

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

April 15, 2018

*To protect the Worship environment,
Please, no drinks in the Sanctuary, and remember to turn off cell phones.*

THE GATHERING

*O For a Thousand Tongues

O, for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, tis life and health and peace

He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoners free
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me

He speaks and listening to His voice, new life the dead receive
The mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe

Glory to God and praise and love, be ever, ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and Heav'n

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of Thy name
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of Thy name

TEXT: Charles Wesley MUSIC: Carl G. Gläzer; arranged by Lowell Mason

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: ISAIAH 35

LEADER: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

ALL: Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

LEADER: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

ALL: And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

LEADER: No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

***Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above**

Praise the Lord who reigns above and keeps His courts below
Praise the holy God of love and all His greatness show.
Praise Him for His noble deeds praise Him for His matchless pow'r
Him from whom all good proceeds, let heav'n and earth adore
Let heav'n and earth adore.

(chorus)

Praise the name of Christ
Celebrate and lift Him up high
Praise the Lord of life
We'll sing the story of honor and glory and praise the name of Christ

God in whom they move and live let every creature sing
Glory to their Maker give and homage to their King.
Hallowed be Thy name beneath, as in heav'n and earth adored
Praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord
Let all things praise the Lord.

(repeat chorus)

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
We'll sing the story of honor and glory
And praise the name

(repeat chorus 2x)

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***SCRIPTURE READING FROM PSALM 78:13-22**

THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ALL: Father, forgive us for our wandering hearts. In the wilderness, you reveal to us our sin and you demonstrate your power to save that we might proclaim your goodness. But instead we complain and fail to trust in your sovereign care.

Lord Jesus, you are the bread that nourishes and the living water that refreshes us in the desert. You have welcomed us at your table and you cause us to drink from the fountain of your grace. Yet, we often seek provision from another. Forgive us for the ways that we look within to find strength, we look to others to find comfort, and we look to the world to find our pleasures.

Holy Spirit, give us the grace of humility that we might be quick to repent. Strengthen our faith that we might trust in the accomplished work of Jesus. Redeem our loves that we might truly love you and your commands. Give us hope that we might long for the future we possess in Christ. And let us live always mindful that we do not walk in this life alone, but that you are with us until you bring us safely into your presence.

PRIVATE (Silence is kept for private confession)

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM REVELATION 7:13-17

LEADER: "Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

***His Mercy is More**

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more (repeat)

(chorus)

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

(repeat chorus)

What riches of kindness he lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

(repeat chorus 2x)

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***God With Us**

You've come to bring peace, to be love, to be nearer to us
You've come to bring life, to be light, to shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel, God with us

(chorus)

Our Deliverer, You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our Redemption, God with us
You are God with us

You've come to be hope, to this world, for Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin, to bear shame, and to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel, God with us

(repeat chorus)

You are here, you are holy, we are here to give you glory (Lord) (4x)

Our Deliverer, You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our Redemption, God with us

(repeat chorus)

You are God with us

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***Cling to the Crucified**

Cling to the crucified, cling to the Lamb
Cling to the buried One, the Great I Am
O Cling to the risen Son of Man
Alleluia, Amen

Cling to the Faithful One, cling in thy pain
Cling to the gracious One, who rids thy stain
O cling to the Holy Son of Man
Alleluia, Amen

Cling to the glorified, Cling to His side
Cling to the reigning One, in Him abide
O cling to the coming Son of Man
Alleluia, Amen

Cling to the crucified, cling to the Lamb
Cling to the buried One, the Great I Am
O Cling to the risen Son of Man
Alleluia, Amen
Alleluia, Amen

Words adapted from Horatius Bonar (Public Domain)

THE DEDICATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Although giving is a significant part of worship, we do not collect the offering during our service. Two boxes are placed by the doors to receive your offering. Tithes and offerings for the General Fund are placed in the box without the "steeple." Offerings for the Building Fund are to be placed in the box with the "steeple," with check payable to Grace EPC Building Fund.

THE WELCOME

At this time, please fill out the friendship register found at the side aisle. As the register is passed, please note those with whom you are worshipping so that you can greet one another after the service. If this is your first Sunday at Grace, please accept our invitation to worship with us again soon. If you would like information about Grace EPC, please take one of our brochures from the table in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home, please let us know and we will be happy to visit with you.

(CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR THEIR CLASSES AT THIS TIME:
K-4TH GRADE — LINE UP IN THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE SANCTUARY.
CONNECT CLASS [5TH & 6TH GRADE] HEAD DIRECTLY TO ROOM 7)

(THOSE WHO ARRIVE AFTER THE SERVICE HAS BEGUN MAY BE SEATED AT THIS TIME)

THE WORD AND PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Mark 7:31-37

RESPONSE TO THE READING OF THE WORD

All: The grass withers and the flower falls,
but the word of the Lord remains forever.

THE MESSAGE FROM SCRIPTURE

Ryan Randolph

*THE PROFESSION OF FAITH: Heidelberg Catechism Question #1

LEADER: What is your only comfort in life and death?

ALL: That I, with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, wherefore by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto Him.

THE SENDING

*THE BENEDICTION

*Sing to the King

Sing to the King Who is coming to reign
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain
Life and salvation His empire shall bring
And joy to the nations, when Jesus is King

(chorus)

Come, let us sing a song
A song declaring that we belong to Jesus
He is all we need
Lift up a heart of praise
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus
Sing to the King

For His returning we watch and we pray
We will be ready the dawn of that day
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed
'Cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King

(repeat chorus 2x)

Sing to the King (2x)

Billy James Foote (First verse and theme of song from "Sing We the King" by Charles Silvester, 1910) ©2003 worshiptogether.com Songs/sixsteps music (administered by EMI Christian Music Publishing).ARR.UBP.CCLI#245668

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER

It is our sincere desire to pray effectively for the particular needs of those worshipping with us this morning. If you have a prayer concern that you want shared with the congregation during the prayers of the people, please call the church office or one of the elders prior to the service with your request. If you desire prayer on a personal matter, we invite you to meet with the elders in the front pews after the Benediction.

Available for prayer after 8:15 worship: Michael Boulton & Scott Rask

Available for prayer after 10:45 worship: Dan Wethington & Todd Koch

*Congregation will stand.