

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 2, 2018

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

THE GATHERING

*#124 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.

(repeat verse 1)

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

*THE ANNOUNCEMENT

LEADER: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-4)

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*THE LIGHTING OF THE PROPHET'S CANDLE

8:15 am: Steve & Kim Prue

10:45 am: Sydney Nelson

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP: John 1:9-18

*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 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.

***Jesus Paid It All**

I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small!
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me, thine all in all."

(chorus)

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain-
He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find, Thy power, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

(repeat chorus)

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.

(repeat chorus 2x)

Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

Text: Elvina M. Hall Music: John T.Grape Additional chorus by Alex Nifong © 2006 worshiptogether.com
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***Only a Holy God**

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendor outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

(chorus)

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

(repeat chorus 2x)

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God, only my Holy God

(repeat chorus 2x)

By CityAlight / Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, Dustin Smith, Rich Thompson

***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 9:1-7

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.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy
That calls me as I am;
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus
My unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus
His family is my own—
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,
Now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor
The ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus
See the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus—
The path before the crown—
We follow in His footsteps
Where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us
To be His perfect bride;
Beneath the cross of Jesus
We will gladly live our lives.

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He has done,
He so loved this world, that He gave us His only Son,
Who yielded His life, atoned for our sin,
And opened wide the gate, so all may enter in.

(chorus)

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him all the glory; great things He has done.

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God

(repeat chorus)

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done
And great is our rejoicing, in Jesus Christ the Son

(repeat chorus 2x)

Fanny Crosby & William Doane; Arrangement: Brothers in Moab

Jesus, Thank You

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

(chorus)

Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near
Your enemy You've made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

(repeat chorus)

Lover of my soul
I want to live for You (4x)

Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You

(repeat chorus)

Words and music by Pat Sczebel as recorded on Worship God Live© 2003
Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP)/Sovereign Grace Worship
(ASCAP).CCLI#245668

THE PRAYER ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

***ALL:** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away 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 the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

*Congregation will stand.