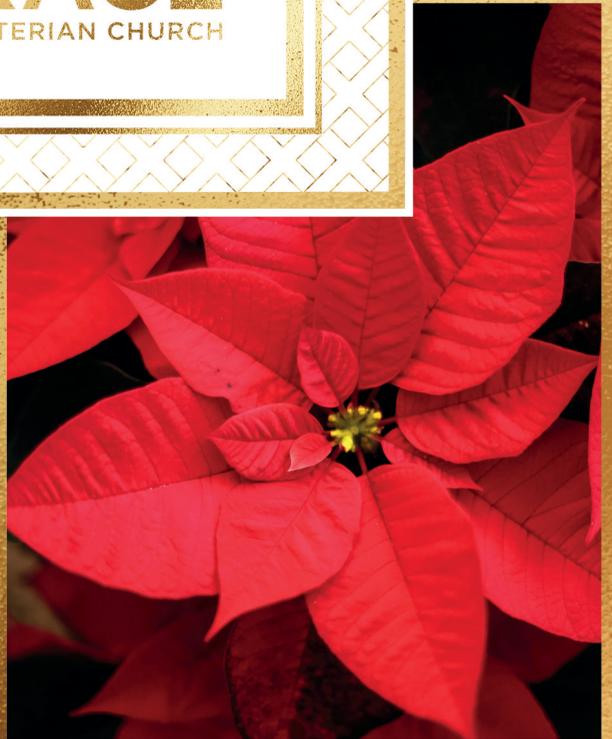


GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited
and provided redemption for his people.

Luke 1:68

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 47 (p. 803 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!

He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham,

for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

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

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

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Father, we come before you to acknowledge our sin, because if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

All: We confess that we are guilty of pride and unbelief, of anger and lust. We have sinned against you by breaking your commandments and by wasting your good gifts to us. Our transgressions are ever before us, and they weigh heavy on our hearts.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and enable us by your Holy Spirit to lay aside the sin which clings so closely, and equip us to run with endurance the race that is set before us.

All: We ask all this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at your right hand. All praise, honor, and glory be to you. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Luke 1:57-80

Congregational Response

(sung to the tune of *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*)

Song of Zechariah

Blest be God, the Lord of Israel; he has come to set us free!
And a horn of full salvation he has raised from David's seed.
God has visited his people to redeem them as foretold
In the promise he had spoken thro' his prophets from of old.

God has come in might to save us from the hatred of our foes.
From their cruel hand he frees us, and his tender mercy shows
Mercy promised in his cov'nant to our fathers whom he chose.
He will keep his oath to Abr'am to release us from our woes.

God has sworn to grant deliv'rance and restore us to our place:
Serving boldly in his presence, just and holy all our days.
You, my child, will be his Prophet, called and sent by God Most High.
You must go before the Lord now to prepare his ways aright.

Bring the knowledge of salvation to God's people in their sin.
Preach that God is tenderhearted, and by him are sins forgiv'n.
His great mercy, like the sunrise, brightly shines in deepest night,
Guiding those who sit in darkness to the way of peace and light. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 53. *Which is the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment is “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”

Q. 54. *What is required in the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God’s names, titles, attributes, ordinances, Word, and works.

Q. 55. *What is forbidden in the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment forbids all profaning or abusing of anything by which God makes himself known.

Q. 56. *What is the reason attached to the third commandment?*

A. The reason attached to the third commandment is that, however those who break this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not allow them to escape his righteous judgment.

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*

John 6:25-40

Congregational Response

(music printed on the last page of the bulletin)

Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not of flesh and blood the Son,
Offspring of the Holy One;
Born of Mary ever blest,
God in flesh is manifest.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heav'n enthroned.

From the Father forth he came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell,
High the song of triumph swell!

Thou, the Father's only Son,
Hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
Boundless shall thy kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Immanuel: God with Us”
Matthew 1:18-25

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 201

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. 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, December 8

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 29

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

Tuesday, December 9

Scripture: Joel 1:1 - 3:21; Revelation 1:1-20; Psalm 128:1-6; Proverbs 29:18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 24

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

Wednesday, December 10

Scripture: Amos 1:1 - 3:15; Revelation 2:1-17; Psalm 129:1-8; Proverbs 29:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 25

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Benin and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, December 11

Scripture: Amos 4:1 - 6:14; Revelation 2:18 - 3:6; Psalm 130:1-8; Proverbs 29:21-22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 26

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

Friday, December 12

Scripture: Amos 7:1 - 9:15; Revelation 3:7-22; Psalm 131:1-3; Proverbs 29:23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 27

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

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

Saturday, December 13

Scripture: Obadiah 1:1-21; Revelation 4:1-11; Psalm 132:1-18; Proverbs 29:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 28

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

Sunday, December 14

Scripture: Jonah 1:1 - 4:11; Revelation 5:1-14; Psalm 133:1-3; Proverbs 29:26-27

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 29

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

Dave Eby in Uganda

Christ Bible Institute in Japan

The Shepherd's Church in Riverside

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In Matthew 1:18-25, we read about Joseph's anguish over Mary's pregnancy. He had desired to marry her, but when he found out she was pregnant, he resolved to divorce her quietly. It wasn't until an angel appeared to him in a vision and explained the divine origin of Mary's pregnancy that Joseph decided to remain betrothed to Mary and in doing so, to be the legal father of Jesus. We see in this Joseph's honorable character and desire to obey the Lord. We also see in this the doctrine of our Lord's divine conception. William Hendriksen, in his commentary on Matthew, explains the importance of this doctrine:

If Christ had been the son of Joseph and Mary by ordinary generation, would he not have been a human person and as such a sharer in Adam's guilt; hence, a sinner, unable to save himself, hence also unable to rescue others from sin? In order to save us, the Redeemer must in one Person be both God and man, sinless man. The doctrine of the virgin birth satisfies both of these requirements. It reveals to us Jesus Christ, one divine Person with two natures: a. divine, b. sinless human.

And as a sinless human, Jesus was our Second Adam. He obeyed God perfectly and secured the salvation of his people. All praise and all glory be to him!

1. Read Matthew 1:18-20. What did the angel reveal to Joseph about Jesus in these verses? Why is the doctrine of the virgin birth critical for understanding Jesus' person and work?
2. Read Matthew 1:21. What does the angel reveal in this verse about Jesus' mission? How did Jesus explain his mission in John 6:38, and what does this reveal about his identity as the Second Adam?
3. Read Matthew 1:22-25. What comfort do you draw from these verses? What do they reveal about Joseph's willing obedience to the Lord?
4. Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 47 asks: How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth? Before you read the answer, think about how you would answer this yourself. What can you learn in your own life from Christ's example of willing humility?

(Here is the answer to the Larger Catechism's question: "Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, he was pleased in the fullness of time to become the son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her; with divers circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.")

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Savior of the Nations, Come



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, vir - gin's Son, make here thy home!
2. Not of flesh and blood the Son, off - spring of the Ho - ly One;
3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
4. From the Fa - ther forth he came and re - turn - eth to the same,



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 born of Ma - ry ev - er blest, God in flesh is man - i - fest.
 Though by all the world dis - owned, still to be in heav'n en - throned.
 cap - tive lead - ing death and hell, high the song of tri - umph swell!



5. Thou, the Father's only Son,
 hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
 Boundless shall thy kingdom be;
 when shall we its glories see?

6. Praise to God the Father sing,
 Praise to God the Son, our King,
 Praise to God the Spirit be
 ever and eternally.

Ambrose of Milan, 340–397
 Tr. Martin Luther, 1524
 Tr. William M. Reynolds, 1860; alt.

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND 7.7.7.7.
 Adapted from *Geistliches Gesangbüchlein*, Wittenberg, 1524



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