

# I Am Forgiven

*Easter 2024* Jonathan Schaeffer

*He has removed our sins as far from us  
as the east is from the west.*

Psalm 103:12

## God's Design For You

- **You were designed to be in relationship with the Lord.**  
*If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Jesus, in Revelation 3:20*
- **That relationship has been broken by sin and guilt.**  
*It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Isaiah 59:2*
- **God is on a mission to restore and forgive.**  
*Now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. Rom. 5:11*

## The Great Gift of Forgiveness

- **The Old sacrificial substitute for atonement: Repetitive.**  
**Goat #1** – Slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its **blood** behind the curtain. Leviticus 16:15; 17:11; Hebrews 9:22  
**Goat #2** – Transfer the people's sins to the head of the goat. Then a man specially chosen for the task will drive the goat into the wilderness. As the goat goes into the wilderness, **it will carry all** the people's **sins** upon itself into a desolate land. Leviticus 16:21-22
- **The New sacrificial substitute for atonement: Once-for-all.**  
*Unlike those other high priests, [Jesus] does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this **once for all** when he **offered himself** as the sacrifice for the people's sins. Hebrews 7:27*

This was the Father's good plan for all who say "yes" to Jesus. God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made **right with God** through Christ. 2 Cor. 5:21

## When Easter counts for you

What can you know for sure? **I can know I am forgiven.**

Why? **All because of Jesus.**

How far has he removed your sin?

**As far as the east is from the west.**

## Making it Personal

- Starting a **relationship with Jesus** begins with reaching out to him: *Lord Jesus, you are the living God. I understand that my sin deserves judgment. Thank you for loving me enough to take that judgment—your blood given for me. Thank you for providing a way for me to be kept safe when you will judge all evil. In faith, I trust you—and your sacrifice—as payment for my sin. Help me to turn away from anything that dishonors you and to follow you with all my heart. I want you to be first in my life, to lead me each day. My life is yours, Lord. Help me to know you better. Amen.*
- What does it look like to be a follower of Jesus? We have a free 21-day guide that will help you on the journey. To get the '**You Said Yes**' **devotional**, sign up with [this form](#) or pick up a paper copy at the Welcome Desk on your way out today.
- **Pick up a magnet** from an usher on your way out of service today as a reminder of what the Lord Jesus has made possible for you!
- Join us next week for our new series, ***I Doubt It***. We'll look at how to address doubts in our faith journey.
- **Alpha is a weekly gathering** where you'll meet with others to watch a short video and then discuss a big question, like "Is there more to life than this?" And, "How does God guide us?" It's a safe space to learn, share your thoughts, and enjoy getting to know others. To join, visit [gracecma.org/alpha](http://gracecma.org/alpha), and sign up for the format that works best for you – we have online and in-person options starting April 9. Stop by the Alpha table in the lobby to learn more!

*All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.  
We have left God's paths to follow our own.  
Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.*

Isaiah 53:6

**Read More:** [gracecma.org/bulletin](https://gracecma.org/bulletin)



### ways to grow

With the many ministries and events for all ages and interests, your community is waiting here at Grace! Explore opportunities to love God more, grow with others, and serve the world around you.

**Learn more:** [gracecma.org/grow](https://gracecma.org/grow)



### salt & light serve event

**SAT, April 13**

Join with others from Grace to serve with a local non-profit this April. This is for all ages and abilities. The goal of this monthly event is to help you find your fit for long-term impact. Registration doesn't roll, you choose the dates you join in.

**Learn more:** [gracecma.org/saltandlight](https://gracecma.org/saltandlight)



### forever young potluck dinner

**SAT, April 13 | 5 PM in the Activity Center**

Enjoy an evening of worship, fellowship, food, and inspiration with our vibrant community of adults 50+. Our special guest for the evening will be dramatist Don Dillavou. Please bring a main or side dish to share! @Middleburg Heights

**Learn more:** [gracecma.org/events](https://gracecma.org/events)



### grace youth mulch deliveries

**Order by April 13! Covered on April 20.**

Cross a spring to-do off your list, and support students fundraising for their 2024 trips! You order the amount for your yard, and our group will come by to give your spring plants a warm blanket.

**Order Today:** [bit.ly/youthmulchday24](https://bit.ly/youthmulchday24)

**Upcoming Events at Grace | Easter Weekend 2024**



**SHARE EASTER SERVICES with a friend!**

**SAT 5 PM @ Middleburg**

**SUN 8 AM / 10 AM / 12 @ Middleburg**

**SUNDAY 10 AM @ Olmsted Falls**



### easter lilies

See the list of Easter lilies dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one:

[bit.ly/gclilies24](https://bit.ly/gclilies24)



### taste of grace

**NEXT SUNDAY, April 7**

Meet and greet with our team and learn more about Grace Church! Stop by the Fireside Room (Middleburg) or the Activity Center (Olmsted) to share some light refreshments.

**Learn more:** [gracecma.org/new](https://gracecma.org/new)



### try ALPHA

**TUES, April 9 | 7 PM Online or In-Person**

Alpha is a space for honest, judgment-free conversations. Whether you're exploring Christianity for the first time, or wrestling with doubts, everyone is welcome to come and learn together at Alpha. This April we're hosting Alpha at the Middleburg Heights Rec Center, and an online option is also available.

**Learn more:** [gracecma.org/alpha](https://gracecma.org/alpha)