

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

November 26, 2017

*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 RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**ALL: Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

LEADER: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

**ALL: Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

*#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

THE READING OF COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

THE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ALL: Gracious Father, we are grateful for your steadfast love and mercy that has saved us from our sins. Freed from sin to glorify you, we confess that we fail to show the love we have received: the compassion, kindness, humility, patience, long-suffering and forgiveness that you have given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Forgive us, and grant, through your Spirit at work within us, that we may show our gratefulness to you by loving one another as Christ has loved us.

PRIVATE (Silence is kept for private confession)

LEADER: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:1-5)

ALL: Thanks be to God who forgives all my sin through Christ Jesus my Lord.

***There is a Fountain Filled with Blood**

There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.

(chorus)

O Pard'ning Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its pow'r,
Till all the ransomed church of God are safe, to sin no more.

At Jesus' cross a thief could see this fount its grace display
And there I saw, though vile as he, Christ wash my sins away.

(repeat chorus)

E'er since by faith I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.

(repeat chorus)

Then shall my heart be tuned for heav'n and formed by power divine,
To sound in God the Father's ears no other name but Thine.
To sound in God the Father's ears no other name but Thine.

Words by William Cowper, 1772 (Public Domain); Music by Ryan Mayo & Tyler Clements

***#32 (Trinity) Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

(refrain)

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

(repeat refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(repeat refrain)

From Psalm 136 John Milton, 1624; alt. French Melody, 13th cent. Arr. in The Parish Choir, 1850

*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.)

*You Never Fail

When waters rise all around me
When mountains stand in the path I see
I look to love that's unfailing
I look to grace that is all I need

Oh, call, call upon the Name
Jesus Christ, the only Name that saves

(chorus)

For there is no one like our God, there's no one like our God
There's nothing that can stand against You
There's no stronghold You can't break, no life that You can't save
Our God, You never fail

Your light will shine through the darkness,
Your word will calm every crashing wave
My hope, it lies in Your promise,
My faith, it stands on the empty grave

Oh, call, call upon the Name
Jesus Christ, the only Name that saves

(repeat chorus)

Strong through ev'ry trial, faithful through the night
Our God will never fail, our God will never fail
Anchor through the flood, You keep holding on
I know You'll never fail, Jesus You'll never fail

Oh, call, call upon the Name
Jesus Christ, the only Name that saves (2x)

(repeat chorus 2x)

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 PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-17

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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: Michael Boulton & Scott Rask
Available for prayer after 10:45 worship: Dan Wethington & Todd Koch

THE SENDING

*THE BENEDICTION

*Anchor of Hope

Marvelous, wonderful, infinite God
Author of all that is good
Faithful provider and giver of life
Source of all power and love

(chorus)

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise
Refuge of strength to the end
Righteous redeemer and mighty to save
He's the Anchor of Hope for the souls [of men]

Gracious, compassionate, merciful God
Radiant, holy delight
Beautiful Father, victorious Son
Source of unchangeable light

(repeat chorus)

Powerful, constant, unwavering God
Shepherd who comes for the lost
Rock of salvation, remarkable love
Savior who died on the Cross

(repeat chorus 2x)

He's the Anchor of Hope for the souls
He's the Anchor of Hope for the souls of men

Words and Music by Ellie Holcomb and Brown Bannister © Ellie Holcomb and Brown Bannister ASCAP, Banistuci Music. Admin by The Loving Company.ccli#245668

*Congregation will stand.