

GRACE COMMUNITY

Presbyterian Church, PCA

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

November 10, 2024

10:30am

Reflection: “Disciples are no different from anyone in needing explanations for parables, but they are different from outsiders in that they choose to come to Jesus for explanations.” *David Garland*

“The new truth, now given to men by revelation in the person and mission of Jesus, is that the Kingdom which is to come finally in apocalyptic power, as foreseen in Daniel, has in fact entered into the world in advance in a hidden form to work secretly within and among men.” *George Ladd*

Prelude

Welcome

—————**WORSHIP IN PRAISE**—————

Silent Preparation

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen.*

Call to Worship.....from Psalm 80

Minister: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Israel like a flock!

People: **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Adoration.....Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (#38)



1.Im - mor-tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in
2.Un - rest-ing, un - hast-ing and si - lent as light, nor
3.Great Fa-ther of glo-ry, pure Fa-ther of light, thine



light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes; most
want-ing, nor wast-ing, thou rul - est in might; thy
an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all



bles - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, al -
jus - tice like moun-tains high soar - ing a - bove thy
praise we would ren - der; O help us to see 'tis



might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
clouds which are foun-tains of good-ness and love.
on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

“Walter C. Smith based this text on 1 Timothy 1: 17: ‘Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever.’ ‘Immortal, Invisible’ is a strong text of praise to God, who created and sustains the lives of all his creatures. The text focuses on the Creator of the universe, the invisible God whose visible works in nature testify to his glory and majesty. ‘Light’ is the prevailing image in stanzas 1, 2, and 4 (see also Ps. 104:2); our inability to see God is not because of insufficient light but because the ‘splendor of light hides [God] from view.’

Walter Chalmers Smith was educated at the University of Aberdeen and New College, Edinburgh, and became a Presbyterian pastor in the Free Church of Scotland in 1850. He served four congregations, including the Free High Church in Edinburgh (1876–1894). Moderator of his denomination in 1893, Smith was a man of wide interests. His poetry was published in some six volumes entitled *Poetical Works* (1902), and his hymn texts were published in *Hymns of Christ and the Christian Life* (1886).

This is a festival hymn of praise to God; for various other worship services, especially at the beginning of the service; with stanza 3 for services that focus on the brevity of life.”

Psalter Hymnal Handbook

Hymn of Preparation.....*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*



1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain whence the
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my



through this bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might -
heal - ing wa - ters flow; let the fire - ry cloud - y pil -
anx - ious fears sub-side; death of death, and hell's de - struc -



- y; hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of
- lar lead me all my journ - ey through. Strong De -
- tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of



heav - en, feed me now and ev - er - more;
liv - 'rer, be thou still my Strength and Shield;
prais - es I will ev - er give to thee;



Bread of heav-en, feed me now and ev - er - more.
Strong De-liv - 'rer, be thou still my Strength and Shield.
Songs of prais-es I will ev - er give to thee.

—————**WORSHIP IN CONFESSION AND PARDON**—————

Call to Confession.....*Psalm 25*

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Responsive Words of Comfort and Promise.....*Psalm 25*

Minister: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God
of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

People: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Hymn of Response.....*Living Waters*



1. Are you thirst - y? Are you emp - ty?
 2. Christ is call - ing, find re - fresh - ing
 3. Spir - it mov - ing, mer - cy wash - ing;
 4. Are you thirst - y? Are you emp - ty?



Come and drink these liv - ing wat - ers. Tired and bro - ken,
 at the cross of liv - ing wat - ers. Lay your life down,
 Heal - ing in these liv - ing wat - ers. Lead your chil - dren
 Come and drink these liv - ing wat - ers. Love, for - give - ness,



peace un - spo - ken, rest be - side these liv - ing wat - ers.
 all the old gone, rise up in these liv - ing wat - ers.
 to the shore - line, life is in these liv - ing wat - ers.
 vast and bound - less, Christ, He is our liv - ing wat - ers.



There's a riv - er that flows with mer - cy and love bring - ing



joy to the cit - y of our God; there our hope is se - cure, do not



fear an - y - more, praise the Lord of liv - ing wat - ers.

The hymn 'Living Waters' is based on the Bible verse in John 7:38-39, where Jesus says, 'Whoever believes in Me [...] rivers of living water will flow from within them; by this He meant the Spirit'. The song is an invitation to be filled and healed, and to walk in life and freedom.

There is also a song called 'Living Water (Chapter 7) - The Book of John in Song' that is part of a project called The Book of John in Song. The project includes a Bible reading plan, album, charts, tracks, and stems.

The Sacrament of Covenant Baptism
Benjamin Thomas Sims
Covenant Son of Jordan and Sara Sims
Ruling Elder, Dan Bent

Baptism Vows: BCO* 56-5

1. Do you acknowledge Benjamin’s need for the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God’s covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate Benjamin to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God’s appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

To the Congregation

Do you, members of Grace Community Presbyterian Church, undertake the responsibility of assisting Jordan and Sara in the Christian nurture of Benjamin, do you?

*The Book of Church Order

The First Reading of God’s Word.....Isaiah 55:1-13
pp 615-616

The Second Reading of God’s Word.....Matthew 13:1-23
p 818

Reader: This is the Word of God.

People: Amen!

We offer an optional **Children’s Lesson** for children 4 years old through 1st grade. If you choose to have your children participate, you may dismiss them for CL as we sing the hymn of response. Please know we welcome and encourage your children to remain with you during the sermon. However, in the CL they will be hearing from the same text that the sermon is based upon, so you may discuss the message as a family after church if you wish to do so.

Prayer of Consecration and Illumination

Hymn of Response.....*May the Mind of Christ My Savior (vs 2)*

May the Word of God dwell rich - ly
in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may
see I tri - umph on - ly through his pow'r.

Hearing from God's Word.....*Matthew 13:1-23*
Rev. Kyle Oliphint *The Purpose of Parables*

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please see instructions on the inside back cover of your bulletin.

"There is tremendous release in knowing that His love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery now can disillusion Him about me in the way that I am so often disillusioned about myself." *J.I. Packer*

"The great mistake made by most of the Lord's people is in hoping to discover in themselves that which is to be found in Christ alone." *A. W. Pink*

It is a very easy thing for us to get into a desponding state of heart, and to mistrust the promises and faithfulness of God, and yet, all the while, to look upon ourselves as the subjects of a disease which we cannot help, and even to claim pity at the hands of our fellow-men, and to think that they should condole with us, and try to cheer us.

It will be far wiser for each one of us to feel, 'This unbelief of mine is a great wrong in the sight of God. He has never given me any occasion for it, and I am doing him a cruel injustice by thus doubting him. I must not idly sit down, and say, This has come upon me like a fever, or a paralysis, which I cannot help; but I must rather say, This is a great sin, in which I must no longer indulge; but I must confess my unbelief, with shame and self-abasement, to think that there should be in me this evil heart of unbelief.'" *Charles Spurgeon*

Communion Hymns

Father, Long Before Creation – *Chinese Hymn/Andrew Osenga*

1. Father, long before creation
Thou hadst chosen us in love,
And that love so deep, so moving,
Draws us close to Christ above.
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us.
Firmly fixed in Christ alone.

3. God's compassion is my story,
Is my boasting all the day;
Mercy free and never failing
Moves my will, directs my way.
God so loved us, God so loved us
That His only Son He gave.

2. Though the world may change its
fashion, Yet our God is e'er the same;
His compassion and His covenant
Through all ages will remain.
God's own children, God's own children
Must forever praise His name.

4. Loving Father now before Thee
We will ever praise Thy love,
And our songs will sound unceasing
'Til we reach our home above,
Giving glory, giving glory
To our God and to the Lamb.

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me – *Robinson/Farren/Thompson*

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and
freedom, My steadfast love, my deep and
boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is
mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am
free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall
overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in
me.

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me.
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall
repeat; Yet not I but through Christ in me.

I Glory in Christ – *Horatius Bonar/Sandra McCracken*

1. God forbid that I should glory,
Save in the Redeemer's cross.
Counting shame for Him but honor,
Counting earthly gain but loss.
All the love of God is here,
Oh, love that casteth out all fear.

Him, before the world, I own.
All the love of God is here,
Oh, love that casteth out all fear.

2. God forbid that I should glory,
Save in Christ, my Lord alone.
Him I lean on; Him I follow,

3. God forbid that I should glory,
Save in Christ the Son of God.
Him who sought me Him who bought me,
Him who washed me in his blood.
All the love of God is here,
Oh, love that casteth out all fear.

—————**WORSHIP IN GRATITUDE**—————

(Please consider filling out your prayer request **now** and dropping it in the offering plate.)

Offertory.....*Come Ye Sinners*

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and pow'r.*

*Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness He requireth
is to feel your need of Him.*

Closing Hymn.....*It is Well with My Soul (#691)*



1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my
2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should
3. My sin, -- O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
4. O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be



way when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what -
come, let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that
thought! -- my sin not in part, but the whole, is
sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the



ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
nailed to the cross and I bear it no
trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -



say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
tate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.
more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
scend, "E - ven so" -- it is well with my soul.

REFRAIN



It is well with my soul;



it is well, it is well with my soul.

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Week's Sermon Passage

Matthew 13:24-43

Financials

First Three Quarters of 2024: \$599,354.51

Upcoming Events

- **GCPC Progressive Dinner:** Make plans to attend one of our church's most beloved holiday traditions (get your babysitter locked down now!) on **Saturday, December 7, 5:30-10 pm**. We will gather in medium-sized groups to share appetizers, then move to smaller dinner groups, and then gather all together at the church for dessert. To sign up, email your name(s), address, and phone number, AND if you would like to host a dinner group, OR if you can bring an appetizer, side item, or dessert to amylutz2@gmail.com. **Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, November 27.**
- **Lessons and Carols Service:** Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 PM
- **Christmas Choir:** Elizabeth is putting together two choirs to sing for our **Lessons and Carols** service. Please email hames.elizabeth@gmail.com if you plan to participate.
 - **Children's Choir:** 4-year-olds through 5th graders. Rehearsals will be right after church (12:00-12:45) on Dec. 1, Dec. 8, and Dec. 15.
 - **Adult/Youth Choir:** Middle school/high school students and adults. Rehearsals will be 7:00-8:30 on Thursday Nov. 21, Dec. 5, and Dec. 12.
- **Griefshare:** With the holidays approaching, we're planning to show the Griefshare ministry presentation, "Surviving the Holidays" on the evening of **November 24th, beginning at 5:00PM**. This encouraging video and discussion will focus on the additional grief that the holiday season can bring after having lost a loved one. For questions and additional information please contact either Brian Nelson (brian_w_nelson@outlook.com, 405-650-4969) or Anne Nelson (annenelsonok@gmail.com, 405-250-6680). To register for

this meeting, please go to www.griefshare.org and search for the Surviving the Holidays group created for this event.

- **Membership at GCPC:** If you are interested in becoming a member of GCPC, please contact our Ministry Coordinator, Sherrie Hamby (officgcpcfw@gmail.com). She will coordinate a meeting with the elders and those interested in becoming members of our church. We will publicly receive our newest members during our worship service on **Sunday, April 6th, 2025**. But those who meet with the elders and are received into membership will be full members from that point on. The public reception is for our congregation to see our newest members.
 - **Our new members in 2024 and who were received in April, 2024:** Sara Sims; Stephen and Courtney Woods (Garrett, Hannah, Aaron), Jacob Edgar*, Lucy Hames*, Emma Richie
 - **Our new members in 2024 and who were publicly received in October, 2024:** Ron and Patti Hendricks; Jeff and Ginger Knutson; Jane Leuty; Ben, Lisbeth and Sylvana Urena; *Christine and Fynn Bentson*, Albert Harrelson*, Ella Herman*,
 - **Our new members in 2024 who will be publicly received in April 2025:** Kevin and Bonnie Saunders, Kelly Proffit, Sam and Dorinda Wetselaar (Jeffery and Benjamin), Andrew White, Nora Fickle*

*Children becoming communing members (coming to the Lord's Table for the first time)

- We now have a **search committee** tasked with finding the person God has for us. Please pray for them as they undertake this work: Phil Bassett, Christine Bassett, Dan Bent, Rhett Bentson, Bethany Brooks, Jerry Hames, Sean Henry, Bob James, Ryan Lutz and Kathy Sheffield

Guys of Grace (GoG) (text @guysofgr to the number 81010 for periodic updates on all things GoG related)

- **GoG Fellowship Nights:** These **bi-monthly fellowship** nights are meant as an informal time for our guys to get together and discuss/do the things that interest them—theological discussion,

sports, fire pit, pipe smoking, etc. These events are BYOB (Beef, Brew), and we will have the grills running. Our next fellowship night will be January 24th, 2025 **at 6:00pm** at the church. Contact Jordan Sims for more information JSims613@gmail.com.

- **Men's Group:** The Guys of Grace study will be meeting the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month**. They will meet **again on Wednesday, November 20th at 7pm**. The guys are studying the books Esther and Ruth this year and will be meeting in the conference room. Please contact Sean Henry for more information: seanph10@yahoo.com.
- **Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Meeting:** 6:15am every Tuesday in the Conference Room.

Greystone at Grace

- This semester Jared Brown is offering a **free course on the theology of Paul**. They meet at GCPC on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month** from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. The next class will be **Wednesday, November 13th**. Please contact Jared for more information: j.brown@greystoneinstitute.org or (817) 965-2550.

Ladies of Grace (LoG) (text @loggr to the number 81010 for periodic updates on all things LoG related)

- **Ladies' Fall Bible Study:** We are reading *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers* by Dane Ortlund and working through the study guide. Please contact Jen Smith with questions.
Tuesday morning in-person (with childcare): September 10 - November 12
Thursday evening Zoom: September 12 - November 14
- **Ladies' Prayer Meeting:** Thursdays at 10:00am Please contact Robbi Parker for Zoom link: oarsinsailsup@gmail.com.
- **Ladies of Grace Christmas Party: Friday, December 13, 6-9 pm** at Kathy Sheffield's home. Bring an appetizer, dessert, or bottle of wine to share, and a gift (\$20 or less, something you would want- not

a gag gift!) for a white elephant gift exchange. Sign up in the foyer or on Facebook.

- **Deck the Halls:** Join the Ladies of Grace on **Monday, December 2 from 6:30-8:30 pm** in decorating the church for Christmas and sharing some festive holiday cookies. MS and HS girls welcome! Sign up in the foyer or on Facebook.

Missions of Grace (MoG)

- **Save the Date:** GCPC Missions Conference **March 1-2**.
- **Missions of Grace Spotlight for November** is the work of **Mission to the World**, our denominational mission agency. They are promoting 4 mobilization initiatives in 2025:
 1. Equipping churches to highlight and engage in missions
 2. Praying for the nations
 3. Mission trips and internships for seminary students and RUF students
 4. Catalyst Teams to create a smooth pathway for new missionaries to find their calling.Please pray that through these initiatives God would raise up new missionaries.

Student Ministries of Grace (SMoG) (text @smogrem to 81010 for periodic reminders of all things SMoG related)

- **All Events Listed:** Please see SMoG page on our website: <https://gcpcfw.org/resources/student-ministries-of-grace/> or scan the QR code for a full calendar of events for SMoG through December 2024.



- **SMoG meets this Wednesday night, November 13th.**

Text @gcpcr to the number 81010 for periodic reminders of all things, generally, GCPC related.