

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 8, 2019

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

## THE GATHERING

**\*The Prayer of Invocation**

**\*Silence is Kept to Prepare for Worship**

**\*The Call to Worship**

**\*The Lighting of the Candles on the Second Sunday of Advent**

8:15 am: Derek & Savannah Thomas

10:45 am: Jeremy & Sarah Lill and Family

**\*The Hymn of Advent: 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 Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

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

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls 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.

TEXT: William C. Dix MUSIC: Conrad Kocher

## The Prayers of Confession

**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)

## The Assurance of Forgiveness of 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.**

**\*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)

We'll give Him all the glory  
We'll give Him all the glory  
We'll give Him all the glory  
Christ the Lord

TEXT: Latin Hymn; ascribed to John Francis Wade; translated by Frederick Oakely  
MUSIC: John Francis Wade

**\*The Readings on the Second Sunday of Advent**

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

The Epistle Reading: Romans 15:4-13

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## \*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

**\*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 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 [5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> 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 Prophet Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

**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.

## 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 the 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

## How Can I Keep from Singing

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation  
I hear the sweet though far-off hymn that hails a new creation:  
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul—how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth;  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night He giveth:  
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that refuge clinging;  
Since Christ is Lord of Heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

I lift mine eyes; the tempest roars all help from God expecting  
Whose banner over us is love; until our souls' perfecting  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing:  
All things are mine since I am His—how can I keep from singing?

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation  
I hear the sweet though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Words by Robert Lowry, 3<sup>rd</sup> verse adapted from Robert Lowry

## Faithfulness to Generations

Loud may the ocean roar  
Our God still calms her shores  
No sorrow shakes, no sadness will sway  
For He is good

Dark is the swelling tide  
Our God is still her guide  
Though pain surrounds, our Shepherd is near  
For He is good

(chorus)

The Lord is gracious, He is slow to anger  
He abounds in love; our God is rich in mercy  
God holds goodness for His people,  
Glory for His kingdom; faithfulness to generations.

Close may our sin pursue  
Our God makes all things new  
No promise He gives can Satan undo  
Our God is good

(repeat chorus)

For neither height nor depth  
Nor powers of hell nor sin  
Can separate the love of God [from us] (2x)

(repeat chorus 2x)

Faithfulness to generations (2x)

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## \*The Prayer on the Second Sunday of Advent

**All: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### \*The Benediction

All: Christ has come. Christ is coming again. Hallelujah!

### \*The 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: Todd Koch & Darby Ritter

Available for prayer after 10:45 am worship: Warran Wiebe & Michael Lemon

\*Congregation will stand.