



 **GRACE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# WORSHIP SERVICE

December 8, 2024

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. 39.** *What is the duty that God requires of man?*

**A.** The duty that God requires of man is obedience to his revealed will.

**Q. 40.** *What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?*

**A.** The rule that God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.

**Q. 41.** *Where is the moral law found to be summarized?*

**A.** The moral law is found summarized in the Ten Commandments.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

### Gloria Patri\*

Hymn 734

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\*

Exodus 24:1-11

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 Ray Call

“Persevering Because of Jesus”  
Hebrews 10:19-25

## **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\***

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, three in One, O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.



# **SERMON NOTES**

## “Persevering Because of Jesus” Hebrews 10:19-25

1. The Work of Jesus
2. The Work of the Believer

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# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, December 9**

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 10

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

## **Tuesday, 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 33

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

## **Wednesday, 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 34

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Taiwan and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, 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 35

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

## **Friday, 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 36

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

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

## **Saturday, 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 37

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

## **Sunday, December 15**

Scripture: Micah 1:1 - 4:13; Revelation 6:1-17; Psalm 134:1-3; Proverbs 30:1-4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 38

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**

# EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

## Prelude

### Greeting and Call to Worship\*

Psalm 66:5-9

**Leader:** Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

**All:** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

### Hymn\*

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymn 196

### Congregational Confession of Sin

Gracious God, we acknowledge and confess that we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have walked in darkness rather than living according to what you have revealed to us in your holy Word. Forgive us, we pray. Enable us by your Holy Spirit to put off sin and to put on Christ. Strengthen us in our fight against sin, and empower us to act, speak, and think in ways that glorify you, for we ask in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

### Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:8-12

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

### Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!” Hymn 198

### Scripture Reading\*

Isaiah 9:1-7

### Hymn

“Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured” Hymn 429

### Prayer

### Sermon

“The Best Gift”

Pastor Ben Muresan

Isaiah 9:6

### Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

### Hymn\*

“To Us a Child of Hope Is Born” Hymn 233 (sung to *Amazing Grace!*)

### 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.

## 316

## 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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