

## Living and Sharing the Gospel

Because members of GCI cover the 4 Atlantic provinces and we have one minister, worship services will continue through the ZOOM platform. Anyone is welcome to worship with us. Worship services are Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. If you need information about how to join us for worship services, please contact Mr. Vautour, minister. The contact information is at the bottom of the bulletin.

If you have friends or acquaintances who want to join in the worship service, please do not hesitate to share with them the Zoom links to join us in the worship of our great God.

Please note that audio and video sermons and other materials are also available on our local website at [www.gciatlantic.org](http://www.gciatlantic.org)

### Offerings:

You can make your donation by cheque; Address: Grace Communion International- Canada, Suite 203A, 2121 Airport Dr., Saskatoon, SK 7SL 6W5.

You can call 1-306-653-2705 (GCI Canada main phone number) and make credit card donation.

E-transfers to [khorwood@gcicanada.ca](mailto:khorwood@gcicanada.ca) (her full name is Kathleen Horwood). There is no need for a password as the donations are deposited directly into the GCI banking account. In the subject or message line, write the name of your church and your member number. Most banks send an immediate confirmation of a successful deposit. If you do not know your member number, please write to Mr. Vautour at the email address below.

You can also donate to our GCI Canada website at [Grace Communion International - Canada \(gcicanada.ca\)](http://Grace Communion International - Canada (gcicanada.ca)); click on Donate. In the donation box detail, and under Fund, make sure you click on General. In the message box, make sure that you identify your church and your church member number. If you don't know your church number, please contact Mr. Vautour.

- **The next Bible study will be on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.**
- **For an understanding of the GCI worship calendar, please see "What is the: GCI Worship Calendar", under Featured Article on our local website.**
- **For new prayer requests and updates, see our local website [www.gciatlantic.org](http://www.gciatlantic.org) under "Members Only".** If you do not know the password, please contact Mr. Vautour Under **"FEATURED ARTICLES"** please see GCI Literature, Monthly Prayer Calendar, and Other Christian Resources.
- Mr. Bill Hall and his wife Averil will be coming to St. John's on Sunday, May 7. Worship services will be at 11:00 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton St. John's. Plans are to have a catered meal served after services.
- A town-hall meeting for the NB Church is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. this coming Thursday.

**From Mr. Bill Hall, President GCI Canada (Feb. 13, 2023 "Hello everyone, I just want to let you know that we have hired a transitional pastor for the Toronto West congregation. His name is **Dave Peever**, and he comes to us having wide experience in helping churches in transition. He will be replacing Alvaro as the pastor there starting on this Sunday, February 19th.**

*I wanted to thank Alvaro for the years of service he and Laura have given to the Cornerstone congregation which was always intended as a temporary measure while we looked for a new pastor for Cornerstone.*

*I also wanted to welcome Dave to the GCI Canada team, and would appreciate your prayers for the Cornerstone congregation as they discern what God has in store for their church community."*

Also, please pray for the Edmonton, AB, congregation as they are actively seeking a place to worship on Sunday rather than on Saturday. There is a good possibility that they will be able to meet on Sunday in a 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist church.

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**Instruction on how to pray: “1 ¶ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1Ti 2:1-4 ESV)**

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Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, whose compassion illumines the world. Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. (from Prayer GCI Prayer calendar Feb. 19, 2023)

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By Glen A Weber

### **Place-sharing with George**

*A personal example of place sharing. (from www.gci.org)*

Several years ago, I was helping facilitate a gathering of about 50 pastors and Christian leaders. We were spending three days in prayer and worship together. We had a chair in the center of the circle so leaders could sit and ask for specific prayer. During one of those times, “George,” a pastor for more than forty years, went to the chair to seek prayer for a struggle he had faced all his adult life. In fact, he confessed that at one stage the struggle had led to him being removed from ministry for several years. He had been restored to ministry but still struggled and suffered with severe nightmares as a result.

Numerous pastors gathered around and prayed for George. At a later gathering, George again went to the chair and gave praise to God that the struggle and nightmares had been completely healed.

We believed we were following instruction from Paul when he wrote to believers in Galatia. Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ([Galatians 6:1-2](#))

Our praying for George was essential and fit this instruction from Paul. But there is more than just praying for someone, there is also sharing their life, joining them in their journey. In many circles, we call this place-sharing. We’ve heard a lot about this recently in several GCI articles and podcasts. Brad Jersak shares the same concept in his new book, *Out of the Embers, Faith After the Great Deconstruction*:

When we see another’s sin (Glen’s comment: *or any other struggle*) not as lawbreaking behavior but as the self-destructive effect of their affliction, our hearts may be stirred to shed tears the other person can no longer cry. Dostoevsky’s tales demonstrate the saving powers of co-suffering love that flows from eyes that see our suffering, that empathize, that draw near in solidarity.

Although George had been restored many years before, had returned to pastoral ministry, and now was healed from the struggle and nightmares, I felt drawn to invite him to have breakfast. My desire was to stand with him in his walk so his struggle would be less likely to return. Although George was more than a decade older than me and was considered a little “quirky” by some people, he was very encouraged to have me support him in friendship (place-sharing with him). George and I met together for breakfast at a quaint diner every Wednesday morning for the next five or so years until I moved out

of the area. Along the way, he had asked me to preach on the weekends when he was on vacation. We walked through so many events in both of our lives, and I was able to support him through challenges with his church leadership, his and his wife's health challenges, and his eventual full retirement from ministry – all of which were stress points that could have triggered an unhealthy response in George. Ultimately, I was probably more blessed by my time with George than he was, as he helped me face some big life events, and he helped me in my decision regarding transferring to another church area!



Place-sharing doesn't have to be painful or scary! It is simply getting out of our comfort zone and sharing life with another child of God. Who around you might be in a different age group than you, or even considered a little quirky by others that would be blessed by your presence? You will be blessed as much as they will be!

**Prayer:** *Father, you place-share with every person through sending the Holy Spirit. Jesus, thank you for being the ultimate place-sharer as you joined humanity through the womb of Mary and became human. You lived our life. You shared with the disciples and so many others, and now you share with us. Holy Spirit, help us follow Jesus' leadership to share our lives with one or more people around us. Amen*



Devotionals to shine a light in the lives of believers and strengthen belonging to Jesus



**About the writer:**  
Barry Robinson is a minister in Grace Communion International and Regional Pastor for Southern England.

### Praising our God

*Part One of two studies on Psalm 95*

**O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Psalm 95:1 (NRSVA)**

Psalm 95 is a call to public worship: 'O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.' (v.6-7, emphasis mine). Worshiping God is principally an action in community because I do not worship my God, but our God; God is my God only insofar as he is the God of God's people. Our worship takes place supremely in relationship with one another.

This does not deny the value of private worship as we need time alone with God, praising him, pondering scripture, and taking time for self-examination. But assembling together is not an optional extra, something which we can drop in and out of as the fancy takes us. Our culture often relegates religion to a mostly private matter, to be practiced in solitude rather than in public. But God is enthroned on the praise of his people (Psalm 22:3) and so we are to give ourselves to the public praise of God.

**How are we to set about this task?**

First, worship involves an urgent turning to God. It is a movement in a very definite direction: 'O come' (Psalm 95:1). We are invited so 'Let us come into his presence' (v.2). We come into worship by making a specific movement away from other distractions and turning to the presence of God himself. The Hebrew for come here conveys 'haste' and 'urgency'. This coming to God is not a gentle stroll. It has the connotation of speeding to attend to the most serious business. This is not to say

other concerns are of no value. We do not choose between worship and other aspects of life. But if we don't move in this direction toward God in worship then the other activities of life will lack coherence.

Secondly, worship involves a measure of intensity: 'let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise...let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!' (v.2, 6). If this reflects the kind of worship which took place in the temple, then it was exuberant, cheerfully noisy and exhilarating. But this is only one kind of intensity. Worship can also be intense when it is quiet, restrained, and formal. Both can engage us in the movement of worship.

The crucial aspect is that worship flows from the deep joy we have in God, for who he is, and what he has done for us in Jesus Christ. He is the one who draws us toward himself in this movement of worship, and he is the one who evokes an intensity of worship.

So come, now is the time to worship, our God is waiting.

Prayer: Father, may we collectively come and worship you with all our heart, mind and soul, in Jesus's name we pray, Amen.



Devotionals to shine a light in the lives of believers and strengthen belonging to Jesus



**About the writer:**

Randy Bloom is a minister in Grace Communion International, and is Chair of the Board of Directors for GCI USA.

**Listen**

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

**(John 10:27-29 NIV)**

We live in a culture of hyper-communication. We are bombarded incessantly with verbiage (written and spoken). There are "news" channels, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram – and much more. Everyone is an expert. Everyone knows what is right. Those who get or take the most "air time" (speaking the loudest, the most frequently, or most "cleverly") capture the

minds and hearts of multitudes. And what is the result of this cacophony of voices? Greater confusion, unrest, and disunity. Anything but a sense of hope, security, and peace – all of which are promised by Jesus, in whatever circumstance we find ourselves.

In this and the previous passage, Jesus clearly expresses his love for us. He shares his life, and all it entails, with us. Peace, security, and stability are ours in him. But we need to listen to him. He needs to be the one we pay the most attention to. His is the voice we need to seek. His is the voice we need to believe. His is the voice we can trust to know the truth, which begins with knowing him, who is the eternal embodiment of truth.

Important questions we must ask ourselves, especially at a time when so many voices are calling, no, shouting, out to us, are: "Whose voice am I listening to? Whose voice am I seeking out? Whose voice am I relying on?" The answer to these questions can determine whether we will experience peace, safety, and even joy as we navigate life's challenges.

**Prayer** *Dear Lord, help us hear your voice. Help us yearn for it; keep our ears attuned to it and follow it with faith, hope and courage, wherever it leads us. For we know we can trust you to be with us at all times and in all things. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.*

**GCI principal website and Moncton Websites**—a) [www.gci.org](http://www.gci.org), b) [www.gciatlantic.org](http://www.gciatlantic.org) c) [www.gcicanada.ca](http://www.gcicanada.ca); For a wealth of helpful articles please see the GCI.org website. Pastor's Contact Information - email— [evautour47@outlook.com](mailto:evautour47@outlook.com)