

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 29, 2019

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

## THE GATHERING

### **\*Come, Christians, Join to Sing**

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our Guide and Friend; to us He'll condescend  
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"  
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

TEXT: Christian H. Bateman MUSIC: Traditional Spanish melody; arranged by David Evans

### **\*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

### **\*THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 34:1-8**

LEADER: I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

**ALL: Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.**

LEADER: I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.

**ALL: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.**

## \*How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be with thee thy trouble to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"

TEXT: Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787 MUSIC: Traditional American melody; Caldwell's Union Harmony, 1837

## THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**ALL: Almighty and most merciful Father:**  
we are thankful that your mercy is  
higher than the heavens,  
wider than our wanderings,  
deeper than all our sin.

Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes,  
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,  
our envy of those who have more than we have,  
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,  
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,  
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.

Work in our lives that we may desire what is good,  
love what you love, and do what you command,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PRIVATE** (Silence is kept for private confession)

## THE ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

**LEADER:** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (Eph 2:4-8)

### \*How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross, my sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

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### \*God So Loved

(chorus)  
For God so loved the world  
That He gave His only Son  
And whosoever believes will not perish  
They shall have eternal life

I shall hold to the cross  
I shall hold to God alone  
For His love has salvaged me  
For His love has set me free

(repeat chorus)

I shall wait upon the Lord  
I shall wait upon His word  
And by His grace I am released  
And by His grace I am redeemed

(repeat chorus)

By His precious blood, I have been set free  
For the glory of Jesus' name,  
I surrender all, now to Christ alone, in Jesus I am saved (2x)

(repeat chorus)

They shall have eternal life

Words and Music by Reuben Morgan ©2000 Hillsong Music Publishing

## **\*Your Great Name**

Lost are saved, find their Way  
At the sound of Your great name.  
All condemned, feel no shame  
At the sound of Your great name.

Every fear has no place  
At the sound of Your great name.  
The enemy, he has to leave  
At the sound of Your great name.

(chorus)

Jesus, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us,  
Son of God and Man, You are high and lifted up  
That all the world will praise Your great name.

All the weak find their strength  
At the sound of Your great name.  
Hungry souls receive grace  
At the sound of Your great name.

The Fatherless, they find their rest  
At the sound of Your great name.  
The sick are healed and the dead are raised  
At the sound of Your great name.

(repeat chorus)

Redeemer, My Healer, Lord Almighty  
My Savior, Defender, You are my King. (2x)

(repeat chorus 2x)

Your great name

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## **\*THE PROFESSION OF FAITH: Heidelberg Catechism #32**

LEADER: But why are you called a Christian?

**ALL: Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.**

## **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 PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3

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

Chad Donohoe

## THE SENDING

### \*THE BENEDICTION

#### \*All Must Be Well

Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well  
Free and changeless is His favor, all is well  
Precious is the blood that healed us  
Perfect is the grace that sealed us  
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us  
All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well  
Ours is such a full salvation, all is well  
Happy still in God confiding  
Fruitful if in Christ abiding  
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding  
All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well  
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, all is well  
On our Father's love relying  
Jesus every need supplying  
Yes in living or in dying  
All must be well

On our Father's love relying  
Jesus every need supplying  
Yes in living or in dying  
All must be well

Words: Mary Bowley-Peters, alt. by Matthew S. Smith; Music: Matthew S. Smith © 2007  
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### 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 worship: Michael Boulton & Larry Swinson

\*Congregation will stand.