

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 22, 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: Psalm 80**

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

***The Prayer of Invocation**

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

8:15 am: John & Katy Plowden

10:45 am: Amira Rin

***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 Prayers of Confession

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)

The Assurance

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)

*The Readings on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

The Epistle Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

*His Mercy is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

(chorus)

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

(repeat chorus)

What riches of kindness he lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

(repeat chorus 2x)

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

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*My Name is on His Heart

Praise the Lord, my burden's laid aside
Praise the Lord, the guilt no longer mine
And if I should stumble in the dark
Praise the Lord, my name is on His heart

Praise the Lord, the shepherd, He has come
Praise the Lord, He left to look for one
Even if my soul should wander far
Praise the Lord, my name is on His heart

(chorus)

Find rest, o my soul
Find rest in Him the Lord
He is my rock and my salvation,
My fortress, and I will never be shaken

Praise the Lord, the day is almost here
Praise the Lord, I long to meet Him there
And with Him I dwell and never part
Praise the Lord, my name is on His heart

(repeat chorus x2)

Ben Maughan & Jed Maughan @2012 Redemption Church 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 Sacrament of Baptism

10:45 am Willa June Hicks

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 7:1-17

**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.

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)

Upon a Life I Did Not Live

Upon a Life I have not lived, upon a Death I did not die,
Another's Life; Another's Death, I stake my whole eternity.

Not on the tears which I have shed, not on the sorrows I have known,
Another's tears; Another's griefs, on these I rest, on these alone.

(chorus)

O Jesus, Son of God,
I build on what Thy cross has done for me;
There both my death and life I read,
My guilt, and pardon there I see, (there I see.)

Lord, I believe; O deal with me, as one who has Thy Word believed!
I take the gift, Lord, look on me, as one who has Thy gift received

(repeat chorus)

(repeat verse 1)

(repeat chorus 2x)

Words: Horatius Bonar, Music: Kevin Twit

Peace Has Come

Behold the star of Bethlehem, the Word of God has become flesh
Unto us a child is born, the Savior of this broken world

(chorus)

Oh, hear the angel voices, sing come let us adore Him
Peace has come for our King is with us

Fully God and fully man, He comes for all with open hands
He rules with love on David's throne, all praise belongs to Christ alone

(repeat chorus)

Holy, holy, holy, Jesus, we adore Thee
Peace has come for our King is with us
Holy, holy, holy, Jesus, we adore Thee
Peace has come for our King is with us

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord
We'll give him all the glory, we'll give him all the glory,
We'll give him all the glory, Christ the Lord.

(repeat chorus)

Peace has come for our King is with us

Ben Fielding, Benjamin Hastings, Seth Simmons ©2014 Hillsong Church

*The Prayer on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

All: Lord, stir up 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

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: Kim Grubbs & Larry Swinson
Available for prayer after 10:45 am worship: Michael Boulton & Dan Wethington

*Congregation will stand.