



Our church exists to help people **know** God's Son, **fellowship** with God's people, **worship** in God's church, **grow** in God's grace and **serve** in God's world.

# The Lord's Day | December 3, 2023

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Welcome

*Please silence your electronic device before the worship service begins.*

### Preparation for Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

Isaiah 9:2-3

### Call to Worship

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

### Invocation

### Doxology

Doxology means "glory words." We lift our hearts up to give God his glory for all he has done.

***+Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

**Advent Candle - Hope**

**Pastoral Prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

***+Hope of the Nations***

***+All Things New***

### Children's Moment

*(There is no Nursery/ Children's Church)*

## +Scripture Reading

*So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. <sup>11</sup> And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died... Now his [Eli's] daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth. And when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth, for her pains came upon her. <sup>20</sup> And about the time of her death the women attending her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer or pay attention. <sup>21</sup> And she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. <sup>22</sup> And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured." (1 Sam. 4:10-11, 20-22)*

<sup>46</sup> So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. <sup>47</sup> When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. <sup>48</sup> So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." <sup>49</sup> The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. <sup>51</sup> As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. <sup>52</sup> So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." <sup>53</sup> The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. <sup>54</sup> This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

John 4: 46-54

**Sermon** Rev. Doug Serven

## Silent Confession

### Corporate Confession

**Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### Declaration of Pardon

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Pastor: Your sins are forgiven. Your dignity is restored. Your shame is taken away—all by the life and sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. At the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to say to all those who were invited, "Friends, your spot at the table is set. He has made a place for you."

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*universal

## **Invitation to the Table**

### **The Lord's Supper**

This is a sign and symbol for those who believe in Jesus Christ. It's not for good people. It's for you if you believe and embrace that you are worse and more messed up than you ever dare to admit; and yet you are more loved and accepted than you had ever dared to hope - because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus for you. You will be invited to come forward. The dark liquid is wine and the light liquid is grape juice. We have gluten free crackers on the table if you need them instead of the bread. After you are finished, please place your empty cup in one of the baskets at the front. Feel free to stay and pray with the pastor or elders.

Children are welcome to come with their parents. Each child should talk with a pastor or elder about his or her belief in Christ before taking the Lord's Supper for the first time. Please make an appointment to do this at a future date.

Pastor: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us lift up our hearts to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

**+O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

## **Announcements**

### **+Benediction**

*God sends us out with his blessing. A benediction is not a prayer. We don't bow our heads. We lift them up and even lift up our hands, in a spiritually ready position so that the blessing God is giving us will fully hit our whole selves, and we'll be sent out for mission.*

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:33,11:36

## **Dismissal**

Pastor: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

*\*If able, please stand*

### **Prayers During the Lord's Supper:**

*Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth:* Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads me to the life you promise. Amen.

*Prayer of Belief:* Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Prayer of Struggling Against Sin:* Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may I turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me and run with perseverance the race you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen.

*Prayer of Commitment:* Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

## **Announcements**

**Living Nativity:** Tonight, 4-7 P M. Use the invitations in the narthex to invite others. Some ways you might volunteer: set up, be in the nativity, hang in the craft room, greet guests, clean up. We need all members to provide a peanut free finger dessert. Any question please reach out to Darlene at 443-695-5379.

**Nursery/Children's Church Rotation** Today: There is no Nursery/Children's Church

## Weekly Schedule

### SUNDAY

**Sunday School:** 8:50 - 9:45 AM **Adults and Teens** in Trailer **Children 4-9** in classroom in the church.

**Worship Service:** 10 AM

**Nursery** (infant -3yrs.) in Toddler Room during service (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

**Children's Church** (infant-8 yrs., 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

### MONDAY

**Women's Discipleship Group:** 7 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month, in person and on Zoom.

### WEDNESDAY

**Conversational English Classes:** 9:30 -11:30 AM during the school year.

**Zoom Praying Meeting:** 7:30-8:30 PM

### SATURDAY

**Men's Discipleship Group:** 7 AM, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at the church.

## Thank you for worshipping with us!

If you would like to have your name added to our communication list for announcements and events, please scan or click the code.



Thank you for your generous giving to help us support the mission and vision of Grace Church. You can make a one-time gift or set up regular giving. Visit [grpca.org](http://grpca.org) or scan/click the code.



### Church Leadership

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