

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 30, 2018

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

THE GATHERING

***As With Gladness Men of Old**

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle-bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed lives at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In that heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Words: W. Chatterton Dix Music: Conrad Kocher; arranged by William H. Monk

***THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

***THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 147**

LEADER: Praise the LORD!

**ALL: For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

LEADER: The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
The LORD lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

**ALL: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!**

LEADER: He covers the heavens with clouds;
he prepares rain for the earth;
he makes grass grow on the hills.
He gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.
His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,
but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

**ALL: Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!**

***Anchor of Hope**

Marvelous, wonderful, infinite God
Author of all that is good
Faithful provider and giver of life
Source of all power and love

(chorus)

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise
Refuge of strength to the end
Righteous redeemer and mighty to save
He's the Anchor of Hope for the souls [of men]

Gracious, compassionate, merciful God
Radiant, holy delight
Beautiful Father, victorious Son
Source of unchangeable light

(repeat chorus)

Powerful, constant, unwavering God
Shepherd who comes for the lost
Rock of salvation, remarkable love
Savior who died on the Cross

(repeat chorus 2x)

He's the Anchor of Hope for the souls
He's the Anchor of Hope for the souls of men

THE READING OF ISAIAH 61:10-62:5

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: ALL: O God, we acknowledge the great gift of salvation we possess through Jesus. In Him, we have confidence in the salvation won by Christ, hope in our final salvation, and joy that comes in knowing you. You rejoice over us and have given us every reason to exult in you. And yet, we do not lift our hearts to honor you but relentlessly worship ourselves. We wrongly order what we love and do not love you above all. We are easily captivated by our own kingdoms instead of gratefully serving in yours. Our attention and admiration are easily bought for a brief moment of pleasure, rather than being focused upon your lasting glory. Forgive us for the sin that remains in us. Teach us to fear you in the splendor of your holiness, to love you in the goodness of your grace, and to make your glorious throne the pleasure ground for our souls. (Adapted from Streams of Mercy by Barbara R. Duguid, 146-147)

PRIVATE (Silence is kept for private confession)

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

LEADER: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:4-7)

* Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea.
A great High Priest whose name is "Love," Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in Heav'n He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God.

One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841-1923) Music by Vikki Cook. Lyrics Public Domain.
Music ©1997 PDI Worship, a division of PDI Music 7881 Beechcraft Ave., Suite B, Gaithersburg, MD 20879. ARR.UBP.CCLI#245668

*#350 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word,
Just to rest upon His promise, just to know "Thus saith the Lord."

(refrain)

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!

(repeat refrain)

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease,
Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest and joy and peace.

(repeat refrain)

I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that He is with me, will be with me to the end.

(repeat refrain 2x)

TEXT: Louisa M.R. Stead MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH FROM HEBREWS 1:1-4

ALL: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

Psalm 29

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 Boulton

*All to Us

Precious cornerstone, sure foundation, You are faithful to the end
We are waiting, on You, Jesus. We believe You're all to us

(repeat)

(chorus)

Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the Church
Let the righteousness of God be a holy flame that burns
Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives
We believe You're all to us

Only Son of God sent from heaven. Hope and mercy at the cross
You are everything, You're the promise. Jesus, You are all to us

(repeat chorus 2x)

When this passing world is over. We will see You face to face
And forever we will worship. Jesus, You are all to us

Jesus, You are all to us

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Matt Redman, and Matt Maher © 2010 worshiptogether.com
Songs / sixsteps Music / Vamos Publishing / Said And Done Music (Admin. at EMICMGPublishing.com) (ASCAP) /
Thankyou Music (admin. worldwide at EMICMGPublishing.com, excluding Europe, which is admin. by
kingswaysongs.com) (PRS) / spiritandsong.com Publishing (BMI)

THE SENDING

*THE BENEDICTION

*The Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

TEXT: Edward Mote MUSIC: William B. Bradbury

*Congregation will stand.