

Grace

and peace to you
2 Thessalonians 1:2

December 4, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church

Prelude Sheep May Safely Graze J.S. Bach

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Welcome & Announcements

The Peace

Introit Emmanuel Bob McGee

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

Call to Worship

Seek the Lord while the Lord may be found

Call upon the Lord the while the Lord is near.

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

On this Second Sunday in Advent we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place:

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry:

“Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia!

Opening Hymn Comfort, Comfort Now My People

“Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow’s load.

To my people now proclaim
that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God’s word is never broken.

Invitation to Confession

The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came into the world to save us. Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, always with us, always coming, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of the season. Forgive us, God.

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ Jesus came into the world to save us.

He personally bore our sins in his body on the cross that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.

Friends, believe the Good News. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Amen.

Celebration of Forgiveness

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

The Sacrament of Baptism

Felicity June Hudson, daughter of Sam and Kelly Hudson
Vivienne Rose Pizer, daughter of Brett and Rebecca Pizer

Presentation

Affirmation 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 Ghost; 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 sitteth 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Act of Baptism

Welcome

(Children may leave the sanctuary at this time to go to their Sunday School classes.)

Prayer for Illumination

Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Now sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson (pg. 241 Old Testament)

Ruth 1:8-18

Second Lesson (pg.2 New Testament)

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon

The Winnower

Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

From God's heart the Savior speeds;
back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command,
back to reign at God's right hand.

Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally.

Prayers of the People

SERVICE OF THE UPPER ROOM

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Prepare the Way, O Zion

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, peace, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

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.

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

We life them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

SENT TO SERVE GOD'S KINGDOM

Hymn

Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,

and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

“To Know Christ, and To Make Him Known.”

Musicians: Chancel Choir, Cherub Choir, Joseph Caminiti, Valerie Clayton, Melissa Dreisbach, Suzy Kiefner, Ruth Fuelleborn

Pastor: Jim Reisner

Worship Leader: Mary Rodgers

Advent Candle Lighting: Sullivan Family (Aaron, Sarah, Grace and Teddy)

Audio and Video: Ben Morris

The chancel flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by June and Rob Hudson in honor of the baptisms of Felicity June Hudson and Vivienne Rose Pizer, and first birthday of Felicity.

The rose in the chancel in honor of the birth of William Ryan Campbell, born on November 29th, son of Meghan and Ryan, brother of Charlotte, grandson of Bob and Pat Small.

Scripture

Ruth 1:8-18

⁸Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.”

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”

¹¹But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹²Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— ¹³would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me!”

¹⁴At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵“Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

¹⁶But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” ¹⁸When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him.’”[a]

4 John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with[b] water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”