I waited until I was perfect, then I would be waiting for my entire life. Instead, my parents told me about the idea of walking through a spiritual journey with God; I'd make mistakes, but it would be okay because God would use them to work in my life. After being led to understand more about baptism, and about the idea of journeying through life with God, I realize that I truly want to follow Christ; I know that I need God and wish to carry out His mission on earth. And I am grateful for His loving presence as I learn to seek and trust Him more.



Matt Godshall

I grew up in the Church and was baptized as a young man. I had a sincere faith in Christ and was motivated to put that faith into action. At one point, I even wanted to become a pastor! But in my late teens I turned away from God, partly because of challenging theological questions and partly because I started putting other things, particularly a romantic relationship, before God in my life. For close to 10 years I went down another road. I saw

what a secular life has to offer. I did not live righteously. I nearly married a woman who I don't think would have been good for me. But in the immediate fallout of that relationship, God brought me to a beautiful apartment in Mechanicsburg, one that happened to be across the street from Grantham Church. I had started having inklings about going back to Christianity already, and God put me in the perfect place to nurture my mustard seed of faith, which has grown greatly over the last year as I've come to know God again. Lately, I just try every day to surrender more of myself to Him, to offer myself as a living sacrifice — although part of me is still frightened by the implications of that. Mine is an old story really. I am the prodigal son, whose Father ran out to meet him. I am the rich young man, terrified of doing what Jesus calls me to do. I am Matthew, the tax collector. I pray that I can do what Matthew could and what the young man could not, and give my whole life to God.



Payj Johnson

My story up until now is a little different than the rest of my family. Church has been a part of my life since I was born. I believe in Jesus not because my parent or teachers tell me to by because of what I have witnessed Him do in my life and my family's lives. My Dad no longer struggles with addiction, anger, or sadness, Jesus fixed that. I have watched my family go through really hard things and because we rely on Jesus for help, we continue to

get better. We are more loving, kind, and forgiving to one another since Jesus has taught us about His love.

Prayer is something I believe in because I've seen it work, for others and myself. Sharing the love of Jesus is important to me and I know it changes lives. I have seen people go from a life of loss and pain to a place of peace and abundance, through the power of prayer, faith, and obedience.

I want to be baptized because I want people to know that I love Jesus and that I choose to live for Him. Through a relationship with Him, I can make choices that are good for me. He shows me how to live life in a way that brings hope and love to my friends and those I care about. He guides me and because of that, I can offer guidance to others around me. I think the love of Jesus is really cool. There is nothing else like it. He died for me and you! Now, I live for Him.



Dane Mark

I have gone to Grantham church my whole life and have known God. I grew up going to learning communities, Sunday morning church services, and clubs. I have had many great role models within my immediate and extended family who have shown me a path of living in Christ. As a high schooler, there have been many times where I have been tempted with different things that would go against what I believe in as a Christian. As these temptations became more and more difficult to turn from, I knew that I

needed to turn to God. As I am planning to go to college in about a year, I wanted to make a public profession of my faith before I go.

I wanted to finally ground myself in my faith. With the help of talking to my family and praying, I knew it was time to give my life to Him. I have decided to get baptized so that I can be renewed in Christ and can find more ways to glorify him. I want to show people what Christ is like and lead a life that shows non-believers who our savior is and what He has done for us. I would like to thank all of the people at Grantham Church who have invested in my faith journey from a young age and have given me great opportunities to strengthen my faith.



Landon Mark

I have seen a lot of baptisms and read many testimonies in my 18 years of life. From a young age I have believed in Christ as my Lord and Savior. As I considered taking that next step in my faith journey, I focused on increasing my prayer life and taking notes during the sermons so that I could reflect on them throughout the following week.

Leaving middle school during the "COVID year," I was unsure of what I wanted in life. It was a difficult time and I struggled to know where I fit in. God was faithful and by the time I got to high school I began to see Him working in my life. God called me in many ways over the course of the 4 years. One of the paths he led me down was helping me find my love for teaching. In the church I helped teach Sunday school and I loved it so much. I am very thankful for those opportunities because now I will be studying teaching with a focus on history at Messiah University.

I am grateful for those that have helped guide me in my faith. Laird Gemberling took me under his wing as a prayer partner and has consistently prayed for me. I know there are countless others in this congregation that have prayed for me. My parents and grandparents have been role models for me to follow all throughout my life, providing a strong foundation in my faith. I look forward to being baptized and continuing to live my life for Christ.



Elliott Meade

I want to get baptized because I accepted Jesus into my heart, and I want to live for God. Baptism is a way to show my church and family that I love God. I learn about God and grow in my faith with my parents, sister, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and at a camp called Summer's Best Two Weeks. My favorite verse is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Lydia Meade

I have wanted to get baptized for a very long time because I have loved God since I was little. At my church in Georgia, I saw many people get baptized, but I was too young to understand the full meaning of baptism. When I moved to Pennsylvania, I understood it more, but I couldn't get baptized because the church that I went to only baptized babies. Then, in 4th grade, I met a friend who showed amazing faith in Jesus and I was changed because of that.

During 5th grade, some of my friends were going through a tough time with each other. I saw the anger and misunderstanding that was going on, but I also saw God working during those times. Having that friend in my life made me so sure of God's love and promises that I decided to get baptized as soon as possible. I went home from school one day after I saw God's amazing work fix something that my whole lunch table had prayed for. I went up to my room as soon as I could and fully accepted Jesus. I have seen so many changes in the way I see the world and myself because of that, and baptism is a way to show that. A verse that I relate to is "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." - Galatians 6:9