

GRACE COMMUNITY

Presbyterian Church, PCA

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

March 16, 2025

10:30am

Reflection:

“Whenever we enter on a discourse respecting the eternal counsels of God, let a bridle be always set on our thoughts and tongue, so that after having spoken soberly and within the limits of God’s word, our reasoning may at last end in admiration.”

John Calvin

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 1 Chronicles 29

Minister: Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

People: **Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor.**

Minister: For everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

People: **Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.**

Hymn of Adoration.....*Now Thank We All Our God (#98)*



1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and
2. O may this boun-teous God through all our life be
3. All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be



voi - ces, who won-drous things hath done, in whom his world re -
near us, with ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to
giv - en, the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est



joic - es; who from our moth-er's arms, hath blessed us on our
cheer us; and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per-
heav - en, the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a -



way with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
plexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
dore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) was the Bishop of Eilenberg, Germany during the Thirty Years' War. Since Eilenberg was a walled city it became a place of refuge for fugitives of the war, and also a place of famine and disease due to overcrowding. In 1637 at the height of their misery, Rinkart was the only clergyman left in the city who could perform the 40 or 50 necessary burial services daily -- one of which was for his wife. As if that weren't enough, the city was sacked three times by invaders, one of which imposed a large tribute payment upon the people. During this time, Rinkart managed to find the time to write 7 dramas and 66 hymns.

This humble prayer of thanksgiving is laid out simply and beautifully in the first verse, but it's the next two verses that expand the hymn's focus and have given it its lasting appeal. You can see the Thirty Years' War pressing on his mind in verse two.

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn of Preparation.....*Be Still My Soul* (#689)



1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
2. Be still, my soul: your God will un - der - take
3. Be still, my soul: when dear - est friends de - part,
4. Be still, my soul: the hour is has - t'ning on



bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;
to guide the fu - ture as he has the past.
and all is dark - ened in the vale of tears,
when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord,



leave to your God to or - der and pro - vide;
Your hope, your con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
then shall you bet - ter know his love, his heart,
when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,



in ev - 'ry change he faith - ful will re - main.
all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
who comes to soothe your sor - row and your fears.
sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.



Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'n - ly Friend
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
Be still, my soul: your Je - sus can re - pay
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,



through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
from his own full - ness all he takes a - way.
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

—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.

Prayer of Confession of Sin

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

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

Hymn of Response.....*Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us (#599)*



1. Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us,
2. We are thine; do thou be - friend us,
3. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us,
4. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor;



much we need thy ten - der care; in thy pleas - ant pas - tures
be the guar - dian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin de -
poor and sin - ful though we be; thou hast mer - cy to re -
ear - ly let us do thy will; bless - ed Lord and on - ly



feed us, for our use thy fold pre - pare: bless - ed
fend us, seek us when we go as - tray: bless - ed
lieve us, grace to cleanse and pow'r to free: bless - ed
Sav - ior, with thy love our bo - soms fill: bless - ed



Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us thine we are; bless - ed
Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray; bless - ed
Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, let us ear - ly turn to thee; bless - ed
Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still; bless - ed



Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, let us ear - ly turn to thee.
Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

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

Confession of Faith.....*Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 6&7*
Ruling Elder Phil Bassett

Elder: Did God create people so wicked and perverse?

People: No. God created them good and in his own image, that is, in true righteousness and holiness, so that they might truly know God their creator, love him with all their heart, and live with God in eternal happiness, to praise and glorify him.

Elder: Then where does this corrupt human nature come from?

People: The fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise. This fall has so poisoned our nature that we are all conceived and born in a sinful condition.

The First Reading of God’s Word.....Isaiah 40:12-31
p 600

The Second Reading of God’s Word.....Romans 11:33-35
p 947


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 and Preparation.....*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2. He speaks and, list - 'ning to his voice, new
great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken
God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.
hearts re - joice; the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

Hearing from God's Word.....Romans 11:33-35

Rev. Dave Boxerman

A God-Centered Theology

Pastor Emeritus, Lakeside Presbyterian Church

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

"Faith involves both a renunciation and a reliance. First, we must renounce any trust in our own performance as the basis of our acceptance before God. We trust in our own performance when we believe we've earned God's acceptance by our own good works. But we also trust in our own performance when we believe we've lost God's acceptance by our bad works--by our sin. So we must renounce any consideration of either our bad works or our good works as the means of relating to God.

Second, we must place our reliance entirely on the perfect obedience of the sin-bearing death of Christ as the sole basis of our standing before God--on our best days as well as our worst."

Jerry Bridges

"Our sins *have been* punished; the wheel of retribution *has* turned; judgment *has* been inflicted for our ungodliness – but on Jesus, the lamb of God, standing in our place. In this way God is *just* – and the justifier of those who put faith in Jesus, who 'was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification' (Romans 4:25)."

J.I. Packer

Communion Hymns

Fairest Lord Jesus (#170)– *Folk Hymn*

1. Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory joy, and crown.

2. Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

4. Beautiful Savior!
Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine.

Behold Our God – *Baird/Altrogge*

1. Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

Refrain:

*Behold our God, seated on His throne,
Come let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
Come let us adore Him.*

2. Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His word?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Refrain

3. Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!
Refrain

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (#616) –*Elisha Hoffman/Anthony Showalter*

1. What a fellowship,
What a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness,
What a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

*Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

2. Oh, how sweet to walk
In the pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path
Grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

3. What have I to dread,
What have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace
With my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

WORSHIP IN GRATITUDE

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

Offertory.....Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;

Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.

Closing Hymn.....We Believe

REFRAIN



We be-lieve in one true God, Fa-ther, Spir - it, Son; one



Church, one faith, one Lord of all, his King-dom come.



1. We be-lieve in God the Fa - ther, Al -
2. We be-lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, was
3. We be-lieve in God the Spir - it, one



might - y Lord of life; Cre - a - tor of the
beat - en, cru - ci - fied; he died and he was
Church em - pow'ed by him; com - mun - ion of God's



heav - ens, the earth, the sea, the sky. And
bur - ied, en - tombed in dark - est night. The
peo - ple, for - give ness of our sin. Our



we be-lieve in Je - sus, the on - ly Son of God; born
third day rose vic - to - rious, as - cend - ed in - to heav'n, will
bod - ies res - ur - rect - ed to ev - er - last - ing life; to



of the vir - gin Mar - y who lived as one of us.
one day come to judge us, the liv - ing and the dead.
wor-ship, love and won - der be - fore the throne of Christ.

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Week's Sermon Passage

Revelation 5:6-14

Financials

Total giving for 2024: \$807,747

Upcoming Events

- **Monthly Potluck Lunch: April 6 after worship**
Set-up/Clean-up Coordinator: Chyrese Thacker (chyrese@thacker.com)
Please check your email, the LoG Facebook page, or look for a text from Remind to sign-up to help with set-up and/or clean-up in April. Thank you for your help with this ministry!
Please bring the following:
ALL: main dish
By Last Name:
A-J: dessert
K-O: salad
P-Z: side
Missions Spotlight: Foists
 - **VBS 2025!** Mark your calendars **June 23-27**
 - **Membership at GCPC:** If you are interested in becoming a member of GCPC, please contact our Ministry Coordinator, Sherrie Hamby (officgpcfw@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 newest members who will be publicly received April 6th, 2025:** Jess and Judy Alonso, Lynn DeMoss, Gabriel and Kathryn Ingram, Kelly Proffit, Kevin and Bonnie Saunders, Sam and Dorinda Wetselaar (Jeffery and Benjamin), Andrew White, Luke Wilkerson, Seth Wilkerson, Christine Bentson*, Fynn Bentson*, Nora Fickle*, Mia Lutz*, Lilly Thacker*
- *Children becoming communing members (coming to the Lord's Table for the first time)

- **Pastoral Search Committee Update:** Thank you for your prayers over our search for the man God has planned to serve alongside Kyle at GCPC! Over the last few months we have received applications for the position and are now arranging to interview candidates. Please continue to pray that the Lord would give us wisdom and unity. Please also pray for the candidates as they seek to discern God's calling for their lives and ministry. The members of the committee are: Phil and Christine Bassett, Dan Bent, Rhett Bentson, Bethany Brooks, Jerry Hames, Sean Henry, Bob James, Ryan Lutz and Kathy Sheffield. Any of them will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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 **this Friday, March 21st, 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 this Wednesday, March 19th, 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.

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

- **Ladies of grace Spring Brunch:** Join us for a spring brunch on **Saturday, April 26** from 10 am to 12 pm in Westminster Hall. High School girls are also welcome to attend. RSVP by **Sunday, April 20** in the church foyer or on Facebook!

- **Ladies' Winter/Spring Bible Study:** Our new study has **begun**. They meet again **this Tuesday morning, March 18th, at 9:30**. The book is *What a Royal Mess: A Study of 1 and 2 Kings* by Susan Tyner (\$13).
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, *would you consider joining some of us* for a special time together at the **PCA Women's "Made for More Conference" in Dallas at Park Cities Pres, April 4-5?** The conference is also geared for young daughters grades 3-12. For more information on the Conference and registration, contact Karen Taylor karen_taylor@sil.org

Missions of Grace (MoG)

- **Missions of Grace Spotlight for March 2025**

Opportunities for Mission Trips with GCPC

1. Local: Fort Worth refugees (April 17-19)

We will be connecting with refugee families in our city, playing games with the children, planting flowers to brighten their lives, engaging in Gospel conversations and praying with them. Contact Ann Geer (jageer2@yahoo.com; 940.393.3524) if interested. **There will be an interest meeting for the Fort Worth trip on Sunday, March 23 directly after worship in Westminster Hall.**

2. Reynosa, Mexico (July 5-11)

We will be spending a week with Isaiah 55 to do practical projects for them and engage with the kids. Contact John Rohde (john.rohde63@gmail.com; 480.398.5538) if interested. More information to come.

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 May, 2025.



SMoG will meet this Wednesday night, March 19th.

- **Greystone at Grace:** Please join us this semester to discuss Abraham Kuyper’s Lectures on Calvinism. We will meet every **2nd and 4th Wednesday** night in Calvin from February to April. If you would like to join us, please pick up a copy of the book and contact Jared: Jrbrown50@yahoo.com or (817) 965-2550. We will meet from 7-8p pm/ All are welcome!

Schedule:

3/26: Calvinism and Science

4/9: Calvinism and Art

4/23: Calvinism and the Future

NOTES

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