





# GRACE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

**John 6:33**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

### Greeting and Blessing\*

### Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 37:1-9 (p. 797 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong;

**for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.**

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

**Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:

**He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,  
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.**

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;

**do not fret when men succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.**

Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.

**For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.**

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

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

***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
 Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
 For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
 His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
 Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.  
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,  
 Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
 We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.  
 The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
 His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;  
 The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.  
 Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
 The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever. 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 cause us 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**

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Psalms 1

Congregational Response

Hymn 517

### *I've Found a Friend, O Such a Friend!*

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!  
He loved me ere I knew him;  
He drew me with the cords of love,  
And thus he bound me to him;  
And round my heart still closely twine  
Those ties which naught can sever,  
For I am his, and he is mine,  
Forever and forever.

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!  
He bled, he died to save me;  
And not alone the gift of life,  
But his own self he gave me!  
Naught that I have mine own I'll call,  
I'll hold it for the Giver,  
My heart, my strength, my life, my all  
Are his, and his forever.

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!  
All pow'r to him is given,  
To guard me on my onward course,  
And bring me safe to heaven:  
Eternal glory gleams afar,  
To nerve my faint endeavor:  
So now to watch, to work, to war;  
And then to rest forever.

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!  
So kind and true and tender,  
So wise a Counselor and guide,  
So mighty a defender!  
From him who loves me now so well  
What pow'r my soul can sever?  
Shall life or death, shall earth or hell?  
No! I am his forever. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

*The Nicene Creed* (p. 846)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

### Gloria Patri\*

Hymn 735

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\*

Philippians 2:1-11

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [from Psalm 96])

Hymn 62

## *Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise*

Sing to the Lord, sing his praise, all you peoples,  
New be your song as new honors you pay;  
Sing of his majesty, bless him forever,  
Show his salvation from day to day.

Tell of his wondrous works, tell of his glory,  
Till through the nations his name is revered;  
Praise and exalt him, for he is almighty;  
God over all let the Lord be feared.

Vain are the heathen gods, idols and helpless;  
God made the heav'ns, and his glory they tell;  
Honor and majesty shine out before him,  
Beauty and strength in his temple dwell.

Give unto God Most High glory and honor,  
Come with your off'rings and humbly draw near;  
In holy beauty now worship Jehovah,  
Tremble before him with godly fear.

Make all the nations know God reigns forever;  
Earth is established as he did decree;  
Righteous and just is the King of the nations,  
Judging the people with equity.

Let heav'n and earth be glad; waves of the ocean,  
Forest and field, exultation express;  
For God is coming, the Judge of the nations,  
Coming to judge in his righteousness. Amen.

## Pastoral Prayer

## Sermon

Rev. Dr. David E. Briones

“Christian Imitation: *Taught* and *Caught* in Philippians”  
Philippians 3:1-21

## Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

# **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

## Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 642

### *Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I thy true son; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
Thou my soul’s shelter, thou my high tow’r: raise thou me heav’n-ward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all. Amen.

## Benediction\*

### Congregational Benediction Response\*

May the peace of God, our heav'nly Father,  
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,  
And the fellowship of God, the Spirit  
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;  
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.*

May this peace which passes understanding,  
And this grace which makes us what we are,  
And this fellowship of his communion,  
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;  
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ eternal, the King of kings. Amen.*

## SERMON NOTES

“Christian Imitation: *Taught* and *Caught* in Philippians”  
Philippians 3:1-21

1. The *Call* to Imitate
2. The *Model* to Imitate
3. The *Christian Way* to Imitate



# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, October 27**

Scripture: Jeremiah 51:1-53; Titus 2:1-15; Psalm 99:1-9; Proverbs 26:17

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 23

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

## **Tuesday, October 28**

Scripture: Jeremiah 51:54 - 52:34; Titus 3:1-15; Psalm 100:1-5; Proverbs 26:18-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 95

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

## **Wednesday, October 29**

Scripture: Lamentations 1:1 - 2:22; Philemon 1:1-25; Psalm 101:1-8; Proverbs 26:20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 96

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

## **Thursday, October 30**

Scripture: Lamentations 3:1-66; Hebrews 1:1-14; Psalm 102:1-28; Proverbs 26:21-22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 97

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

## **Friday, October 31**

Scripture: Lamentations 4:1 - 5:22; Hebrews 2:1-18; Psalm 103:1-22; Proverbs 26:23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 98

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.  
The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

## **Saturday, November 1**

Scripture: Ezekiel 1:1 - 3:15; Hebrews 3:1-19; Psalm 104:1-23; Proverbs 26:24-26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 99

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

## **Sunday, November 2**

Scripture: Ezekiel 3:16 - 6:14; Hebrews 4:1-16; Psalm 104:24-35; Proverbs 26:27

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 100

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 Belize**

**Dave Eby in Uganda**

**Christ Bible Institute in Japan**

**The Shepherd's Church in Riverside**

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The call to imitate is clearly taught in Scripture. In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul writes, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” But in Philippians, imitation is taught and caught. Paul calls believers to imitate him, other leaders (Timothy and Epaphroditus), and others in the church (3:17). He also implicitly warns us not to imitate the “enemies of the cross of Christ” (3:18). By setting up this contrast, he demonstrates how he and others are models of imitation that point to the Model—Jesus Christ. By paying close attention to Philippians 2-3, we not only hear the call to imitation and see the Model to imitate, but we also learn the Christian way to imitate.

1. Read 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Eph. 5:1; Heb. 13:7; and 3 John 11. What do these passages teach us about Christian imitation? Why does the Lord call us to imitate Christ and others?
2. What are good and bad ways to imitate Christ? How would you encourage someone to imitate Christ if you know they struggle with moralism? Does imitating Christ look different when you understand the grace of God and our union with Christ?
3. Read Phil. 3:17-19. Why does Paul call believers to imitate him and not him *and* Christ? Who do you think are “those who walk”—leaders or leaders *and* other believers? Why are the “enemies of the cross of Christ” such bad models?
4. Read Phil. 2:5-11. How do you read this text? Does it describe what Christ has done for you as a *gift*, or does it also provide an *example* to live by? Does it matter?
5. Read Phil. 3:1-21. Do you see any parallels between this text and Phil. 2:5-11? Does it seem like the story of Christ is mapped onto Paul’s life and ministry?
6. Read Phil. 2:19-30. Do you see any parallels between this text and Phil. 2:5-11? Does it seem like the story of Christ is mapped onto the lives and ministries of Timothy and Epaphroditus?
7. How does Philippians inform your understanding of Christian imitation?



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