

# GRACE COMMUNITY

*Presbyterian Church, PCA*

**ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

**December 1, 2024**

**10:30am**

**Reflection:** “Disciples must expect resistance (13:3–9), and in Nazareth that very resistance manifests itself. Nonetheless, the parables rouse hope. The kingdom will grow from a tiny seed to a great tree (vv. 31–32). The kingdom is a treasure beyond compare, worth all one has, all one is (vv. 44–46). Jesus is the priceless treasure, worthy of our full devotion. While this is the global point of the chapter, particular parables prompt other responses.”  
*Dan Doriani*

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

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### **WORSHIP IN PRAISE**

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## **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 118*

**Minister:** This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**People:** **You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.**

**ALL:** **Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!**

Psalm 118 [a portion from which our Call to Worship was taken) speaks for Jesus and about Jesus with powerful evocations of his distress, his trust in his Father, his resurrection and his entrance into glory as the head of his people. *I'll give thanks*' is the theme of the psalm encapsulated in the opening and closing verses. *'I will extol you'* is directed to the God who exalts. This God is now exalted in the praise of his people. [This hymn is the praise of Christ's triumphing people.] Martin Luther writes, concerning this psalm: 'We often sing a good song over again from the beginning, especially one we have sung with pleasure and joy'. *Christopher Ash*

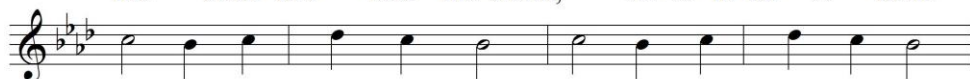
**Hymn of Adoration.....Come, Christians, Join to Sing (#302)**



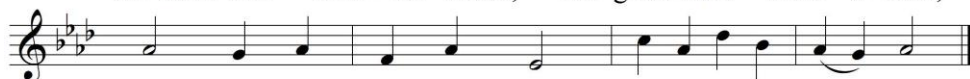
1. Come, Christians, join to sing Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!  
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!  
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!



loud praise to Christ our King: Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!  
 let prais - es fill the sky; Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!  
 life shall not end the strain; Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!



let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re-joice;  
 he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - descend;  
 on heav-en's bliss - ful shore, his good-ness we'll a - dore,



praise is his gra-cious choice. Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!  
 his love shall nev - er end. Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!  
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!"

**Prayer of Adoration**

Hymn of Preparation.....*We Have Not Known Thee as We Ought* (#493)



1. We have not known thee as we ought,  
 2. We have not feared thee as we ought,  
 -- 3. We have not loved thee as we ought,  
 4. We have not served thee as we ought;  
 5. When shall we know thee as we ought,



nor learned thy wis - dom, grace, and pow'r; the things of  
 nor bowed be - neath thine awe - some eye, nor guard - ed  
 -- nor cared that we are loved by thee; thy pres - ence  
 a - las! the du - ties left un - done, thy work with  
 and fear and love and serve a - right! When shall we,



earth have filled our thought, and tri - fles of the  
 deed and word and thought, re - mem - ber - ing that  
 -- we have cold - ly sought, and fee - bly longed thy  
 lit - tle fer - vor wrought, the bat - tles lost, or  
 out of trial be brought, be per - fect in the



pass - ing hour. Lord, give us light thy truth to  
 God was nigh. Lord, give us faith to know thee  
 -- face to see. Lord, give a pure and lov - ing  
 scarce - ly won! Lord, give the zeal, and give the  
 land of light! Lord, may we day by day pre -



see, and make us wise in know - ing thee.  
 near, and grant the grace of ho - ly fear.  
 -- heart to feel and own the love thou art.  
 might, for thee to toil, for thee to fight.  
 pare to see thy face, and serve thee there.

## Call to Confession

### Words of Comfort and Promise.....*Revelation 1*

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen

### Hymn of Response.....*With Harps and with Viols (#547)*



1. With harps and with vi - ols, there stand a great throng  
 2. All these once were sin - ners, de - filed in his sight,  
 - 3. He mak - eth the reb - el a priest and a king,  
 4. How help - less and hope - less we sin - ners had been,  
 5. A - loud in his prais - es our voic - es shall ring,



in the pres - ence of Je - sus, and sing this new song:  
 now ar - rayed in pure gar - ments in praise they u - nite:  
 - he hath bought us and taught us this new song to sing:  
 if he nev - er had loved us till cleansed from our sin:  
 so that oth - ers, be - liev - ing, this new song shall sing:



Un - to him who hath loved us and washed us from sin,



un - to him be the glo - ry for - ev - er A - men.

Pierson, Arthur Tappan, D.D., the writer of this hymn, was born in New York city, March 6, 1837, and educated at Hamilton College. He entered the Presbyterian ministry in 1830, and was pastor successively in Binghampton and in Waterford, New York, and Fort Street, Detroit; his last charge being the Bethany Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. This hymn he based on **Revelation 1:5-6**.

—————**WORSHIP AND THE MEANS OF GRACE**—————

**Confession of Faith.....***Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 67-69*  
Ruling Elder, Phil Bassett

Elder: Which is the sixth commandment?

**People: The sixth commandment is, Thou shalt not kill.**

Elder: What is required in the sixth commandment?

**People: The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life and the life of others.**

Elder: What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

**People: The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly or whatever may lead to it.**

**The First Reading of God’s Word.....**Deuteronomy 18:15-22  
*p 161*

**The Second Reading of God’s Word.....**Matthew 13:53-58  
*pp 819-820*

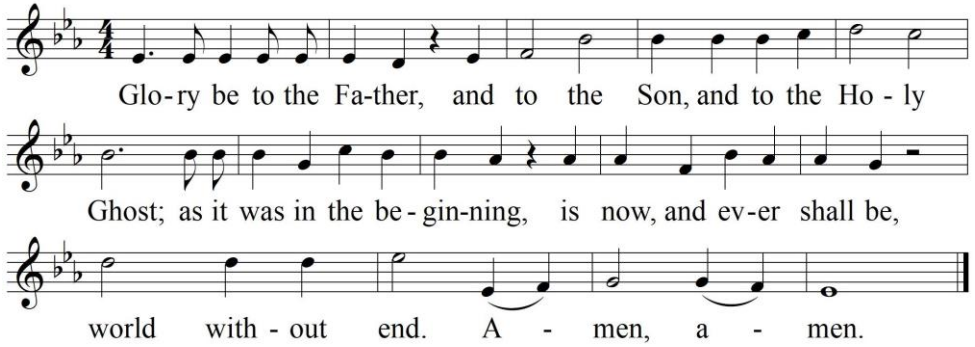
Reader: This is the Word of God.

**People: Amen!**

**Prayer of Consecration and Illumination**

We offer an optional Children’s Lesson for children 4 years old through 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Hymn of Response.....Gloria Patri (#735)**



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly  
Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,  
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

**Hearing from God’s Word.....Matthew 13:53-58**  
Rev. Kyle Oliphint *Disrespected and Rejected*

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

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

“When we go to the cross, we see our God dying for us. If you let any other god down, it will beat you up. If you live for people’s approval or your career or possessions or control or anything else and you don’t make it or you mess up, then you’ll be left feeling afraid, downcast, or bitter. But when you let Christ down, he still loves you. He doesn’t beat you up; he died for you.

Let his love win your love, and let that love replace all other affections. The secret of change is to renew your love for Christ as you see him crucified in your place.”

*Tim Chester*

**“Christ’s death is the Christian’s life. Christ’s cross is the Christian’s title to heaven. Christ ‘lifted up’ and put to shame on Calvary is the ladder by which Christians ‘enter into the holiest,’ and are at length landed in glory.**

**It is true that we are sinners—but Christ has suffered for us. It is true that we deserve death—but Christ has died for us. It is true that we are guilty debtors—but Christ has paid our debts with His own blood. This is the real Gospel! This is the good news! On this let us lean while we live. To this let us cling when we die. Christ has been ‘lifted up’ on the cross, and has thrown open the gates of heaven to all believers.”**

*J. C. Ryle*

# Communion Hymns

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## **Whate'er My God Ordains is Right** –*Samuel Rodigast/David Braud*

1. Whate'er my God ordains is right,  
Holy His will abideth.  
I will be still whate'er He does,  
And follow where He guideth.  
He is my God, though dark my road.  
He holds me that I shall not fall  
Wherefore to Him I leave it all.

2. Whate'er my God ordains is right,  
He never will deceive me.  
He leads me by the proper path,  
I know He will not leave me.  
I take, content, what He hath sent.  
His hand can turn my griefs away,  
And patiently I wait His day.

3. Whate'er my God ordains is right,  
Though now this cup in drinking  
May bitter seem to my faint heart,  
I take it all unshrinking.  
My God is true, each morn anew.  
Sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart,  
And pain and sorrow shall depart.

4. Whate'er my God ordains is right,  
Here shall my stand be taken.  
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, Yet  
I am not forsaken.  
My Father's care Is round me there.  
He holds me that I shall not fall,  
And so to Him I leave it all.

## **To Christ the Lord** –*Laura Taylor/Samuel Stennett*

1. To Christ the Lord let every tongue  
Its noblest tribute bring.  
When He's the subject of the song,  
Who can refuse to sing?  
Survey the beauties of His face,  
And on His glories dwell.  
Think of the wonder of His grace,  
And all His triumphs tell.

3. He saw me plunged in deep distress;  
He fled to my relief.  
For me He bore the shameful cross  
And carried all my grief.  
His hand a thousand blessings pours  
Upon my guilty head.  
His presence gilds my darkest hours  
And guards my sleeping bed.

3. To Him I owe my life and breath  
And all the joys I have.  
He makes me triumph over death  
And saves me from the grave.  
To Heaven the place of His abode  
He brings my weary feet.  
Shows me the glories of my God  
And makes my joy complete.

4. Since from His bounty I receive  
Such proofs of love divine  
Had I a thousand hearts to give,  
Lord, they should all be Thine.  
A thousand men could not compose  
A worthy song to bring,  
Yet Your love is a melody  
Our hearts can't help but sing.

## **What a Friend We Have in Jesus (#629)** –*Joseph Scriven/Charles Converse*

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.





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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Next Week's Sermon Passage

Luke 10:25-37

### Financials

First Three Quarters of 2024: \$599,354.51

### Upcoming Events

- **GCPC Progressive Dinner: Coming up this Saturday, December 7, 5:30-10 pm.** You should have received an email yesterday with your assigned appetizer and dinner groups, what to bring, etc. If you signed up but have not received your email, please contact Amy Lutz (amylutz2@gmail.com) as soon as possible.
- **Lessons and Carols Service: Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 PM**
- **Christmas Choirs:** Email hames.elizabeth@gmail.com with questions.
  - **Children's Choir:** 4-year-olds through 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Rehearsals will be right after church (12:00-12:45) on Dec. 1, Dec. 8, and Dec. 15. The first rehearsal is TODAY.
  - **Adult/Youth Choir:** Middle school/high school students and adults. Remaining rehearsals will be 7:00-8:30 on Thursday Dec. 5, and Dec. 12.
- **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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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:** Gabriel and Kathryn Ingram, Kelly Proffit, Kevin and Bonnie Saunders, Sam and Dorinda Wetselaar (Jeffery and Benjamin), Andrew White, Nora Fickle\*, Lilly Thacker\*

\*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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00pm** at the church. Contact Jordan Sims for more information jorsim613@gmail.com.
- **Men's Group:** The Guys of Grace study will be meeting the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays each month**. They will meet **again this Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. The guys have been studying the books Esther and Ruth this year and meet 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month** from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. The next class will be **Wednesday, December 11**. 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' Winter/Spring Bible Study:** Our new study begins on **January 21**. We will read *What a Royal Mess: A Study of 1 and 2 Kings* by Susan Tyner (\$13). Sign-ups will begin in December in the church foyer.  
**Tuesday morning in-person (with childcare): January 21-April 1**  
**Thursday evening Zoom: January 23 - April 3**
- **Ladies' Prayer Meeting:** Thursdays at 10:00am Please contact Robbi Parker for Zoom link: oarsinsailsup@gmail.com.
- **Deck the Halls: Join the Ladies of Grace tomorrow evening, 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! Also, if you have holiday decor items you no longer want/need, feel free to bring it with you for an optional Christmas decor swap. (Note: you must bring any unclaimed items back home with you.) Sign up in the foyer or on Facebook.
- **Ladies of Grace Christmas Party:** join us for fun, food, and fellowship on **Friday, December 13, 6-9 pm** at Kathy Sheffield's home. Bring an appetizer, dessert, or bottle of wine to share, and a wrapped gift (\$20 or less, something you would want- not a gag gift!) for a gift exchange. 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 December is Jamie and Jen Burkemper:**

They are the team leaders in Madrid, Spain, for a new RUF work alongside a new church plant. Please pray that the Lord will provide the funds needed to renovate and run the new center for students and the church plant. Pray that God would draw many students to Christ and for them to be disciplined well. Jen has chronic illness; pray for the Lord to sustain her.

## 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 will not meet this Wednesday, due to Thanksgiving. Their next meeting will be Wednesday night, December 4th.**

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