

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 3, 2017

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

THE GATHERING

***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

TEXT: Charles Wesley MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard; arranged by Robert Harkness

***THE ANNOUNCEMENT**

LEADER: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

***THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

***THE LIGHTING OF THE JOY CANDLE**

8:15am: Trina Emler

10:45am: Colin & Meredith Marshall and Family

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 9:1-7**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

(chorus)

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

(repeat chorus)

Highest, most Holy, Light of light eternal
Prophets foretell Messiah's lowly birth.
Faithful, embrace Him! Love and awe unending

(repeat chorus 2x)

TEXT: Latin Hymn; ascribed to John Francis Wade; translated by Frederick Oakely MUSIC: John Francis Wade

***THE NICENE CREED**

**ALL: 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 Scripture,
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 worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in the 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.**

(The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicaea {325}, and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon {451}. It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ.)

THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ALL: Our Father in Heaven, who gave your son for us, we give you thanks for your inexpressible gift. We confess that we have not loved you or one another as we ought. We have not forgiven one another as you, for Christ's sake, have forgiven us. We have too often lived in selfishness and worldly pride, trusting in our own wisdom and plans rather than yours, hoarding the good gifts that you have given rather than using them to relieve the burdens of others. Forgive and blot out our sins, through the incarnate life and willing sacrifice of your holy Son, our Lord Jesus. Amen. (Adapted from The Book of Common Worship, 1946)

PRIVATE (A time of silence is kept for confession of personal sins)

LEADER: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17

ALL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

*THE READING FROM ROMANS 15:4-13

*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.

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.

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841-1923) Music by Vikki Cook. Lyrics Public Domain.
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***Be Thou My Vision**

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Battleshield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

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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 SACRAMENT

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40

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

Bill Vogler

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Table of the Lord is open to each person who acknowledges himself/herself to be a sinner in the sight of God and without hope for salvation except in His sovereign mercy; who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners; who receives and depends upon Christ alone for salvation as He is offered in the gospel; and who promises and resolves in humble reliance upon the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ.

If this is your profession of faith, you are welcome at the Lord's Table. As you come, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and eat. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.

Come to Me

Weary, burdened wanderer, there is rest for thee
At the feet of Jesus in His love, so free.

Listen to His message, words of life, forever blest.
Oh, thou heavy-laden, come to me, come and rest

(chorus)

There is freedom, taste and see.
Hear the call, come to me.
Run into His arms of grace.
Your burden carried, He will take

Bring Him all thy burdens, all thy guilt and sin.
Mercy's door is open, rise up and enter in

(repeat chorus 2x)

Jesus, there is waiting patiently for thee.
Hear Him gently calling, come, oh, come to me.

(repeat chorus 2x)

Weary, burdened wanderer, there is rest for thee
At the feet of Jesus in His love, so free.

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; at His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praise the everlasting King.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise Him for His grace and favor to our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Glorious in faithfulness.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Angels, help us to adore Him, Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him; dwellers all in time and space,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praise with us the God of grace.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us, well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Widely still His mercy flows.
Alleluia, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

WORDS: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847); MUSIC: John Goss (1800-1880)

All to Us

Precious cornerstone, sure foundation, You are faithful to the end
We are waiting, on You, Jesus. We believe You're all to us

(repeat)

(chorus)

Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the Church
Let the righteousness of God be a holy flame that burns
Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives
We believe You're all to us

Only Son of God sent from heaven. Hope and mercy at the cross
You are everything, You're the promise. Jesus, You are all to us

(repeat chorus 2x)

When this passing world is over. We will see You face to face
And forever we will worship. Jesus, You are all to us

Jesus, You are all to us

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THE PRAYER ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

***ALL:** Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast aside the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen. (The Book of Common Prayer, 1662)

THE SENDING

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

ALL: Christ has come. Christ is coming again. Hallelujah!

***#625 Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

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: Darby Ritter & Warran Wiebe
Available for prayer after 10:45 worship: Larry Swinson & Joe Harvey

*Congregation will stand.