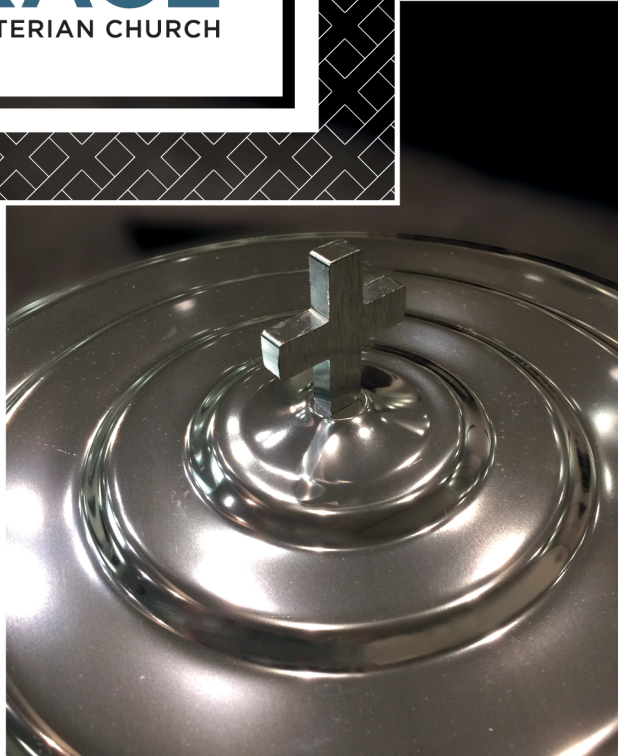


 **GRACE**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

December 29, 2024

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 146 (p. 839 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

I will praise the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save.

**When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

Blessed is he whose help is in the LORD his God,

**the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—
the LORD, who remains faithful forever.**

He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind,

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

**The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.**

The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD.

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

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

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
For thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me:
And in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be. 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*

Genesis 50:15-26

Congregational Response

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart.
I know that while in heav'n he stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there,
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die.
My soul is purchased by his blood!
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God. 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*

Hebrews 11:22-28

Congregational Response

Hymn 427

Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands

Amidst us our Beloved stands,
And bids us view his pierced hands;
Points to the wounded feet and side,
Blest emblems of the Crucified.

What food luxurious loads the board,
When at his table sits the Lord!
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet,
When Jesus deigns the guests to meet!

If now, with eyes defiled and dim,
We see the signs, but see not him;
O may his love the scales displace,
And bid us see him face to face!

O glorious Bridegroom of our hearts,
Your present smile a heav'n imparts!
O lift the veil, if veil there be,
Let every saint your glory see! Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Trust in the Lord”
Exodus 13:17-22

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Pastor Rudy Manrique

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*

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.*

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, December 30

Scripture: Malachi 1:1 - 2:17; Revelation 21:1-27; Psalm 149:1-9; Proverbs 31:10-24

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 13

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

Tuesday, December 31

Scripture: Malachi 3:1 - 4:6; Revelation 22:1-21; Psalm 150:1-6; Proverbs 31:25-31

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 51

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

Wednesday, January 1

Scripture: Genesis 1:1 - 2:25; Matthew 1:1 - 2:12; Psalm 1:1-6; Proverbs 1:1-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 52

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Thailand and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, January 2

Scripture: Genesis 3:1 - 4:26; Matthew 2:13 - 3:6; Psalm 2:1-12; Proverbs 1:7-9

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 53

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

Friday, January 3

Scripture: Genesis 5:1 - 7:24; Matthew 3:7 - 4:11; Psalm 3:1-8; Proverbs 1:10-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 54

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

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

Saturday, January 4

Scripture: Genesis 8:1 - 10:32; Matthew 4:12-25; Psalm 4:1-8; Proverbs 1:20-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 55

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

Sunday, January 5

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

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 56

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

When the Lord brought his people out of Egypt, he sent them along a path that he knew would be best for them. It was not the shortest path or the easiest path, but it was the best path for their sanctification. He had chosen Israel to be his people, and had redeemed them out of slavery. Now he was lovingly guiding them to the land he had promised. Philip Ryken, in his commentary on Exodus, helps us apply this to our own lives when he writes:

As the Israelites traveled that long and winding road, they often doubted whether God's way really was the best way. But God knew what he was doing, as he always does. Whatever God happens to be doing right now, do you believe that it is all for the best? It may not seem that way, but it is, because the Bible says that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Even when we are tempted to doubt whether God knows what he is doing, we are called to believe that his way is the best way.

1. Read Exodus 13:17-18. What do these verses reveal about God's wise providence? As you look back on your life and the way that God has directed your steps, how is God's wisdom evident to you? How is his love evident to you?
2. Read Exodus 13:19. What does this verse reveal about God's faithfulness? Read Genesis 50:15-26 and Hebrews 11:22-28. What do these passages reveal about Joseph's trust in God's faithfulness? How might you apply what you learn in all three of these passages to your own life as you seek to grow in trusting the Lord all the more?
3. Read Exodus 13:20-22. These verses reveal how God himself led his people on their journey to the Promised Land. How should we apply what we learn here as New Covenant Christians?
4. Review the means of guidance discussed in the sermon. How have these means helped you in your life to live for the glory of God? Which of these means do you think you should seek to use more often?



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