

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

March 18, 2018

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

THE GATHERING

*#25 Immortal, Invisible

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious– Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest– to both great and small,
In all life Thou livest– the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish– but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render– O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith; based on 1 Timothy 1:17 MUSIC: Traditional Welsh Hymn
melody from John Roberts' Canaidau y Cyssegr, 1839

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*Oh How Good It Is

Oh how good it is when the family of God
Dwells together in spirit in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence here among us.

(chorus)

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
And with one heart we'll live out His word
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is on this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength the afflicted find grace
When we offer the blessing of belonging.

(repeat chorus)

Oh how good it is to embrace His command
To prefer one another forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one we all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father and the Spirit.

(repeat chorus 2x)

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THE READING OF 1 KINGS 8:27-30

THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ALL: Holy God, though you have redeemed us and live among us by your Spirit, we lament that still we have sinned and been reluctant to obey. We have at times been:

So attached to what makes us feel good, so neglectful of spiritual things;

So quick to gratify the body, so slow to nourish the soul;

So greedy for present delight, so indifferent to lasting blessing;

So fond of being lazy, so unprepared for work;

So soon at play, so delayed at prayer;

So quick to look after ourselves, so slow to look after others;

So eager to get, so reluctance to give;

So full of good intentions, so unwilling to fulfill them;

So harsh with those around us; so indulgent with ourselves;

So eager to find fault, so resentful when others find fault with me;

So helpless without you; and yet so unwilling to depend upon you.

O merciful Father, forgive us yet again. Give us faith to lay hold of your perfect holiness and to rejoice in the righteousness of Christ our Savior. Grant that resting on his goodness and not our own, we may become more like him. All this we ask for his holy name's sake. Amen. (Adapted from the prayers of John Baillie)

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

LEADER: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him, as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

ALL: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

*THE RESPONSIVE READING

LEADER: So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. "The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. (John 2:18-22)

ALL: Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

LEADER: As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2: 4-5)

ALL: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2: 9-10)

LEADER: And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:22-27)

*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

***Speak, O Lord**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

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kingswaysongs.com tym@kingsway.co.uk.UPB.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

Ephesians 2:11-22

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

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.

O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin? Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well? Jesus is calling

(chorus)

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait, Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born, Jesus is calling

(repeat chorus)

Oh what a savior, isn't He wonderful?
Sing hallelujah, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen

(repeat chorus 2x)

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you found

Love Divine

Purify our hearts with truth, and guide them in Your way
Sanctify our lives anew, have mercy, Lord, we pray

(pre-chorus)

That we may do what's pleasing in Your sight
and know the fullness of Your sacrifice

(chorus)

Lord, we come to You, we're amazed by You
And all You've done, all You've done for us
You have set us free, oh the mystery
of all You've done, all You've done for us

We break this bread, we drink this cup, remembering the cross
The beauty of Your love divine, is washing over us

(repeat pre-chorus)

(repeat chorus)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen (repeat)

(repeat chorus)

of all You've done, all You've done for us

We break this bread, we drink this cup, remembering the cross

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Let Your Kingdom Come

Your glorious cause, O God, engages our hearts.
May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are.
We ask not for ourselves, but for Your renown.
The cross has saved us so we pray,
"Your kingdom come."

(chorus)

Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your will be done,
So that everyone might know Your Name.
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth,
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.
Let Your kingdom come.

Give us Your strength, O God, and courage to speak.
Perform Your wondrous deeds through those who are weak.
Lord use us as You want, whatever the test.
By grace we'll preach Your gospel
Till our dying breath.

Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your will be done,
So that everyone might know Your Name.
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth,
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.

(repeat chorus)

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

*Congregation will stand.