

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

May 1, 2016

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

THE GATHERING

***#51 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

TEXT: William Williams; translated by Peter Williams and William Williams MUSIC: John Hughes

***THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

***THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 86:3-10**

LEADER: Be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all the day.

**ALL: Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.**

LEADER: For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

**ALL: Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.**

LEADER: In the day of my trouble I call upon you,
for you answer me.

**ALL: There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.**

LEADER: All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

**ALL: For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.**

***Immortal, Invisible**

Immortal, You are not like a man
That You change Your mind, or change Your plan.
Invisible, our human eyes can't see
The depth of Your majesty

(chorus)

You're the God of forever and ever amen!
The Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End
We sing Hallelujah, we worship in awe
Immortal, Invisible God

Immortal, You are not bound by death
You're the living God, my very breath
Invisible, You are not bound by space
But Your glory is filling this place
Yes, Your glory is filling this place
(repeat chorus)

Immortal, yet You once died for me
To pay my debt, to set me free
Invisible, You will not always be
Cause You're coming to reign as our King
And the saints will fall down at Your feet

(repeat chorus 2x)

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***THE READING OF 1 KINGS 8:46-53**

THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**All: Holy and Gracious Father,
You have given us the ultimate friend in Your Son, our Savior.
Forgive us for spurning His friendship
for friendship with the world.
We confess that too often a worldly spirit grips our hearts
that makes sin seem normal and righteousness seem strange.
Pardon us for our dishonesty, impurity, and indifference to human need.
Have mercy upon us and forgive us
for the sake of the One who laid down His life for His friends,
Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.**

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

LEADER: If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***THE PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into Hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

(Note: Although not written by the apostles, this creed is a summary of their teachings. Though its origin is traced to the second century, it developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century. For the sake of clarity, please note that we believe that Jesus suffered the agony and punishment of Hell on the cross, most especially when He knew that He had been forsaken by His Father, and that He died a real death from which He was resurrected. We believe also that "holy catholic church" refers to the church universal.)

***Awake, My Soul, to Sing**

Awake, my soul, to sing of Jesus' mercy
For neither death nor sin will conquer thee
Christ did my ransom pay while I preferred my stains
When Jesus died for me

Awake, my soul, to sing of Jesus' merit
When God His judgment brings, hide me in Thee
While robed in righteousness, I will not fear it
Since Jesus died for me

Awake, my soul, to sing of Jesus' blessing
Whose love lays hold of me and bids me see
He guides and guards my loves, and I am yielded
Since Jesus died for me

Awake, my soul, to sing of Jesus' promise
Whose Word and victory will changeless be
For Christ's I am today and Christ's I will be
Since Jesus died for me
Since Jesus died for me

***Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul**

Dear refuge of my weary soul, on Thee, when sorrows rise
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll, my fainting hope relies
To Thee I tell each rising grief, for Thou alone canst heal
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief, for every pain I feel

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail, I fear to call Thee mine
The springs of comfort seem to fail, and all my hopes decline
Yet gracious God, where shall I flee? Thou art my only trust
And still my soul would cleave to Thee though prostrate in the dust

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face, and shall I seek in vain?
And can the ear of sovereign grace, be deaf when I complain?
No still the ear of sovereign grace, attends the mourner's prayer
Oh may I ever find access, to breathe my sorrows there

Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat
With humble hope attend Thy will, and wait beneath Thy feet,
Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat
With humble hope attend Thy will, and wait beneath Thy feet

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***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)

(10:45AM SERVICE: INTERNATIONALS WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL
TEACHING TIME MAY BE DISMISSED AT THIS TIME TO ROOM 17 —JUST TO THE RIGHT AS YOU LEAVE THE SANCTUARY.)

(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

Nehemiah 1

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.

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 (repeat)

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)

(repeat vs. 1)

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

#275 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

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shalt be.
Perish every fond ambition, all I’ve sought or hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition, God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior too;
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue;
Oh, while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me; show Thy face, and all is bright.

Soul, then, know thy full salvation, rise o’er sin and fear and care;
Joy to find in every station, something still to do or bear;
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, think what Father’s smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee: child of heaven, canst thou repine?

Haste thee on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer;
Heaven’s eternal day’s before thee, God’s own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, soon shall pass thy pilgrim days;
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

Words by Henry Lyte Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (alt. by Bill Moore) ©2001 Bill Moore Music UBP ARR CCLI#245668

***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: Scott Rask & Kim Grubbs
Available for prayer after 10:45 worship: Joe Harvey & Michael Boulton

*Congregation will stand.