



the
servant
kingdom

January 16, 2022

Song of Gathering *Psalm 23/The Lord's My Shepherd*

The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want
He makes me lie in pastures green
He leads me by the still still waters
His goodness restores my soul

Chorus

And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home

He guides my ways in righteousness
And He anoints my head with oil
And my cup it overflows with joy
I feast on His pure delights

And though I walk the darkest path
I will not fear the evil one
For You are with me
And Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know

Welcome and Announcements

Song of Gathering: This first song of the service is meant to prepare our minds and hearts for worship. Feel free to sing along or simply meditate as we begin our time worshiping God.

Call to Worship

Psalm 34:1-3

All: I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Leader: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and rejoice.

All: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together.

Song of Praise

Jesus Strong and Kind

Jesus said
That if I thirst
I should come to him
No one else can satisfy
I should come to him

Jesus said
If I am weak
I should come to him
No one else can be my strength
I should come to him

Chorus

For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus strong and kind

Jesus said
That if I fear
I should come to him
No one else can be my shield
I should come to him (*Chorus*)

Jesus said
If I am lost
He will come to me
And he showed me on that cross
He will come to me (*Chorus*)

Call to Worship: We worship because we are called to do so. This call, usually taken from a psalm, is an invitation into the presence of God; to worship and praise him.

Song of Praise: We enter into God's presence praising him for who he is, and delighting in his desire to be in relationship with us.

Prayer of Adoration (concluding with 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.

Call to Confession Proverbs 28:13

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Prayer of Confession (followed by Silent Confession)

Almighty and merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have broken your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy on us. Spare those, O God, who confess their sins, and restore those who grieve their sins, according to the promises declared to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter honor Christ with our words, thoughts, and deeds. To the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration: Praying is essential to worship. As we pray, we begin by adoring God for who he is and what he has done through his son Jesus. We conclude this prayer by reciting together the Lord's Prayer.

Call to Confession: As we praise God, and through the Spirit showing us, we become aware of our own imperfections in light of our perfect God. In love, God calls us to freely and openly confess our sins before him.

Confession of Sin: Sin is not only something that we've done wrong. Rather, it's a state of being that we're born into, and that we need saving from. It is impossible to conquer sin on our own, or make amends for it by our own actions. Our only hope is to turn to Christ, asking that he forgive and conquer sin for us, and - by grace alone and through faith alone - save us.

Assurance of Forgiveness Psalm 103:11-12

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

Song of Thanks *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name

Chorus

On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

When darkness veils His lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

His oath His covenant His blood
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay

When He shall come with trumpet sound
O may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

Assurance of Forgiveness: As we confess our sin, God offers us the assurance that, in Jesus, we are forgiven and loved regardless of what we've done in the past. Because of Jesus, we are no longer condemned by our sin, but are brought into new life by the Spirit.

Song of Thanks: Knowing that we are forgiven, and knowing that Jesus has reconciled us with God the Father, we sing with thankful hearts.

Statement of Faith -

Gracehill, What do you believe about Christ, our Morning Star?

Leader: God said, "Let the light shine out of darkness."

All: God has given Christ as the Light to all peoples to scatter all darkness,

Leader: To open blind eyes, to bring the prisoners from the dark dungeons.

All: In his grace, by the Light of his Son, the bright Morning Star, God has made us right with Him so we may shine like stars, in a beautiful, broken world.

Leader: God said, "Let light shine out of darkness," and He has filled up our lives with His glory in the face of Christ.

All: And so we say to one another: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you!"

(Adapted from Revelation 22:16, Isaiah 42:6-7, Isaiah 60:1)

Sermon Title

Progressive Lenses

Central Text Mark 8.22-26

²² And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. ²³ And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴ And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." ²⁵ Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶ And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Communion

Sermon: Though spoken by a person, we are to hear the sermon as God speaking to us. A sermon is a study in God's Word, the announcement of the good news in Christ, and an invitation to apply the truth of God's Word to our daily lives. At Gracehill, our sermons are not generally based on certain themes; rather, we study through individual books of the Bible.

Song of Response *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.

Song of Response: We sing in response to the hearing of God's faithfulness and love for his people, as revealed in his son Jesus.

Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

If you'd like to meet to find out more about Gracehill, or ways to get connected, or if you have specific prayer requests, please contact Ben Seneker at: 616-227-8813, or email benseneker@gracehillgr.church; or contact elder Ken Morse at gkmorse60@gmail.com

Benediction: As we conclude the service, the benediction is a blessing by God, as found in Scripture, for us individually and as a united church. We take this blessing with us as we - carrying the light of the gospel - go out into a dark world, that others may see the Light.

Doxology: In the Greek - doxologia, a word (logos) of glory (doxa). The doxology is an ancient hymn of praise, and has been part of the worship service in many churches for centuries. It is sung in response to the Lord's abundant grace for us and his church.

Announcements

Telling Our Stories:

Starting January 16th a class is being offered from 9:30-10:15 that focuses on how we write and share the impact Christ has made in our lives. We will have the opportunity to grow in the understanding - and appreciation - of God's grace in our own lives, while also encouraging one another by hearing each other's stories, and then, lastly, we will think of ways to use our stories as a means of sharing the good news of Jesus with those who do not yet know him. While sharing your own story will not be required, it will certainly be encouraged! Email office@gracehillgr.church if you have questions. Hope to see you there!

Have an old iPhone lying around??

We've had to do an update on our streaming software, but unfortunately, this has made some of our streaming devices obsolete. If you have a later model iPhone that you're not currently using and would like to donate it to the church, it would be greatly appreciated! Email office@gracehillgr.church if you're able to help out with this need!



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