



 **GRACE**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

December 1, 2024

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Luke 1:31-33

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 67 (p. 808 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine upon us,

**that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.**

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth.

**May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.**

Then the land will yield its harvest,
and God, our God, will bless us.

**God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

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

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we come before you with guilt and shame as we consider how we have offended you by our sinful actions, our hurtful words, and our disgraceful thoughts.

All: You know us even better than we know ourselves; none of our sins are hidden from your sight. It grieves us that we continually fall short of what your Word commands.

Leader: We earnestly repent and are sincerely sorry for our sins. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Enable us to receive and rest in the truth that we have been justified by faith and have peace with you through him.

All: Give us a growing desire to joyfully serve you and one another as we follow after our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Luke 1:26-56

Congregational Response

(sung to the tune of *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*)

Song of Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord;
My spirit doth rejoice in God,
For he, my Savior, did in grace
His servant's humble state regard.

Behold, all generations hence
My blessedness will e'er proclaim.
The Mighty One hath done great things
For me, and holy is his name.

For generations, fearing him,
His mercy will on them abide.
His mighty arm displays his strength;
He scatters those who dwell in pride.

He cast the mighty from their thrones,
And lifted those of low estate.
The hungry he hath filled with good;
The rich he empty sent away.

He helped his servant Israel,
In mem'ry of his mercy sure,
As told our father Abraham,
And to his seed forevermore. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 37. *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?*

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves until the resurrection.

Q. 38. *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?*

A. At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

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*

Ephesians 2:11-22

Congregational Response

Hymn 162

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the Source, the Ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!

This is he whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord,
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
All dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Rudy Manrique

“One In Christ”
Ephesians 2:11-22

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 194

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai’s height,
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. 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.

SERMON NOTES

“One In Christ”
Ephesians 2:11-22

1. Remember what we were without Christ. (vv. 11-12)
2. Remember what Christ has done for us. (vv. 13-18)
3. Remember what we are becoming in Christ. (vv. 19-22)

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, December 2

Scripture: Daniel 9:1 - 11:1; 1 John 2:18 - 3:6; Psalm 121:1-8; Proverbs 28:27-28

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 9

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

Tuesday, December 3

Scripture: Daniel 11:2-35; 1 John 3:7-24; Psalm 122:1-9; Proverbs 29:1

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 27

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

Wednesday, December 4

Scripture: Daniel 11:36 - 12:13; 1 John 4:1-21; Psalm 123:1-4; Proverbs 29:2-4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 28

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Syria and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, December 5

Scripture: Hosea 1:1 - 3:5; 1 John 5:1-21; Psalm 124:1-8; Proverbs 29:5-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 29

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

Friday, December 6

Scripture: Hosea 4:1 - 5:15; 2 John 1:1-13; Psalm 125:1-5; Proverbs 29:9-11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 30

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

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

Saturday, December 7

Scripture: Hosea 6:1 - 9:17; 3 John 1:1-15; Psalm 126:1-6; Proverbs 29:12-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 31

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

Sunday, December 8

Scripture: Hosea 10:1 - 14:9; Jude 1:1-25; Psalm 127:1-5; Proverbs 29:15-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 32

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

We live in a culture that prides itself on the latest trends and experiences. We are seen as out of touch and uncool if we do not embrace them. The things of yesterday are soon discarded and forgotten, only to be replaced by other things that will soon be discarded and forgotten. We are told to forget and focus on what is in front of us. The past does not matter, just the future.

On the one hand, it's appropriate to forget the past. We want to forget painful and difficult seasons in our lives. On the other hand, however, it's appropriate to remember the past. Anniversaries, birthdays, and other events are all crucial dates we must remember. We would not be who we are if it were not for the past.

That is what Paul wants us to do in Ephesians 2:11-22. He wants us to remember what we were like apart from God's saving grace in Christ. His description of our past life is not pretty. We were separated from God and without hope (Eph. 2:12). We also lacked fellowship with God's people. Only by remembering our past can we fully appreciate our bright future in Christ.

Commenting on verse 12, Constantine Campbell writes:

Paul's "remember" may well encourage a re-remembering, "to remember their past in a new way" (cf. Rom 12:2). Now that they are in Christ, these believers are able to reflect back on their previous existence with new eyes. And they are only able to grasp the privileges of their new status in Christ by first appreciating how far from those privileges they once stood.

1. What is the status of believers God has brought into the covenant community (see vv. 11-12)? What was their previous status apart from Christ (see v. 19)? What do each of these terms mean?
2. Read Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 19.1-4. In verse 15, when Paul says God has abolished "the law of commandments expressed in ordinances," what aspect of God's law does he have in mind?
3. How does Paul describe the saving work of Christ in verses 14-16? How does Christ's work impact your relationships with other brothers and sisters in Christ?
4. How does Paul describe the church in verses 21-22? How do the tabernacle and temple in the Old Testament point forward to the church? How is God building the church (see v. 20)?



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