

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 9, 2018

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

THE GATHERING

*#234 Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne:
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King thru all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love: behold His hands and side
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life: Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n: One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit thru Him giv'n from yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise, for Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, thru endless days adored and magnified.

TEXT: Matthew Bridges, stanzas 1,2,4; Godfrey Thring, stanza 3 MUSIC: George J. Elvey

*THE ANNOUNCEMENT

LEADER: And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*THE LIGHTING OF THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE

8:15 am: Debbie Oakleaf
10:45 am: Luke & Becca Bowers

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Micah 5:1-5

*The Lion and the Lamb

He's coming on the clouds,
And kings and kingdoms will bow down
Every chain will break as broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

(chorus)

Our God is the lion – the lion of Judah
He's roaring in power and fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is a lamb – the lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world; His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

Open up the gates, make way before the King of kings
The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

(repeat chorus)

Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord

(repeat chorus)

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THE READING OF ISAIAH 53:1-6

THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ALL: Gracious Father, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and rich in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Bind up that which is broken. Give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us through your word, and may it abide with us until it has produced in us your holy will. Amen.

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

LEADER: "When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3.4-7

ALL: Thanks to God for His inexpressible gift.

***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.)

***Psalm 130
(From the Depths of Woe)**

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee, the voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me and hear my supplication;
If Thou iniquities dost mark, our secret sins and misdeeds dark,
Men: O who shall stand before Thee?
Women: O who shall stand before Thee? (2x)

To wash away the crimson stain, grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! are all in vain; in much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in Thy sight, all must alike confess Thy might,
Men: And live alone by mercy
Women: And live alone by mercy (2x)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest, His word upholds my fainting spirit;
His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort and my sweet support;
Men: I wait for it with patience
Women: I wait for it with patience (2x)

What though I wait the live-long night, and till the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might; it doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed, ye of the Spirit born indeed;
Men: And wait till God appeareth.
Women: And wait till God appeareth. (3x)

***#123 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

(chorus)

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

(repeat chorus)

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.

(repeat chorus)

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease, fill all the world with heaven's peace.

(repeat chorus 2x)

TEXT: Latin Hymn, Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710; translated by John M. Neale MUSIC: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore

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

Galatians 4:1-7

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.

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.

Underneath me, all around me, is the current of His love,
Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore!

How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own.
How for them He intercedeth, watches o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee!

TEXT: S. Trevor Francis

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 a song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, 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 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

***ALL: Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (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 am worship: Dan Wethington & Todd Koch

Available for prayer after 10:45 am worship: Joe Harvey & Darby Ritter

*Congregation will stand.