

Why Grace?

During this season after Epiphany and before Lent, we are taking time as a church to reflect together on God's grace. Grace is a word we often use and a gift we may feel we understand. And in many ways, it is familiar to us. Yet when we slow down and begin to ask honest questions, we discover that grace is deeper and richer than we may have realized. Why does it sometimes seem that some experience grace more clearly than others? Do we still need grace after we have accepted Christ? Can we struggle with sin even as we seek to follow Him? And if we have been part of the church for many years, does grace still have something new to teach us?

These are not questions to be rushed or avoided. They are the kinds of questions that invite us to grow in faith and trust. That is why we are spending this season focusing on grace. We are turning to the familiar words of John Newton's beloved hymn *Amazing Grace*, words many of us have sung and carried in our hearts for a lifetime. Their familiarity allows them to gently guide us into a deeper understanding of God's gracious work among us.

As we journey through this series, we will be invited to see more clearly how God's grace meets us where we are, draws us ever closer to Christ and His saving work on the cross, and faithfully leads us home. It is our prayer that, through this time together, we may grow in gratitude, humility, and hope as we rest more fully in the grace God so freely gives.

In Christ,

Rev. Dave McElwee