

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 17, 2017

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

## THE GATHERING

### \*#131 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

(chorus)

Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant Light:

(repeat chorus)

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star:

(repeat chorus)

Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear:

(repeat chorus)

TEXT: James Montgomery MUSIC: Henry T. Smart

### \*THE ANNOUNCEMENT

LEADER: Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3.16

### \*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### \*THE LIGHTING OF THE JOY CANDLE

8:15 am: Alex & Christine Cate

10:45 am: Liz Hixon

### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

## \*Oh How Good It Is

Oh how good it is when the family of God  
Dwells together in spirit in faith and unity.  
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love  
Are the fruit of His presence here among us.

(chorus)

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord  
And with one heart we'll live out His word  
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come  
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is on this journey we share  
To rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.  
For the weak find strength the afflicted find grace  
When we offer the blessing of belonging.

(repeat chorus)

Oh how good it is to embrace His command  
To prefer one another forgive as He forgives.  
When we live as one we all share in the love  
Of the Son with the Father and the Spirit.

(repeat chorus 2x)

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, and Stuart Townend; © 2012 Gettymusic and Parakeet Boots Music (adm. by MusicServices.org) and Townend Music (adm. UK & Europe by Thankyou Music)  
ARR.ICS.UBP.CCLI#245668

## \*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 though in Christ You have loved us, we have neither loved You nor one another as we ought. Though He humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant, we often remain proud and reluctant to serve. Even though in Him is all wisdom and knowledge, we think ourselves wise. Though He is the way, the truth and the life, we struggle to repent and believe. Though He has been made like us in every way and so sympathizes with our weaknesses, we neglect to pray. Though He has given us new life by His Spirit, we often live as we once lived. Forgive and blot out our sins through the incarnate life and willing sacrifice of your holy Son, our Lord Jesus. And through His Spirit enable us to live in the joy of your salvation.

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

**LEADER:** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**ALL:** Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

### \*THE READING OF 1 PETER 1:10-25

#### \*Lord, I Need You

Lord, I come, I confess  
Bowing here I find my rest  
Without You I fall apart  
You're the One that guides my heart

(chorus)

Lord, I need You, Oh, I need You  
Every hour I need You  
My one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are, Lord, I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me

(repeat chorus)

Teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

(repeat chorus 2x)

My one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You

### **\*He Will Hold Me Fast**

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.

(chorus)

He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.

(repeat chorus)

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, he will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!

(repeat chorus 2x)

Lyrics vv. 1-2 Ada Habershon (1861-1918), Public Domain; Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music: Matt Merker, © 2013

### **\*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 [5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> 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 SCRIPTURE

**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.

## Grace and Peace

Grace and peace, oh, how can this be?  
For lawbreakers and thieves, for the worthless, the least,  
You have said, that our judgment is death,  
For all eternity, without hope, without rest

(chorus)

[Oh,] what an amazing mystery, what an amazing mystery  
That Your grace has come to me

Grace and peace, oh, how can this be?  
The matchless King of all, paid the blood price for me!  
Slaughtered lamb, what atonement You bring!  
The vilest sinner's heart, can be cleansed, can be free

(repeat chorus)

Grace and peace, oh how can this be?  
Let songs of gratefulness, ever rise, never cease,  
Loved by God, and called as a saint,  
My heart is satisfied, in the riches of Christ

(repeat chorus 2x)

Words & Music by Joel Sczebel © 2013 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP).UBP.CCLI#245668

## #213 (Trinity) What Child Is This?

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

TEXT: William C. Dix MUSIC: Traditional English melody, 16th century

## **Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery**

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King  
He the theme of heavens praises, robed in frail humanity  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come  
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man  
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment, of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree  
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory  
See the price of our redemption see the Father's plan unfold  
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord; He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes

What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes

Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, Michael Bleecker ©2013 The Summit Church

## **THE PRAYER ON THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**\*ALL: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; as we await our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

**\*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 am worship: Scott Rask & Kim Grubbs  
Available for prayer after 10:45 am worship: Todd Koch & Michael Boulton

\*Congregation will stand.