

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

SONG: One True God

CHILDREN'S TALK

CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

We have sinned against you

And against our fellow men,

In thought and word and deed,

In the evil we have done

And in the good we have not done,

Through ignorance, through weakness,

Through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

Who died for us,

Forgive us all that is past;

And grant that we may serve you

In newness of life

To the glory of your name. Amen.

Common Worship, © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2006

NOTICES (Children go to Sunday School and Crèche)

SONG: Every Promise

SONG: Yes and Amen

READING: Acts 15:1-11 (pg. 923)

READING: Acts 15:12-35 (pg. 924)

SERMON

PRAYERS

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power

and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen

SONG: May the Peoples Praise You

BLESSING

NOTICES

Connect with us

If you're new at Grace Church, we'd love to connect. Sign up to our Newsletter or WhatsApp Group by scanning the QR code or emailing info@greenwich.church



Easter at Grace Church

Good Friday Service, 29th March, 10.30am

St. Helen's Bishopsgate

Easter Service, 31st March, 10am

Canada Water Library

All-Age Service, 31st March, 4pm

Eltham College

Note: There will be no services in Greenwich over Easter.

Weekend Away

We'd love you to join us from 26th-28th April at Ashburnham Place in Sussex. Scan the QR code to sign up.



Giving

Grace Church is funded wholly by the donations of its members. See www.greenwich.church/give or set up a bank transfer (40-52-40/00027789) or to give tax efficiently contact treasurer@greenwich.church

Next Sunday, 31st March, Easter Sunday

www.greenwich.church

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 **[GraceChurchGreenwich](https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreenwich)**



Welcome!

Sunday 24th March 2024

***God is not man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should change his
mind.***

***Has he said, and will he not do it?
Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfil it?***

Numbers 23:19 (ESV)

Acts 15:1-35

15 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. ³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶ The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. ⁷ And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

¹² And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. ¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

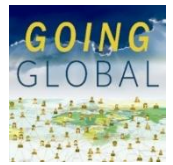
¹⁶ “After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things ¹⁸ known from of old.”

¹⁹ Therefore my judgement is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰ but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹ For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

²² Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, ²³ with the following letter: “The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. ²⁴ Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, ²⁵ it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸ For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: ²⁹ that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

³⁰ So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. ³¹ And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. ³² And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. ³³ And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. ³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

When everything hangs by a thread...



1. The Issue: Is faith in Jesus enough to be saved? (vv1-5)

2. The Council's verdict:

a) Faith in Jesus is enough (vv6-19)

i) God confirmed it in Peter's ministry

ii) God confirmed it in Paul and Barnabas' ministry

iii) God confirmed it in the Scriptures

b) And yet true faith involves turning from idols (vv20-21)

3. The Result: The true gospel enables true unity (vv22-35)

COFFEE QUESTIONS:

This teaching protects the church both from legalism (works righteousness) and also from licence (cheap grace): which of these is more of a danger to you right now?

The council prioritises truth and then unity follows: why do you think this is the case, and why is this important for us to learn?