

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### WELCOME

**SONG:** Behold Our 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)

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Acts 5:30-32

**SONG:** Grace Alone

**SONG:** Amazing Grace

**READING:** Acts 11:1-18 (pg. 919)

### SERMON

### PRAYERS

**SONG:** Holy Spirit

### BLESSING

## NOTICES

### Connect with us

If you're new at Grace Church,  
or wanting to be more involved,  
we'd love to hear from you. Scan  
the QR code or email  
[info@greenwich.church](mailto:info@greenwich.church)



### Grace Groups 2023/2024

Join us for our small group Bible studies, as we  
launch our "Bible Overview" with an  
introduction from Deuteronomy 32.

**Tuesdays, 7.45pm:** Canada Water Library +  
The Chantry, Eltham

**Wednesdays, 7.45pm:** King William Building,  
Greenwich

**Thursdays, 10am:** Women's Daytime Group  
For more details, reach out to Michaela:  
[michaela.may@greenwich.church](mailto:michaela.may@greenwich.church).

### Autumn Weekend Away

Sign up now for our Weekend  
Away at Ashburnham Place  
with Christopher Ash:  
October 13th-15th. All welcome!



### Men's Book Club

The men will be reading "The Return of Prayers"  
by Thomas Goodwin, followed by a discussion.  
It's a short read and it's not too late to join!  
October 20th, Greenwich. Please contact Adrian  
Ball for more details: [adriancball@gmail.com](mailto:adriancball@gmail.com)

### Giving

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

*Next Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, Acts 11:19-30*



## Welcome!

*"They glorified God, saying,  
'Then to the Gentiles also God  
has granted repentance that leads to life.'"*

*Acts 11:18 (ESV)*

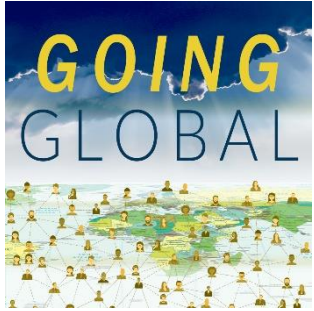
[www.greenwich.church](http://www.greenwich.church)

@GCGreenwich GraceChurchGreenwich



Grace Church takes the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults seriously. If you have any concerns, please email our safeguarding officer, Sarah Wilde, at [safeguarding@greenwich.church](mailto:safeguarding@greenwich.church), or contact the Diocese of Southwark Safeguarding Team (020 7939 9423). See [www.greenwich.church/safeguarding](http://www.greenwich.church/safeguarding).

## Acts 11:1-18 (ESV)



<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, <sup>3</sup>“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” <sup>4</sup>But Peter began and explained it to them in order: <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision,

something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. <sup>6</sup>Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven.

<sup>11</sup>And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ <sup>15</sup>As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?’ <sup>18</sup>When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

Are we on-board with God disrupting our tidy traditions?

### 1. God has demolished any obstacle to outsiders being fully included

God gave...

a divine vision

a divine command

divine instructions

a divine demonstration

### 2. But will the church get on board with this?

#### COFFEE QUESTIONS:

In Acts 9 and Acts 10 God both converts outsiders and also “converts” insiders to be ready to accept them. In what ways might God need to convert us, and disrupt our tidy traditions?

Toleration is not the same as full-inclusion: what might it look like for us to move from being a bento-box or tomato-soup church, into more of a roast-dinner church?