



## The Vision of Grace

*Grace Church is a diverse, growing family of Christian believers who celebrate God's grace and proclaim the message of Jesus Christ in word and deed to the communities of greater Rochester and around the world.*

Grace Church is a family of Christian believers who by grace have been adopted into God's family. Our experience of family – past and present – is diverse: some of us come from intact, healthy homes and some from broken homes. Some of us have parents we see often, some rarely if ever. Some share deep friendship with siblings, others haven't spoken in years. None of us have had perfect fathers. Some have been far from it. But through faith in Christ, we have God as our Father and one another as family. His love has been lavished on us. We are now his children.<sup>1</sup>

The message we proclaim to the communities of Greater Rochester and around the world is that in Christ, God is reconciling people to himself.<sup>2</sup> This good news, communicated in word and deed,<sup>3</sup> is an invitation not merely to forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life (as amazing as that would be!), but rather to an intimacy of fellowship with God and his family unlike anything the world has to offer.

We long to be a church that reaches every kind of person because the message we proclaim must be heard by every kind of person. Every person is worthy of profound dignity and respect. No person is beyond the reach of God's saving grace. There is a great deal of diversity that exists in this world, the full range of which will be evident on the day Christ returns.<sup>4</sup> Until that day we pray God will help us to be accessible to every kind of person, that all may hear and be reconciled to him.

Jesus promised in his word that he would build his church and that his message would spread to every corner of the world.<sup>5</sup> He commanded us to participate in this work in part by making disciples.<sup>6</sup> We are therefore a growing church, committed to making mature disciples of Jesus and reaching our neighbors, co-workers, and friends who don't yet know him.

So, by God's grace, Grace Church is a diverse and growing family faithfully living for his glory in our time and place.

---

<sup>1</sup> 1 John 3:1

<sup>2</sup> Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21

<sup>3</sup> Romans 10:14-15; John 17:20-21

<sup>4</sup> Revelation 7:9-10

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 24:14; Matthew 16:18

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 28:18-20