

GRACE COMMUNITY

Presbyterian Church, PCA

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 8, 2024

10:30am

Reflection: “Perhaps it is significant that the importance of loving our neighbor, of being a good neighbor, follows a text on mission. We are called to bring the good news to the ends of the earth, but following Christ as a disciple means treating every person as a neighbor, loving everyone in our path. The focus on mission may blind us to needs right in front of us.”

Dan Doriani

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 Isaiah & John*

Minister: Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

People: **Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.**

Minister: For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

ALL: **On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.”**

Hymn of Adoration.....Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (#457)



1. Come, thou fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy
2. Here I raise my Eb-en-e-zer; hith-er by thy help I'm
3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to



grace; streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for
come; and I hope by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly
be; let that grace now, like a fet-ter, bind my



songs of loud-est praise. Teach me some me-lo-dious
to ar-rive at home. Je-sus sought me when a
wan-d'ring heart to thee. Prone to wan-der, Lord, I



son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove; praise the
strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God: he, to
feel it, prone to leave the God I love: here's my



mount! I'm fixed up-on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love.
res-cue me from dan-ger, in-ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a-bove.

Robert Robinson was born at Swaffham, Norfolk, in 1735. In 1749, he was apprenticed to a hairdresser, in Crutched Friars, London. Hearing a discourse preached by Whitefield on "The Wrath to Come," in 1752, he was deeply impressed, and after a period of much disquietude, he gave himself to a religious life. He soon after began to preach, and ministered for some time in connection with the Calvinistic Methodists. He subsequently joined the Independents, but after a short period preferred the Baptist connection. In 1761, he became pastor of a Baptist congregation at Cambridge. About the year 1780, he began to incline towards Unitarianism, and at length his people deemed it essential to procure his resignation. While arrangements for this purpose were in progress he died suddenly at Bingham, in June 1790.

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn of Preparation.....*There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood* (#253)



1. There is a foun - tain filled with blood, drawn
 2. The dy - ing thief re - joiced to see that
 3. E'er since by faith I saw the stream your
 4. Then in a no - bler, sweet - er song I'll
 5. Dear dy - ing Lamb, your pre - cious blood shall



from Im - man - uel's veins; and sin - ners, plunged be -
 foun - tain in his day; and there have I, as
 flow - ing wounds sup - ply, re - deem - ing love has
 sing your pow'r to save, when this poor lisp - ing,
 ne - ver lose its pow'r, till all the ran - somed



neath that flood, lose all their guilt - y stains: lose
 vile as he, washed all my sins a - way: washed
 been my theme, and shall be till I die: and
 stam - m'ring tongue lies si - lent in the grave: lies
 church of God be saved to sin no more: be



all their guilt - y stains, lose all their guilt - y
 all my sins a - way, washed all my sins a -
 shall be till I die, and shall be till I
 si - lent in the grave, lies si - lent in the
 saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no



stains; and sin - ners, plunged be -
 way; and there have I, as
 die; re - deem - ing love has
 grave; when this poor lisp - ing,
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 church of God be saved to sin no more.

—WORSHIP IN CONFESSION AND PARDON—

Call to Confession.....*Matthew 11*

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Words of Comfort and Promise.....*John 1*

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Hymn of Response.....*Behold the Lamb*



1. Be - hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for
2. The bo - dy of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, torn for
3. The blood that clean - ses ev - 'ry stain of sin, shed for
4. And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to re -



us, and we re-mem-ber the prom - ise made that all who
you, eat and re-mem-ber; the wounds that heal, the death that
you, drink and re-mem-ber he drained death's cup that all may
spond, and to re-mem-ber our call to fol - low in the



come in faith find for-give - ness at the cross. So we share in this
brings us life paid the price to make us one. So we share in this
en - ter in to re - ceive the life of God. So we share in this
steps of Christ as his bo - dy here on earth. As we share in his



bread of life, and we drink of his sac - ri - fice as a
bread of life, and we drink of his sac - ri - fice as a
bread of life, and we drink of his sac - ri - fice as a
suf - fer - ing, we pro - claim Christ will come a - gain! And we'll



sign of our bonds of peace a-round the ta - ble of the King.
sign of our bonds of love a-round the ta - ble of the King.
sign of our bonds of grace a-round the ta - ble of the King.
join in the feast of heav'n a-round the ta - ble of the King.

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

Confession of Faith.....*Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 70-72*
Ruling Elder, Dan Bent

Elder: Which is the seventh commandment?

People: The seventh commandment is, Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Elder: What is required in the seventh commandment?

People: The seventh commandment requires of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

Elder: What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

People: The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words and actions.

The First Reading of God's Word.....Deuteronomy 6:4-9;
Leviticus 19:17-18
pp 151;98

The Second Reading of God's Word.....Luke 10:25-37
p 869

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 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.

Hymn of Response.....*Almighty God, Your Word is Cast*



1. Al - might - y God, your word is cast like
2. Let not the foe of Christ and man this



seed in - to the ground; now let the dew of
ho - ly seed re - move, but give it root in



heav'n de - scend, and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.

Hearing from God's Word.....*Luke 10:25-37*

Rev. Andy Wood

What Kind of Neighbor Are You?

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

“The only kind of faith that matters in the end is saving faith — the faith that unites us to Christ so that his righteousness is counted as ours in justification, and his power flows into us for sanctification. In other words, . . . I am not interested in faith in general — the faith of other religions, or the faith of science in the validity of its first principles, or the faith of children in their parents, or any other kind of faith that is not in Christ. I am only interested in the faith that obtains eternal life. The faith that saves (Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9). The faith that justifies (Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16) and sanctifies (Acts 26:18; 1 Pet. 4:11).”

John Piper

“The final bodily resurrection of the saints vindicates them before the on-looking world in that it is an ‘enfleshing’ or ‘incarnation’ of their prior spiritual identification with Christ’s vindicating resurrection, which was not seen or recognized by the ungodly powers. That is, spiritual resurrection that was invisible but to the eyes of faith (2 Cor. 4:6-11, 16-18) will become visible to all eyes in the consummated form of physical resurrection (2 Cor. 4:14; 5:1-5), which is foundational to a person’s being judged favorably by Christ at the end.”

G. K. Beale

"The greatest good suffering can do for me is to increase my capacity for God."

Joni Eareckson Tada

Communion Hymns

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (#197) – Johannes Olearius/Louis Bourgeois

1. Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load;
speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon
blotting out each dark misdeed;
all that well deserved his anger
he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
into ever-springing gladness.

Thou Lovely Source of True Delight – Anne Steele/Kevin Twit

1. Thou lovely source of true delight
Whom I unseen adore,
Unveil Thy beauties to my sight
That I might love Thee more,
Oh that I might love Thee more.

2. Thy glory o'er creation shines,
But in Thy sacred Word,
I read in fairer, brighter lines
My bleeding, dying Lord,
See my bleeding, dying Lord.

3. 'Tis here, when'er my comforts droop,
And sin and sorrow rise,
Thy love with cheering beams of hope
My fainting heart supplies.
Oh, my fainting heart's supplied.

None Other Lamb (#157) – Christina Rossetti/William Jeater

1. None other Lamb, None other Name,
None other hope in Heav'n or earth or sea,
None other hiding place from guilt and
shame, None beside Thee!

2. My faith burns low,
My hope burns low;
Only my heart's desire cries out in me

3. For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
bidding all men to repentance,
since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

4. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er the earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that his word is never broken.

4. But ah! Too soon the pleasing scene
Is clouded o'er with pain.
My gloomy fears rise dark between
And I again complain.
Oh, and I again complain.

5. Jesus, my Lord, my life, my light
Oh come with blissful ray
Break radiant through the shades of
night, And chase my fears away.
Won't you chase my fears away.

6. Then shall my soul with rapture trace
The wonders of Thy love,
But the full glories of Thy face
Are only known above.
They are only known above.

By the deep thunder of its want and woe,
Cries out to Thee.

3. Lord, Thou art Life,
Though I be dead;
Love's fire Thou art, however cold I be:
Nor Heav'n have I, nor place to lay my
head, Nor home but Thee.

WORSHIP IN GRATITUDE

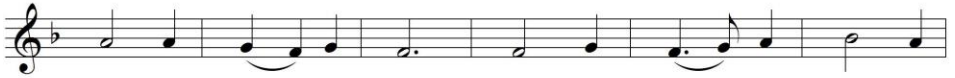
(Please consider filling out your prayer request now and dropping it in the offering plate.)

Offertory.....Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Closing Hymn.....Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (#196)



1. Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day - spring
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a



set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re -
from on high ap - pear; come, thou prom - ised Rod of
glo - ries knew no end; by his life he brings us
child and yet a king, born to reign in us for -



lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with -
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in



all the earth thou art, dear de - sire of
tid - ings of a birth: "Go to him, your
in a cat - tle stall; this the ev - er -
all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -



ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Week's Sermon Passage

Matthew 14:1-21

Financials

First Three Quarters of 2024: \$599,354.51

Upcoming Events

- **GCPC Christmas Card Distribution Bins are here!** Sending Christmas cards to our fellow church members is a wonderful way to bless each other. If you usually give out 5 to 100 cards to our church family we hope this process will be helpful. Simply bring your written, ready-to-go cards to church and place them in the right folders (alphabetized by family last name). The bins are on the table in the entryway. Please make sure to check your folder and empty it out on a regular basis.
- **Lessons and Carols Service: Next Sunday**, December 15 at 6:00 PM
- **Christmas Choirs:** Email hames.elizabeth@gmail.com with questions.
 - **Children's Choir:** 4-year-olds through 5th graders. Remaining rehearsals will be right after church (**12:00-12:45**) TODAY and **Dec. 15**.
 - **Adult/Youth Choir:** Middle school/high school students and adults. Remaining rehearsal will be **7:00-8:30** on Thursday, **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 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:** Jess and Judy Alonso, Gabriel and Kathryn Ingram, Kelly Proffit, Kevin and Bonnie Saunders, Sam and Dorinda Wetselaar (Jeffery and Benjamin), Andrew White, Nora Fickle*, Mia Lutz*, 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
- **Members of GCPC:** We are now in the process of nominating men for ordained office. Our nominations close on **January 12**. Ballots and booklets that explain the process are available in the foyer. Please pray for this process, for the minds and hearts of our members and for the clarity and wisdom of the men who may give permission to be nominated. Finally, begin to pray now for the many months of the training process that will begin in early 2025.

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 jorsim613@gmail.com.

- **Men's Group:** The Guys of Grace study will be meeting the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month**. They will meet **again Wednesday, December 18th 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 has offered a **free course on the theology of Paul**. from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. The last class will be **this Wednesday, December 11** from 7pm to 8:30 at the church building.

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 have begun 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.
- **Ladies of Grace Christmas Party:** join us for fun, food, and fellowship **this 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 meet this Wednesday night, December 11th.**

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

NOTES
