



GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 4, 2026

You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

1 John 3:5

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 103 (p. 821 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field;

the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD'S love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—

with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,

and his kingdom rules over all.

Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

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

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

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we come to you burdened by guilt and shame as we remember how often we sinned against you and others.

All: Forgive our sins, we pray, and help us to put off greed, pride, anger, unbelief, covetousness, impurity, and all the sinful, earthly thoughts and desires that still have influence in our lives.

Leader: Through the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to put on our new nature, clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another, and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other as we have been forgiven by you.

All: Above all, empower us to put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony, as we together await the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Jeremiah 31:33-34

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 32:1-6

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 647

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest.

Dear Name! the Rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place,
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of thy name
Refresh my soul in death. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 63. *Which is the fifth commandment?*

A. The fifth commandment is, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”

Q. 64. *What is required in the fifth commandment?*

A. The fifth commandment requires the preserving of the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their various situations and relationships, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.

Q. 65. *What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?*

A. The fifth commandment forbids the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty that belong to everyone in their various situations and relationships.

Q. 66. *What is the reason attached to the fifth commandment?*

A. The reason attached to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God’s glory, and their own good) to all who keep this commandment.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Doxology*

Hymn 731

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*

Romans 1:16-32

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [from Psalm 103])

Hymn 78

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

O bless the Lord, my soul;
Let all within me join,
And aid my tongue to bless his name,
Whose favors are divine.

O bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let his mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness,
And without praises die.

'Tis he forgives your sins,
'Tis he relieves your pain,
'Tis he that heals your sicknesses
And makes you young again.

He crowns your life with love
When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Has sovereign pow'r to save.

He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'ers rest:
The Lord has judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.

His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world his truth and grace
By his beloved Son. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“True Worship”
Exodus 32:1-6

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 660

O God Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise. Amen.

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.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, January 5

Scripture: Genesis 11:1 - 13:4; Matthew 5:1-26; Psalm 5:1-12; Proverbs 1:24-28

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 1

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

Tuesday, January 6

Scripture: Genesis 13:5 - 15:21; Matthew 5:27-48; Psalm 6:1-10; Proverbs 1:29-33

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 48

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

Wednesday, January 7

Scripture: Genesis 16:1 - 18:15; Matthew 6:1-24; Psalm 7:1-17; Proverbs 2:1-5

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 49

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Bosnia & Herzegovina and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, January 8

Scripture: Genesis 18:16 - 19:38; Matthew 6:25 - 7:14; Psalm 8:1-9; Proverbs 2:6-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 50

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

Friday, January 9

Scripture: Genesis 20:1 - 22:24; Matthew 7:15-29; Psalm 9:1-12; Proverbs 2:16-22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 51

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

The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, January 10

Scripture: Genesis 23:1 - 24:51; Matthew 8:1-17; Psalm 9:13-20; Proverbs 3:1-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 52

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

Sunday, January 11

Scripture: Genesis 24:52 - 26:16; Matthew 8:18-34; Psalm 10:1-15; Proverbs 3:7-8

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 in the Dominican Republic | raycall777@gmail.com

Dave Eby in Uganda | ebyuganda@gmail.com

Christ Bible Institute in Japan | cbijapan.org/en

The Shepherd's Church in Riverside | theshepherdschurchpca.com

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

When the people of Israel sinned by making and worshiping the golden calf, they revealed the depravity of the human heart. They had just promised to keep God's law (Exodus 24:3), and in response, God revealed to Moses the wonder and beauty of the tabernacle that Israel was to build for his glory. God was going to dwell in their midst as their God, the one true God, who made the heavens and the earth. However, in a moment of weakness and impatience, the people broke their promise and trampled on God's grace. This story reveals why we need the Holy Spirit to renew our hearts and draw us to Christ. If the Spirit does not do that sovereign work in our hearts, we remain "prone to wander" and "prone to leave." Take a moment to pray and thank the Lord for his regenerating work in your heart by which he changed your heart to love Christ more than sin and to desire him above all else.

1. Read Exodus 32:1. What does this verse reveal about the danger of being impatient? What does it reveal about the danger of going along with the crowd?
2. Read Exodus 32:2-3. Where did the people of Israel get the gold they were wearing? Why was it ironic and especially offensive to the Lord that they used it to make an idol?
3. Read Exodus 32:4 and consider the answers to the first question of the sermon outline: What did Israel do? If you were talking to a Christian who was not aware of the importance of the Second Commandment, how would you explain it to him? How did you come to a conviction of the importance of the Second Commandment in your own life?
4. Look up the verses noted in the third question of the sermon outline and consider the importance of each aspect of worship. How does our church implement each of these aspects of worship into our services?
5. Do you look forward to coming to worship on the Lord's Day? How do you prepare for it?



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