

GRACE COMMUNITY

Presbyterian Church, PCA

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

September 24, 2017

10:30 AM

Reflection:

“When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said ‘Repent,’ he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance.” *Martin Luther*

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 40*

Minister: To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these stars?

People: **He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of His might and because He is strong in power, not one is missing.**

Minister: Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

People: **He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable.**

Hymn of Adoration.....*How Great Thou Art* (#44)



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some
2. When thro' the woods and for - est glades I
3. And when I think that God, his Son not
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla -



won - der con - sid - er all the worlds thy hands have
wan - der and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the
spar - ing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it
ma - tion and take me home, what joy shall fill my



made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
trees, when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
in, that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r thro' - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
gran - deur, and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing, he bled and died to take a - way my sin.
ra - tion, and there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art.



Then sings my soul, my sav-ior God, to thee: how great thou



art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my sav-ior God, to



thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn of Preparation.....*My Jesus, I Love Thee (#648)*



1. My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art
2. I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed
3. I'll love thee in life; I will love thee in
4. In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de -



mine; for thee all the fol - lies of sin I re -
me, and pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's
death; and praise thee as long as thou lend - est me
light, I'll ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so



sign. My gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art
tree. I love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy
breath; and say, when the death - dew lies cold on my
bright; I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my



thou; if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus 'tis now.
brow; if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus 'tis now.
brow; if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus 'tis now.
brow; if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus 'tis now.

— WORSHIP IN CONFESSION AND PARDON —

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Comfort and Promise.....*from Titus 2*

*Our great God and Savior Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us
from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own
possession who are zealous for good works.*

Hymn of Response.....*By Faith*



1. By faith we see the hand of God in the
 2. By faith our fa - thers roamed the earth with the
 -- 3. By faith the pro - phets saw a day when the
 4. By faith the church was called to go in the
 5. By faith this moun - tain shall be moved and the



light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign, in the
 pow'r of His prom - ise in their hearts, of a
 -- longed - for Mes - si - ah would ap - pear with the
 pow'r of the Spir - it to the lost to de -
 pow'r of the gos - pel shall pre - vail, for we



lives of those who prove His faith - ful - ness,
 ho - ly cit - y built by God's own hand,
 -- pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
 liv - er cap - tives and to preach good news
 know in Christ all things are pos - si - ble



	1, 3.	2, 4, 5.
who walk by faith and not by sight.		
a place where peace and jus - tice		reign.
-- and rise tri - um - phant from the grave.		
in ev - 'ry cor - ner of the		earth.
for all who call up - on His		name.

REFRAIN



We will stand as child-ren of the prom - ise; we will



fix our eyes on Him, our soul's re - ward. Till the race is finished and the



work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

Confession of Faith.....*The Heidelberg Catechism*
Ruling Elder Doug Flowers

Elder: Christians, what is your only comfort in life and in death?

**People: That I am not my own,
But belong—
Body and soul,
In life and in death—
To my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with His
precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair
can fall from my head without the will of my Father in
heaven:
In fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit,
Assures me of eternal life and makes me whole-heartedly
willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**

Elder: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this
comfort?

**People: Three things:
First, how great my sin and misery are;
Second, how I am set free from all my sins and
misery;
Third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.**

The Heidelberg Catechism was written in Heidelberg, Germany at the request of Elector Frederick III, ruler of the most influential German province, the Palatinate, from 1559 to 1576. This pious Christian prince commissioned Zacharius Ursinus, twenty-eight years of age and professor of theology at the Heidelberg University, and Caspar Olevianus, twenty-six years old and Frederick's court preacher, to prepare a catechism for instructing the youth and for guiding pastors and teachers. The Catechism was soon divided into fifty-two sections, so that a section of the Catechism could be explained to the churches each Sunday of the year. The Heidelberg Catechism has been translated into many languages and is one of the most influential and generally accepted of the several catechisms of Reformation times.

The First Reading of God's Word.....Isaiah 40:1-8
p.599

The Second Reading of God's Word.....Luke 3:1-21
pp.858-859

Reader: This is the Word of God.

People: Amen!

Prayer of Consecration

We offer an optional **Children's Church** for children 4 years old through 1st grade. If you choose to have your children participate, you may dismiss them for CC as we sing the hymn printed below. Please know we welcome and encourage your children to remain with you during the sermon. However, in CC 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 Preparation.....*Speak, O Lord*

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You, to re-ceive the food of Your
2. Teach us Lord, full o - be - di-ence, Ho-ly rev - er-ence, true hu -

Ho - ly Word. Take Your Truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and
mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our at - ti-tudes in the

fash - ion us in Your like - ness; That the
ra - di-ance of Your pur - i - ty. Cause our

light of Christ might be seen to-day in our
faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your ma -

acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can

fill in us all Your pur - pos-es for Your glo - ry.
ne - ver fail; Let their truth pre-vail o - ver un-be-lief.

Hearing from God's Word.....Luke 3:1-21
Rev. Davis W. Morgan *Preparing the Way*

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please see instructions on the inside back cover of your bulletin

Use the quotes below to help focus your heart and mind on this celebration:

“No sin is so great but the satisfaction of Christ and His mercies are greater; it is beyond comparison. Fathers and mothers in tenderest affections are but beams and trains to lead us upwards to the infinite mercy of God in Christ.”
Richard Sibbes

“The Son of God took our nature and came "in the likeness of sinful flesh" (Rom. 8:3) in order to exchange places with Adam, so that His obedience and righteousness might for our sakes be exchanged for Adam's (and our) disobedience and sin (Rom. 5:12-21) exchanged.”
Sinclair Ferguson

“I find no balm for a sore conscience, and a troubled heart, like the sight of Jesus dying for me on the accursed tree. There I see that a full payment has been made for all my enormous debts. The curse of that law which I have broken has come down on One who there suffered in my stead. The demands of that law are all satisfied. Payment has been made for me, even to the uttermost farthing. It will not be required twice over. Ah! I might sometimes imagine I was too bad to be forgiven. My own heart sometimes whispers that I am too wicked to be saved. But I know in my better moments this is all my foolish unbelief. I read an answer to my doubts in the blood shed on Calvary. I feel sure that there is a way to heaven for the very vilest of men, when I look at the cross.”
J.C. Ryle

“Everything that a man leans upon but God will be a dart that will certainly pierce his heart through and through...He that leans only upon the bosom of Christ lives the highest, choicest, safest, and sweetest life.”
Thomas Brooks

“Cast your eyes among all created beings, survey the universe, observe strength in one, beauty in a second, faithfulness in a third, wisdom in a fourth; but you shall find none excelling in them all as Christ does. Bread has one quality, water another, clothing another, medicine another; but none has all in itself as Christ has. He is bread to the hungry, water to the thirsty, a garment to the naked, healing to the wounded; and whatever a soul can desire is found in him.”
John Flavel

Communion Hymns

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

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

I Glory in Christ – Horatius Bonar/Sandra McCracken

1. God forbid that I should glory,
Save in the Redeemer's cross.
Counting shame for Him but honor,
Counting earthly gain but loss.
All the love of God is here,
Oh, love that casteth out all fear.

2. God forbid that I should glory,
Save in Christ my Lord alone.
Him I lean on; Him I follow,
Him, before the world, I own.

All the love of God is here,
Oh, love that casteth out all fear.

3. God forbid that I should glory,
Save in Christ the Son of God.
Him who sought me Him who bought
me,
Him who washed me in his blood.
All the love of God is here,
Oh, love that casteth out all fear.

Lift High the Cross (#263) – George W. Kitchin/Sydney H. Nicholson

*Refrain: Lift high the cross,
The love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore
His sacred Name.*

1. Come, brethren, follow where our
Savior trod, our King victorious,
Christ the Son of God.
Refrain

2. Led on their way by this triumphant
sign, the hosts of God in conquering
ranks combine.
Refrain

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious
tree, as thou hast promised, draw men
unto thee.
Refrain

4. Thy kingdom come, that earth's
despair may cease beneath the shadow
of its healing peace.
Refrain

5. For thy blest Cross which doth for us
atone creation's praises rise before thy
throne.
Refrain.

—WORSHIP IN GRATITUDE—

Offertory.....*Come, Thou Almighty King*

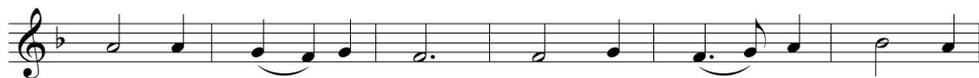
*Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing,
Help us to praise, Father, all glorious, o'er all
victorious, Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.*

*Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend. Come and thy people bless, and give
thy Word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.*

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Even though the financial condition of the church is sound, the officers of GCPC are concerned about the years-long downward trend in giving (2012-2016), especially when coupled with the growth in our membership. We believe that our generosity should be informed by our understanding of the gospel. Please watch this space. We are very encouraged and grateful for your generosity through the first 7 months of 2017. If you have any questions, please speak with our treasurer or any of our church officers.

First quarter: \$119,296

July: \$46,374

Second quarter: \$134,256

August: \$40,765

Projected 2017 (receipts based on giving to date): \$506,169

2017 Budget: \$475,118 annual / \$39,593 monthly

For 2017, we are providing a basic Family Worship plan to help our families to more regularly worship together during the week. In each weekly bulletin, we will provide a Daily Bible Reading plan, questions from the Catechisms, a hymn for you to learn together, and prayers for you to use as a family.

Weekly Hymn: *By Faith*

Shorter Catechism for Young Children –

- **Q36** "Did Adam act for himself alone in the covenant of life?" / **Answer:** "No. He represented the whole human race."

Shorter Catechism –

- **Q36** "What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?" / **Answer:** "The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end."

Bible Reading:

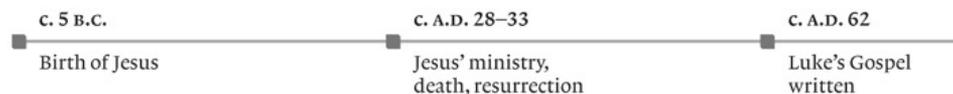
- Mon – 9/25 – 2 Samuel 21 & Galatians 1
- Tue – 9/26 – 2 Samuel 22 & Galatians 2
- Wed – 9/27 – 2 Samuel 23 & Galatians 3
- Thurs – 9/28 – 2 Samuel 24 & Galatians 4
- Fri – 9/29 – 1 Kings 1 & Galatians 5
- Sat – 9/30 – 1 Kings 2 & Galatians 6
- Sun – 10/1 – 1 Kings 3 & Ephesians 1

Next Week's Preaching Passage:

- Luke 3:23-38
- Adult CE: Exodus 20:3

Introduction to the Gospel of Luke¹:

Timeline:



Author, Date, and Recipients:

Luke was a physician (Col. 4:14) and a travel companion of the apostle Paul. He wrote this Gospel and its sequel, the book of Acts. The earliest possible date of Luke–Acts is immediately after the events that Luke recorded in Acts 28, which would have been c. A.D. 62. Both Luke and Acts are addressed to “Theophilus” (Lk. 1:3; Acts 1:1), about whom nothing more is known. Luke’s broader audience consisted primarily of Gentile Christians like Theophilus who had already “been taught” (1:4) about Jesus.

Theme:

The gospel is for all, Jews and Gentiles alike, since Jesus is the promised one of God as prophesied in the OT and as seen in God’s saving activity in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. The Christian traditions Luke’s readers have received are true; by believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, they will receive the promised Holy Spirit whom he gives to all who follow him.

Purpose:

Luke probably had several goals in writing: (1) to assure his readers of the truth of what they had been taught; (2) to help them understand how Israel’s rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles’ entrance into the kingdom of God are part of God’s plan; (3) to clarify that Jesus did not teach that his bodily return would come immediately but that there would be a period between his resurrection and his return; and (4) to emphasize that they need not fear any mere earthly power such as Rome.

The Setting of Luke:

The events in the book of Luke take place almost entirely within the vicinity of Palestine, an area extending roughly from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Beersheba in the south. During this time, it was ruled by the Roman Empire. The opening chapters describe events surrounding Jesus’ birth in Judea, where Herod had been appointed king by the Romans. The closing chapters end with Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension during the rule of Pontius Pilate and the tetrarchs Antipas and Philip.

¹ From the ESV website: <https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-luke/>

Nursery Volunteers (please arrive by 10:15)

Today: Jeff and Kierra Edgar

- Next week: Josh and Lisa Emrich
- 10/8: Tim and Sarah Farrar
- 10/15: Joe and Jeanette Faulkner
- 10/22: Doug and Karen Flowers

Upcoming events:

Student Ministries of Grace:

- **Roots:** Our discipleship ministry to our Jr. and Sr. High students is tonight from 5-7 pm in Westminster Hall.
- **BFG Whirlyball:** Our “big fun gathering” for October will be at Whirlyball Hurst on 10/7 from 7-9 pm.

The Harrison Nursing Home: TODAY at 2:30 pm.

- **September:** Jason Patterson
- **October:** Jerry Neely

Guys of Grace:

- **Text updates:** text @guysofgr to 81010 for GOG updates.
- **Prayer Group:** Tuesday mornings at 6:15 in the conference room. Coffee and fellowship provided!
- **Men’s Bible Study:** Join us for our bi-monthly study of the book of Romans Wednesday evenings at 7. Our meetings in September will be 9/13 and 9/30.

Ladies of Grace:

- Our fall bible study will focus on the book of Ephesians. There are 2 time options available: Every other Tuesday morning at 10 am, and every other Wednesday evening at 7 pm. Next meetings: October 3 and 4.

Things to Know:

- To subscribe to GCPC updates: **Text @gcpcr to 81010**
- Interested in membership? **officegcpcfw@gmail.com**
- Ladies of Grace:
 - Anne Nelson: **anneok@cox.net**
 - Joanna McMahan: **janamcmahanp48@gmail.com**
- Guys of Grace:
 - Sean Henry: **seanph10@yahoo.com**
- Would like to meet with one of our pastors?
 - Pastor Kyle: **koliphint@gmail.com**
 - Pastor Davis: **daviswmorgan@gmail.com**