

WELCOME.

Thank you for joining us in the worship of our Triune God this morning at Grace Presbyterian Church. If you are visiting with us, please fill out the tear-off section on the back of this bulletin and place it in the tithes and offerings box at the back of the sanctuary. You may also email your information to me at GracePresPCA@gmail.com. I would like to contact you to personally welcome you to our church and to answer any questions you may have.

Our mission at Grace is to glorify God by worshiping him according to Scripture and our Reformed faith, growing together in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and spreading the Gospel of his Kingdom to our neighbors and the world.

You will notice that we follow an order of worship that flows from the pattern prescribed in Scripture. **We read, preach, sing, and pray the Bible.** Our worship is divided into four main parts. In each part, God initiates and we respond:

Entering Into Worship
Adoration, Praise, and Confession of Faith
Worship in Prayer, Word, and Sacrament
God's Blessing on His People

We are glad you are with us, and we invite you to join us after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ben Muresan

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

There is a great deal of difference between the desires of heaven in a sanctified man and an unsanctified man. The believer prizeth it above earth, and had rather be with God than here... but to the ungodly there is nothing seemeth more desirable than this world; and therefore he only chooseth heaven before hell, but not before earth.

Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 11, 2021

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

Psalm 123:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 77 (p. 812)

I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me.

When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands and my soul refused to be comforted.

I remembered you, O God, and I groaned; I mused, and my spirit grew faint.

You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak.

I thought about the former days, the years of long ago;

I remembered my songs in the night. My heart mused and my spirit inquired:

“Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again?”

“Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time?”

“Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?”

Then I thought, “To this I will appeal: the years of the right hand of the Most High.”

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.

Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?

You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.

With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

**The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and writhed;
the very depths were convulsed.**

The clouds poured down water, the skies resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.

**Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world;
the earth trembled and quaked.**

Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen.

You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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

All You That Fear Jehovah's Name

All you that fear Jehovah's name, his glory tell, his praise proclaim;
You children of his chosen race, stand now in awe before his face,
Stand now in awe before his face.

The suff'ring One he has not spurned, who unto him for help has turned;
From him he has not hid his face, but answered his request in grace,
But answered his request in grace.

O Lord, your goodness makes me raise amid your people songs of praise;
Before all them that fear you, now I worship you and pay my vow,
I worship you and pay my vow.

For all the meek you will provide; they shall be fed and satisfied;
All they that seek the Lord shall live and never-ending praises give,
And never-ending praises give.

The Lord's unfailing righteousness all generations shall confess;
From age to age shall men be taught what wondrous works the Lord has wrought,
What wondrous works the Lord has wrought. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God and heavenly Father, we come to you in sorrow and frustration as we consider how we have sinned against you and others.

All: We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. All the wrongs that we have done are not hidden from you.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and grant us repentant hearts. Help us to lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and strengthen us to run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at your right hand.

All: All praise, honor, glory, and power be to you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 1:17-20

And Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Congregational Response

Hymn 644

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

May the mind of Christ my Savior
Live in me from day to day,
By his love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through his pow'r.

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May his beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only him. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 33. *What is justification?*

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, in which he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Q. 34. *What is adoption?*

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, by which we are received as sons of God, and have a right to all the privileges of that standing.

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.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

1 Peter 1

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month)

Hymn 57 (printed on p. 12)

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
Of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes,
Nor for help on man depend;
He shall die, to dust returning,
And his purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses
Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blessed whose hope of blessing
On the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created,
Seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression,
Righteousness he will maintain.

Food he daily gives the hungry,
Sets the mourning pris'ner free,
Raises those bowed down with anguish,
Makes the sightless eye to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous,
And the stranger he befriends,
Helps the fatherless and widow,
Judgment on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
Of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever,
Through all ages he is King;
Unto him, your God, O Zion,
Joyful hallelujahs sing. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Clayton Willis

“Brotherly Love”
1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 465

Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary’s mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

*Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the Refuge, the mighty cross.

*Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide, what can avail to wash it away?
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide; whiter than snow you may be today.

*Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin. 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.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Thessalonica was a major city in the region of Macedonia, under Roman control and influence. It was a typical Roman city, which meant it was a city immersed in pagan worship and every kind of immorality and debauchery. The light of the gospel, preached by Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, broke through the spiritual darkness and the Holy Spirit was pleased to bring many people to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Those who were brought from spiritual death to spiritual life through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit were to find another immanent, encompassing change take place in their life; their desire for the unrighteousness and sin that characterized their lives diminished, and they began to seek after the things of the Lord, even “[turning] from idols to serve the living and true God, and [waiting] for his Son from heaven...”(1 Thessalonians 1:10a).

Through their faith in Jesus, and the inward teaching of the Holy Spirit, they understood they could no longer live as they used to, but instead sought to please God with their lives. The Apostle Paul taught them how to do that, both by his (and Silvanus' and Timothy's) example (see 1:5b) as well as through their instruction. In 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 Paul reminded them of their Christian responsibility in sexual matters towards others. In vv. 9-12 he commends them for the brotherly love they were already exhibiting toward their fellow Christians throughout the entire region of Macedonia and instructs them to live quiet, productive, peaceful lives so that they would be an example to their unbelieving neighbors in Thessalonica and beyond.

Since we have been regenerated by the same Holy Spirit, believe the same gospel, and serve the same Lord Jesus, we are to obey this same call to a life that pleases God, to behave properly towards others, and to pursue a righteous, productive, peaceful life exemplified by a growing and maturing brotherly love toward our brothers and sisters in Christ.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, then compare what the Apostle Paul writes in that passage with 1 Peter 2:1-2. How are these two passages alike? Why do you think they are similar?
2. Paul mentions that the Thessalonian believers were very good at showing love to one another (3:6, 12; 4:9; 5:8). Why do you think the Thessalonian believers were able to excel at showing brotherly love? What are some ways we can show brotherly love to our brothers and sisters in Christ?
3. Look at 4:1 and 4:10 again. Why would Paul command us to ‘do these things more and more’? What does this teach you about sanctification?
4. What are some ways you can live quietly, mind your own affairs, and work with your hands as the apostle teaches us in 4:11?

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Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul

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. Ps. 146:1, 2

1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;
 2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to be his aid;
 3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing pris - 'ner free;
 4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;

I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.
 he is blessed whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his God is stayed.
 rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eye to see.
 I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.

Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on man de - pend;
 Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - at - ed, seas and all that they con - tain;
 Well Je - ho - vah loves the righ - teous, and the strang - er he be - friends,
 O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all a - ges he is King;

he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing, and his pur - pos - es shall end.
 he de - liv - ers from op - pres - sion, righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.
 helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
 un - to him, your God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, April 12

Scripture: Joshua 5:1 - 7:15; Luke 15:1-32; Psalm 81:1-16; Proverbs 13:1

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 17

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

Tuesday, April 13

Scripture: Joshua 7:16 - 9:2; Luke 16:1-18; Psalm 82:1-8; Proverbs 13:2-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 64

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

Wednesday, April 14

Scripture: Joshua 9:3 - 10:43; Luke 16:19 - 17:10; Psalm 83:1-18; Proverbs 13:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 65

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

Thursday, April 15

Scripture: Joshua 11:1 - 12:24; Luke 17:11-37; Psalm 84:1-12; Proverbs 13:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 66

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

Friday, April 16

Scripture: Joshua 13:1 - 14:15; Luke 18:1-17; Psalm 85:1-13; Proverbs 13:7-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 67

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

Saturday, April 17

Scripture: Joshua 15:1-63; Luke 18:18-43; Psalm 86:1-17; Proverbs 13:9-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 68

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

Sunday, April 18

Scripture: Joshua 16:1 - 18:28; Luke 19:1-27; Psalm 87:1-7; Proverbs 13:11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 69

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.

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