

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 31, 2017

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

## THE GATHERING

### \*#108 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our Guide and Friend; to us He'll condescend  
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"  
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

TEXT: Christian H. Bateman MUSIC: Traditional Spanish melody; arranged by David Evans

### \*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### \*THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 34:1-3

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times.

**People: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

Leader: My soul makes its boast in the LORD.

**People: Let the humble hear and be glad.**

Leader: Oh, magnify the LORD with me.

**People: Let us exalt his name together!**

## \*Rising Sun

Praise Him all you sinners, sing oh sing you weary  
Oh praise Him all you children of God  
We lift high His glory - shown throughout our stories  
We praise Him as the children of God

(chorus)

Our great redeemer, Glorious Savior  
Your name is higher than the rising sun  
Light of the morning, You shine forever  
Your name is higher than the rising sun  
Your name is higher than the rising sun

Praise His name forever, speak it loud and clear now  
Oh praise Him all you children of God

(repeat chorus)

Hallelujah name above all, we lift Your name in praise  
Hallelujah now and always, we lift Your name in praise (repeat)

(repeat chorus)

Your name is higher than the rising sun

David Leonard | Kyle Lee | Leslie Jordan | Paul Mabury © 2012 Integrity's Alleluia! Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) CCLI#245668

## THE READING OF LUKE 2:21-40

### THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**ALL:** "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me...Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."

**PRIVATE** (Silence is kept for private confession)

### THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**LEADER:** "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." - John 6:35-40, ESV

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Philippians 2:5-11

**ALL:** "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

### **\*Nothing But the Blood**

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(chorus)

Oh! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
For my cleansing, this my plea, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
Naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(repeat chorus)

This is all my hope and peace, nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(repeat chorus 2x)

TEXT and MUSIC: Robert Lowry

### **\*Stronger**

There is love that came for us, humbled to a sinner's cross  
You broke my shame and sinfulness, You rose again victorious

Faithfulness none can deny, through the storm and through the fire  
There is truth that sets me free, Jesus Christ who lives in me

(chorus)

You are stronger, You are stronger  
Sin is broken, You have saved me  
It is written, Christ is risen  
Jesus You are Lord of all

No beginning and no end, You're my hope and my defense  
You came to seek and save the lost, You paid it all upon the cross

(repeat chorus)

So let Your Name be lifted higher  
Be lifted higher, be lifted higher (4x)

(repeat chorus 2x)

Jesus You are Lord of all (2x)

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## **\*You Crown the Year**

(verse 1)

You crown the year with Your goodness  
You answer us with awesome deeds  
Your hope resounds, God our Savior  
To distant lands and farthest seas

You still the waves with Your presence  
You bless Your harvest with Your rain  
Your river filled with living water  
That flows to all as You ordain

(chorus)

Praise the name of the Lord  
O my soul sing His worth  
All of life join the song  
Come and lift up our King

Now let the earth join His praises  
Who dwells between the sea and sky?  
The dusk and dawn forever answer  
The call to worship God on high

(repeat chorus 2x)

(repeat vs. 1)

Adapted from Hillsong; Brooke Ligertwood, Reuben Morgan ©2013 Hillsong Music

## **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)

*(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

Luke 2:41-52

### 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 worship: Michael Lemon & Joe Harvey

## THE SENDING

### \*THE BENEDICTION

#### \*#8 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again:  
Gladly forever adore Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again:  
Gladly forever adore Him.

TEXT: Joachim Neander; translated by Catherine Winkworth. MUSIC: Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665

\*Congregation will stand.