

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

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood.
Lord of Lords, in human vesture in the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way.
As the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day.
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Lord most High.
Amen, Amen.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom he is pleased!

Luke 2:14

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 72:1-19 (p. 810 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.

The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor.

He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

In his days the righteous will flourish, prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust.

The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him;

the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts.

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.

He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him.

May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long.

Let grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway.

Let its fruit flourish like Lebanon; let it thrive like the grass of the field.

May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun.

All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Amen and Amen.

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

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

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King." Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God, we approach you as your children, filled with your Holy Spirit by whom we are enabled and emboldened to cry, "Abba! Father!"

All: Though we approach as your children, we confess that we have not behaved as those who are called by your name. We have sinned against you and others, and it grieves us that we continually fall short of what your Word commands.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us grace to walk in your ways. Work in us by your Holy Spirit so that we will always seek to do what is pleasing in your sight.

All: We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Prophet, Priest, and King, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Ezekiel 36:25-28

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Luke 2:1-21

Congregational Response

Hymn 214

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.*

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 33. *What is justification?*

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, in which he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Q. 34. *What is adoption?*

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, by which we are received as sons of God, and have a right to all the privileges of that standing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

Doxology*

Hymn 732

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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*

Genesis 42

Congregational Response

Hymn 230

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,
Heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The Grace of Guilt that Leads to Salvation”
Genesis 42

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 208

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of angels;
*O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin’s womb:
Very God, begotten, not created;
*O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels;
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;
Glory to God in the highest;
*O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n;
Word of the Father,
Late in flesh appearing;
*O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Amen.*

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to TRINITY)

To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be, hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore. Amen.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.

Monday, December 18

Scripture: Habakkuk 1:1 - 3:19; Revelation 9:1-21; Psalm 137:1-9; Proverbs 30:10

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 25

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, December 19

Scripture: Zephaniah 1:1 - 3:20; Revelation 10:1-11; Psalm 138:1-8; Proverbs 30:11-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 48

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, December 20

Scripture: Haggai 1:1 - 2:23; Revelation 11:1-19; Psalm 139:1-24; Proverbs 30:15-16

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 49

Pray for: Our covenant children, and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Nigeria and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, December 21

Scripture: Zechariah 1:1-21; Revelation 12:1-17; Psalm 140:1-13; Proverbs 30:17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 50

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, December 22

Scripture: Zechariah 2:1 - 3:10; Revelation 13:1-18; Psalm 141:1-10; Prov. 30:18-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 51

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.

Saturday, December 23

Scripture: Zechariah 4:1 - 5:11; Revelation 14:1-20; Psalm 142:1-7; Proverbs 30:21-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 52

Pray for: The preaching, and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, December 24

Scripture: Zechariah 6:1 - 7:14; Revelation 15:1-8; Psalm 143:1-12; Proverbs 30:24-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 53

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.

Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize

Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda

GATHERING for EVENING PRAYER and HYMNS

Scripture Reading and Opening Prayer

Hymn 219 “All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord”

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Devotion

Hymn 468 “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

Prayers for Church Members

Hymn 66 “God Is Known Among His People”

Prayers for the Church Plant in Riverside

Hymn 226 “As with Gladness Men of Old”

Prayers for the Future

Hymn 210 “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

Closing Prayer