
We are a family, building Christ-centered homes who impact their world.

GraceFirst Worship Service

8/17/25

Preparation for Worship

Announcements

Children's Ministry Spotlight - 2nd grade Bibles

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1-14

Offering

Hymns of Praise

Pre-K to 1st grade kids participating in Children's Church dismissed

Scripture: Romans 12:9-13:4

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Matthew 5:38-42, "A Just Cause for War"

Hymn of Commission

Benediction

"War cannot be absolutely repudiated on the basis of "Resist not evil" any more than police and prisons can and that its only possible justification (from a biblical viewpoint) would be as a kind of glorified police action. It is of the essence of police action to be discriminate; to arrest specific evil doers to bring them to justice... The duties and functions of the state are quite different from those of the individual." – John Stott, The Message of The Sermon on the Mount.

If this is your first time at GraceFirst, we hope you'll give us the chance to get to know you better by filling out a Connection Card from the pew rack in front of you, then drop it off at the Welcome Center as you leave and pick up a small gift.

Wireless access: Username=GraceFirstGuest; Password=Psalm145:9

Looking ahead

AUG

24 Membership Class - Part 2

9:00 am | This is a great way to learn more about our church. Attending the class doesn't obligate you to join. | If interested, contact Pastor Tim.

26 Ladies' Lunch Out

11:30 am | Applebee's, Andover Rd/Kellogg

31 NO Children's Church (5th Sunday)

31 Concert of Prayer

6 pm

SEP

1 Church Office Closed in observance of Labor Day

5-7 Family Camp

Sign up in the Lobby.

7 NO Sunday School

15 Ladies' Bible Study

9:30 am | In-person | Kay Arthur's flexible inductive study of Ephesians | Cost of book: \$20 | Sign up in the Lobby

15 Ladies' Bible Study

6:30 pm | By zoom | Kay Arthur's flexible inductive study of Ephesians | Cost of book: \$20 | Sign up in the Lobby

17 Ladies' Bible Study

6:30 pm | In-person | Kay Arthur's flexible inductive study of Ephesians | Cost of book: \$20 | Sign up in the Lobby.

Next Sunday

Sunday School, 9 am

Worship, 10:15 am

*Pastor Jake continues
the series on 1 Peter*

Giving Report

Aug 10:	\$ 7,552
4-wk avg:	\$ 11,678
YTD Giving:	\$ 368,010

Our Elders

Mark Goldberg, Chairman
Dave Sitz, Vice-Chairman
Sean Jahansooz, Secretary
Mike Kuss, Stewardship
Lowell Bergen
Kevin Angell
Pastor Tim Cho

Visit our website

www.gracefirst.church

“A Just Cause for War”

Matthew 5:38-42

Pastor Tim Cho

August 17, 2025

Q: What does the Bible teach on how Christians should respond to violence and war?

Big Idea: Christians must pursue by faith a life of peace through sacrificial selflessness

I. Christian Ethics:

A. Moral reasoning applied to complex social issues where the moral values seem to be in conflict

II. The 2 main views of approaching war and violence from church history

A. Just War

B. Pacifism

III. Helpful considerations when interpreting the primary text in debate (Mt. 5:38-42):

A. God uses national militaries to accomplish His plan (Deut. 20, 2 Kings 17:6-9, Jer. 25:8-11)

B. Principles of Law of the courts at higher social levels, do not apply directly to personal relationships (i.e. execution of justice at the national level is different than execution of justice at the personal level)

C. Absolutizing the text without context distorts and misrepresents the intended meaning (i.e. going 2.0 miles, but not 2.1 miles)

D. Retaliation is forbidden at the personal level; sacrificial selflessness is commanded

IV. Ultimately, faith in Christ is necessary to live a selfless and sacrificial life of peace to become perfect like the Heavenly Father (Mt. 5:48)

Pray for our Church Family

Mark Goldberg
Shah and Zulfiia
Rhonda TenClay's BIL

For additional prayer needs, pick up the prayer sheet at the Welcome Desk by the main entrance.

Recommended Reading for Aug - Nov (All books listed are in the library):

1. Themes of Peter's Epistles:
 - a. John Frame, Systematic Theology, Ch. 43: Sanctification, 983-997.
 - b. Alvin Schmidt, How Christianity Changed the World, Ch. 10: Liberty and Justice for All, 248-271.
 - c. John Stott, the Cross of Christ, Ch. 7: The Salvation of Sinners, 165-199.
 - d. A. W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy, Chs. 20-21: The Love of God and the Holiness of God, 104-114.
2. On Pacifism and Just War
 - a. R. T. France, Matthew – Tyndale NT Commentaries, 130-131.
 - b. C. S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory, Ch. 4: Why I am Not a Pacifist, 64-90.
 - c. Wayne Grudem, Christian Ethics, Ch. 19: War, 520-544.
 - d. Scott B. Rae, Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics 4th Ed., Ch. 10: War, Violence, and Morality, 288-313.
 - e. John Stott, The Message of the Sermon on the Mount, Ch. 7: Christian Righteousness: Non-retaliation and Active Love, 84-95.
 - f. Bruce Shelley, Church History in Plain Language 5th Edition, Ch. 14: The Sage of the Ages, Augustine of Hippo, 159-167

GraceFirst Sermon Plans

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
8/24/25	1 Peter 1:13-16, "Be Prepared in Holiness"	Pastor Jake
8/31/25	1 Peter 1:17-21, "Redeemed in the Blood..."	Pastor Tim
9/7/25	1 Peter 1:22-2:3, "Born Again to..."	Pastor Tim
9/14/25	1 Peter 2:4-10, "Living Stones of Priests"	Pastor Tim
9/21/25	1 Pet. 2: 11-20, "Kingdom Citizenship..."	Pastor Tim
9/28/25	1 Pet. 2:21-25, "Suffering as Servants..."	Kevin Angell