

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

January 6, 2019

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

THE GATHERING

*#1 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ, our Brother— all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

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TEXT: Henry van Dyke MUSIC: Ludwig von Beethoven; melody from Ninth Symphony; adapted by Edward Hodges

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 90

*Thy Mercy, My God, Is the Theme of My Song

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue.
Thy free grace alone from the first to the last
Hath won my affections and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness I fall to the ground
And weep for the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies Thy goodness I own
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine.

All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!

Words by John Stoker Music by Sandra McCracken ©2001 Same Old Dress Music (ASCAP) UBP.ARR.CCLI#245668

THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

God, Be Merciful to Me

God, be merciful to me, on Thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion Thou, blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against Thy grace and provoked Thee to Thy face;
I confess Thy judgment just, speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

PRIVATE (A time of silent and private confessions for personal sins)

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;
Cast me not away from Thee, let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me and return, O God to Thee;
Savior all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing Thy love;
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.

Words by Richard Redhead Music by Chris Miner ©Chris Miner Music. UBP.ARR.CCLI#245668

*THE PROFESSION OF FAITH: Hebrews 6:17-20

All: So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever.

***For All the Saints**

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Allelu...

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Allelu...

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Allelu...

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way,
Alleluia, Allelu...

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Words: William How; Music ©1997, Christopher Miner Music.UBP.ARR.CCLI#245668

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 READING OF SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:1-20

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

Rick Pratte

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.

Mercy

I will kneel in the dust, at the foot of the cross,
where mercy paid for me.
Where the wrath I deserve, it is gone, it has passed.
Your blood has hidden me.

(chorus)

Mercy, mercy, as endless as the sea.
I'll sing Your hallelujah for all eternity.

We will lift up the cup and the bread we will break,
remembering Your love.
We were fallen from grace, but You took on our shame
and nailed it to a cross.

(repeat chorus 2x)

I will kneel in the dust, at the foot of the cross,
where mercy paid for me.

#177 What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I Am,"
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And thro' eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And thro' eternity I'll sing on.

TEXT: American Folk Hymn MUSIC: William Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835

You Crown the Year

(verse 1)

You crown the year with Your goodness
You answer us with awesome deeds
Your hope resounds, God our Savior
To distant lands and farthest seas

You still the waves with Your presence
You bless Your harvest with Your rain
Your river filled with living water
That flows to all as You ordain

(chorus)

Praise the name of the Lord
O my soul sing His worth
All of life join the song
Come and lift up our King

Now let the earth join His praises
Who dwells between the sea and sky?
The dusk and dawn forever answer
The call to worship God on high

(repeat chorus 2x)

(repeat vs. 1)

Adapted from Hillsong; Brooke Ligertwood, Reuben Morgan ©2013 Hillsong Music

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

THE SENDING

***THE BENEDICTION**

***#625 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 worship: Joe Harvey & Darby Ritter
Available for prayer after 10:45 worship: Michael Lemon & Larry Swinson

*Congregation will stand.