



October 25, 2020

Prelude

Cello Suite

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship *from Psalm 27 and John 4:23*

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

Leader: We desire to live in God's house,
And to seek God in his holy temple.

**All: We have come with shouts of joy,
To sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**All: Teach us your ways and make straight our paths,
In this time of worship and always.**

Prelude: 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 worshipping God.

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

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease;
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid,
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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 a time of silent confession

Eternal Father, you are good beyond all thought,
but we are sinful and blind.
Our lips are ready to confess,
but our hearts are slow to feel and our ways reluctant to amend. We
bring our souls to you.
Break them, wound them, bend them, mold them.
Unmask to us sin's deformity, that we may hate it, abhor it, flee from
it.
Our sins we mourn, lament, and for them cry, "Pardon."
Work in us more profound and abiding repentance;
give us the fullness of a godly grief which is ever powerful, and ever
confident;
grant that our repentance will enable us to see more clearly
the brightness and glory of the cross of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. 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 *Acts 10:43*

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Christ receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Song of Thanks *Oh the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free.
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of your love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To your glorious rest above.

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus
Spread his praise from shore to shore.
How he loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore.
How he watches o'er his loved ones,
Died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth,
Watches o'er them from the throne.

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus
Love of every love the best.
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus
'Tis heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to thee.

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.

Profession of Faith *selections from the Heidelberg Catechism*

Leader: Christians, what do you believe?

All: I believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ his Son. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and saves us from our sins even as salvation cannot be found in anyone else; it is futile to look for any salvation elsewhere. I believe that the Holy Spirit is eternal God and that He has been given to me personally, so that, by true faith, He makes me share in Christ and all his blessings, comforts me, and remains with me forever.

Profession of Faith: Either done by a corporate prayer or responsive reading, we - as a church - make use of historical creeds or prayers that summarize the foundational elements of the Christian faith. In short, it is here that we declare what it is we believe.

Central text *1 Peter 2:4-8*

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸ and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

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 certain themes; rather, we study through individual books of the Bible.

Song of Response *Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my Vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light

Be Thou my Wisdom and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision O Ruler of all

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 *Jude, verses 24-25*

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. 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, please contact Ben Seneker at: 828.656.3453, 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

Small groups have begun & will run until Thanksgiving. They are held on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and are studying either 1 Peter (with the sermon series discussion questions), *"The Gospel-Centered Community"* by Robert Thune and Will Walker, or *"The Prodigal God"* by Tim Keller. Meeting in-person as well as offering a Zoom option. Please email Ben (benseneker@gracehillgr.church) if you are interested or would like to learn more.

Sermon Discussion Questions

1 Peter 2:4-8

1. Peter reminds us that the one whom we are called to, Jesus, was rejected by men and yet chosen and honored by God. The gospel accounts show us how this calling from the Father was a sustaining comfort to Jesus throughout his life. (baptism - Mt.3:17, temptation - Mt.4:10, Gethsemane - Mt.26:39, crucifixion - Lk.23:46, Heb.12:2) How is the call of God a comfort for believers? How does God express His delight and honor towards his children? Do you have any personal examples of that?
2. Remember that Peter is speaking to Christians of the dispersion who were scattered because of a real exile. How would the truth that we are a “worshiping community” be encouraging to the church in diaspora? How does that encourage us today in our context?
3. Why is it significant that Peter uses the imagery of “living stones”? (See Matthew 16:16-18) The building project is for a God-worshiping community who is “ransomed... by the precious blood of Christ” (1Pt.1:18-19). How does the grace of the gospel impact our sacrifice as living stones?
4. This passage contrasts coming to Jesus in worship with coming to Jesus in disbelief. We must make a choice, because the outcome of our Jesus-encounter is dependent on the orientation of the heart. Either we delight in his love for us, or we reject him as God and savior. Was there a time in your life where you faced this cross-road before? How are you responding to Jesus today?

