

WELCOME.

Thank you for joining us in the worship of our Triune God this morning at Grace Presbyterian Church. If you are visiting with us, please fill out the tear-off section on the back of this bulletin and place it in the tithes and offerings box at the back of the sanctuary or give it to an usher. You may also email your information to the church office at GracePresPCA@gmail.com. We would like to contact you to personally welcome you to our church and to answer any questions you may have.

Our mission at Grace is to glorify our Triune God by worshiping him in Spirit and Truth according to Scripture and our Reformed faith, growing together in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and spreading the Gospel of his Kingdom to our neighbors and the world.

You will notice that we follow an order of worship that flows from the pattern prescribed in Scripture. **We read, preach, sing, and pray the Bible.** Our worship is divided into four main parts. In each part, God initiates and we respond:

Entering Into Worship
Adoration, Praise, and Confession of Faith
Worship in Prayer, Word, and Sacrament
God's Blessing on His People

We are glad you are with us, and we invite you to join us after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In our justification by faith alone God imputes (or credits) the perfect law-keeping (or obedience) of Jesus to sinners and transfers the sinner's guilt and penalty for his violation of the law to Christ. There is no amount of effort on the part of sinful man—no amount of obedience—that can secure our justification. Hence, a person is justified by faith alone—we do not contribute our good works. This is why justification is by God's grace alone; God takes the initiative in salvation, not man. Moreover, this is why justification, and ultimately salvation, is by Christ alone. Jesus is the one who saves us. Our salvation is not a joint venture between us and Christ. Paul relentlessly hammers out these truths in his epistle to the Galatians.

(J. V. Fesko, *Galatians*, p. 26)

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited
and provided redemption for his people.

Luke 1:68

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 69:1-18 (p. 809 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold.

I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me.

I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched.

My eyes fail, looking for my God.

Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head;

many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me.

I am forced to restore what I did not steal.

You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you.

May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the LORD Almighty;

may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel.

For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face.

I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons;

for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.

When I weep and fast, I must endure scorn; when I put on sackcloth, people make sport of me.

Those who sit at the gate mock me, and I am the song of the drunkards.

But I pray to you, O LORD, in the time of your favor;

in your great love, O God, answer me with your sure salvation.

Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink;

deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.

Do not let the floodwaters engulf me or the depths swallow me up or the pit close its mouth over me.

Answer me, O LORD, out of the goodness of your love; in your great mercy turn to me.

Do not hide your face from your servant; answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.

Come near and rescue me; redeem me because of my foes.

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Father, we come before you to acknowledge our sin, because if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

All: We confess that we are guilty of pride and unbelief, of anger and lust. We have sinned against you by breaking your commandments and by wasting your good gifts to us. Our transgressions are ever before us, and they weigh heavy on our hearts.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and enable us by your Holy Spirit to lay aside the sin which clings so closely, and equip us to run with endurance the race that is set before us.

All: We ask all this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at your right hand. All praise, honor, and glory be to you. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Luke 1:57-80

Congregational Response

(sung to the tune of *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*)

Song of Zechariah

Blest be God, the Lord of Israel; he has come to set us free!
And a horn of full salvation he has raised from David's seed.
God has visited his people to redeem them as foretold
In the promise he had spoken thro' his prophets from of old.

God has come in might to save us from the hatred of our foes.
From their cruel hand he frees us, and his tender mercy shows
Mercy promised in his cov'nant to our fathers whom he chose.
He will keep his oath to Abr'am to release us from our woes.

God has sworn to grant deliv'rance and restore us to our place:
Serving boldly in his presence, just and holy all our days.
You, my child, will be his Prophet, called and sent by God Most High.
You must go before the Lord now to prepare his ways aright.

Bring the knowledge of salvation to God's people in their sin.
Preach that God is tenderhearted, and by him are sins forgiv'n.
His great mercy, like the sunrise, brightly shines in deepest night,
Guiding those who sit in darkness to the way of peace and light. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 30. *How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Q. 31. *What is effectual calling?*

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, by which, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 32. *What benefits are there in this life for those who are effectually called?*

A. Those who are effectually called partake in justification, adoption, sanctification, and the other benefits that, in this life, do either accompany them or flow from them.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

❖ *Tithes and offerings may be placed in the box at the entrance to the sanctuary or given online through our church's website.*

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Congregational Response

(music printed on the last page of the bulletin)

Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not of flesh and blood the Son,
Offspring of the Holy One;
Born of Mary ever blest,
God in flesh is manifest.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heav'n enthroned.

From the Father forth he came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell,
High the song of triumph swell!

Thou, the Father's only Son,
Hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
Boundless shall thy kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Rudy Manrique

“The Apostolic Salutation”
Galatians 1:1-5

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 201

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in One, O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

GREETING FROM THE PASTOR

Today is the second Sunday of Advent. We will read Luke 1:57-80 and then sing the Song of Zechariah. Zechariah ends his song prophesying about the light that the Messiah will bring to our dark world. Philip Ryken, in his commentary on the Gospel of Luke, writes:

After darkness, light—this is what it means to be saved. Salvation is like the first glimmer of dawn after the blackest night. Until we come to faith in Jesus Christ, we are still living in the darkness of unforgiven sin. But when we trust him, as Zechariah did, his light comes into our lives and we are able to see our way. Believe in Jesus; the dark night of your sin will be over, and the dayspring of his light will rise in your heart.

Danielle Jasbon will be on maternity leave for the next few months. I will be taking care of some of her church administrative responsibilities while she is on leave. Please do not email or call her about any questions or needs you might have that are church-related. Instead, email me at the church office at GracePresPCA@gmail.com or call me on my cell phone at 714-686-1145.

Have a blessed Lord's Day!

Pastor Ben

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

Greeting and Call to Worship*

Psalm 148:1-6

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

All: Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

Hymn*

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymn 196

Congregational Confession of Sin

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love. According to your great compassion, blot out our transgressions. Wash away all our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Wash us, that we may be whiter than snow, for a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Restore us to fellowship with you, that we may walk in the full assurance of your promises, and in the freedom of knowing that you care for us and have brought us to yourself by the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose strong Name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 130:7-8

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Hymn

“My Song Forever Shall Record” Hymn 99

Scripture Reading*

Luke 1:26-38

Hymn

“Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor” Hymn 230

Prayer

Sermon

“A Miraculous Conception”
Luke 1:26-38

Pastor Ben Muresan

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Pastor Rudy Manrique

Hymn*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Hymn 194

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit, be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in Three and Three in One. Amen.

Savior of the Nations, Come



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, vir - gin's Son, make here thy home!
 2. Not of flesh and blood the Son, off - spring of the Ho - ly One;
 3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
 4. From the Fa - ther forth he came and re - turn - eth to the same,



- Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 born of Ma - ry ev - er blest, God in flesh is man - i - fest.
 Though by all the world dis - owned, still to be in heav'n en - throned.
 cap - tive lead - ing death and hell, high the song of tri - umph swell!



5. Thou, the Father's only Son,
 hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
 Boundless shall thy kingdom be;
 when shall we its glories see?

6. Praise to God the Father sing,
 Praise to God the Son, our King,
 Praise to God the Spirit be
 ever and eternally.

Ambrose of Milan, 340–397
 Tr. Martin Luther, 1524
 Tr. William M. Reynolds, 1860; alt.

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND 7.7.7.7.
 Adapted from *Geistliches Gesangbüchlein*, Wittenberg, 1524

ELDERS

Ben Muresan Pastor
Rudy Manrique Assistant Pastor / Church Planter
Kendall Benson
Russ McQueen
Rob Olson Clerk
Rob Watson

DEACONS

Peter Bliss
Orlando Carrasquillo
Vic Clement Treasurer
Benoni Jasbon Moderator
Matt Johnson
Laurence Mo Clerk

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Karen Curtis President
Susanna Szemerei Vice-President
Kathy Grant Treasurer
Jane Choi Secretary

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Jane Choi Pre-K - K
Pat Pensaw 1st thru 3rd
Kristen Conley 4th thru 6th
Benoni Jasbon Jr. High - High School

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Danielle Jasbon

USHER COORDINATOR

Laurence Mo

WEB & GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Matt Johnson

AUDIO & VISUAL TECHNICIANS

Peter Bliss, Orlando Carrasquillo, Tony Jauregui, Cristián Rogers,
and Sam Woodall

PIANISTS

Susan Hafner, David Lawrence, Kate Olson, and Rob Watson

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*If you would like to send or receive prayer requests,
our prayer chain email address is gpc.prayer@sbcglobal.net.*

WELCOME.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Spouse (if applicable):

Children (if applicable):

How did you hear about our
church?
