

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 15, 2019

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

THE GATHERING

***The Call to Worship**

***The Prayer of Invocation**

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

***The Lighting of the Candles on the Third Sunday of Advent**

8:15 am: Stephen & Morgan Hicks and Family

10:45 am: Sally Peters and Family

***Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

(chorus)

Glo- - -ria in excelsis Deo,

Glo- - -ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?

(repeat chorus)

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

(repeat chorus)

See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing our Savior's birth.

(repeat chorus)

TEXT: Traditional French carol MUSIC: Traditional French melody

***The Epistle Reading: James 5:7-10**

The Prayers of Confession

All: Father, we confess that we are often impatient and do not establish our hearts for your coming. In our sin and weakness, we find it difficult to trust you, to follow you, and to act kindly to one another. Too often, we dissect, criticize, despise, and plot against those we are called to love and build up in Christ. We lash out in anger, wounding others with our deeds and our words, rather than comforting with gentleness and kindness. We withdraw in bitterness, punishing others with our disdain and rejection, rather than drawing near to give mercy. We seek to control and manipulate, putting our own interest above the needs of others, rather than humbling ourselves and serving as Christ served us. Lord, be merciful to us and prepare us for your coming again. Establish our hearts in Christ Jesus that we may be a people after your own glory, basking in the abundance of your love, and living out the law of love toward those around us.

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

The Assurance of Forgiveness from Titus 3:4-7

Leader: But 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 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.

***The Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11**

***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)

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

*God With Us

You've come to bring peace, to be love, to be nearer to us
You've come to bring life, to be light, to shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel, God with us

(chorus)

Our Deliverer, You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our Redemption, God with us
You are God with us

You've come to be hope, to this world, for Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin, to bear shame, and to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel, God with us

(repeat chorus)

You are here, you are holy, we are here to give you glory (Lord) (4x)

Our Deliverer, You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our Redemption, God with us

(repeat chorus)

You are God with us

All Sons and Daughters; Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan / © 2012 Open Hands Music (Admin. by Sony/ATV Sounds LLC)UBP.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 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 Prophet Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

**All: The grass withers and the flower falls,
but the word of the Lord remains forever.**

The Message from Scripture

Chad Donohoe

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.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Nothing But the Blood

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(chorus)

Oh! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing, this my plea, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
(repeat chorus)

Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
(repeat chorus)

This is all my hope and peace, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(repeat chorus 2x)

TEXT and MUSIC: Robert Lowry

Christ is Mine Forevermore

Mine are days that God has numbered, I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure, and forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer, though I fall, His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing, I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel, where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from heaven, and the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted, Christ completes His work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter, harm and hatred for His name
But mine is armor for this battle, strong enough to last the war
And He has said He will deliver, safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure Christ is mine forevermore

Come rejoice now, O my soul, for His love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure, Christ is mine forevermore (2x)

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure Christ is mine forevermore
Christ is mine forevermore, Christ is mine forevermore

Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson © 2015 CityAlight

*The Prayer on the Third Sunday of Advent

All: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; as we await our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, 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: Larry Swinson & Warran Wiebe
Available for prayer after 10:45 am worship: Caleb Stegall & Scott Rask

*Congregation will stand.