

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 23, 2018

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

## THE GATHERING

### \*#133 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

TEXT: Charles Wesley, altered MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn; arranged by William H. Cummings

### \*THE ANNOUNCEMENT

LEADER: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. (Isaiah 9:6,7a)

### \*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### \*THE LIGHTING OF THE ANGEL CANDLE

8:15 am: Jonathan & Natalie Young

10:45 am: Shela Pierre-Noel

### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

## \*The Glory of the Cross

What wisdom once devised the plan where all our sin and pride  
Was placed upon the perfect Lamb Who suffered, bled, and died?  
The wisdom of a Sovereign God Whose greatness will be shown  
When those who crucified Your Son rejoice around Your throne

(chorus)

And, oh, the glory of the cross  
That You would send Your Son for us  
I gladly count my life as loss  
That I might come to know  
The glory of, the glory of the cross

What righteousness was there revealed that sets the guilty free  
That justifies ungodly men and calls the filthy clean?  
A righteousness that proved to all Your justice has been met  
And holy wrath is satisfied through one atoning death

(repeat chorus)

What mercy now has been proclaimed for those who would believe  
A love incomprehensible our minds could not conceive?  
A mercy that forgives my sin then makes me like Your Son  
And now I'm loved forevermore because of what You've done

(repeat chorus)

Words and music by Bob Kauflin As recorded on Songs for the Cross Centered Life © 2000 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI).CCLI#245668

## \*THE PROFESSION OF FAITH: 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 AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**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:** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2: 14-18)

**ALL:** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14)

### \*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)

## \*Man of Sorrows

Man of sorrows, Lamb of God, by His own betrayed  
The sin of man and wrath of God, has been on Jesus laid

Silent as He stood accused, beaten, mocked, and scorned  
Bowing to the Father's will, He took a crown of thorns

(chorus)

Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation, where Your love poured out over me  
Now my soul cries out hallelu - jah, praise and honor unto Thee

Sent of heaven, God's own Son, to purchase and redeem  
And reconcile the very ones, who nailed Him to that tree

(repeat chorus)

Now my debt is paid, it is paid in full  
By the precious blood, that my Jesus spilled  
Now the curse of sin, has no hold on me  
Whom the Son sets free, oh is free indeed (2x)

(repeat chorus)

See the stone is rolled away, behold the empty tomb  
Hallelujah, God be praised, he's risen from the grave

(repeat chorus)

Praise and honor unto Thee

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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)

*(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

Luke 2:8-14

## 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.

### **Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me**

Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treacherous shoal.  
Chart and compass come from Thee; Jesus, Savior, pilot me.  
Chart and compass come from Thee; Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When the seas are smooth and bright, sparkling with the stars of night,  
When the darkening heavens frown, and the wrathful winds come down,  
Still I know my need of Thee; Jesus, Savior, pilot me.  
Still I know my need of Thee; Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child, You can hush the ocean wild;  
Boisterous waves obey Your will, when You say to them, "Be still!"  
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.  
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar  
Between me and peaceful rest, then, while leaning on Thy breast,  
May I hear Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pilot thee."  
May I hear Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pilot thee."

Words by Edward Hopper 1871; Music by Robbie Seay Birdwing Music, ©2006 Sparrow Records.CCLI #245668

## I Have a Peace

I have a peace I can't explain, that goes beyond the sorrow  
For there's a truth I can't erase, Your love is my tomorrow  
Through deepest loss, through highest gains, I have a brighter treasure  
The grass will die, the flower fade, but God is mine forever

I have a peace when fears arise, and waters roar around me  
Through many storms and sleepless nights, a quiet grace surrounds me  
I know not what the future holds, I know who holds the future  
When all I fear is all that's true, Your perfect love is truer

I have a peace with God and man, for you have reconciled me  
I was at war, you came, a friend, to serve and stand beside me  
Though wounds are deep and anger burns, You showed me true forgiveness  
So I'll extend what I have learned, the gift the peace of God is

Through deepest loss, through highest gains, I have a brighter treasure  
The grass will die, the flower fade, but God is mine forever

Written by Matt Papa (ASCAP), Aaron Keyes (ASCAP) © 2016 Common Hymnal Publishing (ASCAP), 10000 Fathers (ASCAP),  
Love Your Enemies Music (ASCAP) (admin by CapitolCMGPublishing.com).

## How Marvelous

I stand amazed in the presence, of Jesus the Nazarene  
And wonder how He could love me  
A sinner condemned unclean

(chorus)

How marvelous, how wonderful, and my song shall ever be  
How marvelous, how wonderful is my Savior's love for me

He took my sins and my sorrows, He made them His very own  
He bore the burden to Calvary  
And suffered and died alone

(repeat chorus)

When with the ransomed in glory, His face I at last shall see  
"Twill be my joy through the ages  
To sing of his love for me

(repeat chorus 2x)

Text & Music: Charles Hutchinson Gabriel (1905) Arrangement: Chris Tomlin.ARR.UBP.CCLI#245668

## THE PRAYER ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**\*ALL:** Lord, stir up, we pray, your power, and come among us, and with great might help us; that though our sins and wickedness hinder us in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of your Son our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, 1928)

## 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: Kim Grubbs & Warran Wiebe

Available for prayer after 10:45 am worship: Michael Boulton & Scott Rask

\*Congregation will stand.