

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

November 8, 2020

In the sanctuary and live streamed

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Amazing Grace

arr. Doug Talley

Bob ~~Vawter~~, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 476

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

Lyons

Opening Sentences

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **The Maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayer for the Day (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)

O God, your blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us heirs of eternal life. Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,

whose face is hidden from us by our sins,

and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:

Cleanse us from all our offenses,

and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,

that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you,

confessing our faults, confiding in your grace,

and finding in you our refuge and strength;

through Jesus Christ your Son. ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 341 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine Assurance

Pastor: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Congregational Meeting

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

Unison

**Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,

things that we have heard and known that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children;

we will tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might

and the wonders that he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,

which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;

that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,

and rise up and tell them to their children,

so that they should set their hope in God

and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 527 Near to the Heart of God McAfee

The congregation sits.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon

Greeting the Bridegroom

Mike Krech

“But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’”

Matthew 25:6

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 17 “Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Wachet Auf

Apostles’ Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria Patri 579 Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

The Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

Offertory Sentence

Offertory “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” Gordon Young

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 564 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies Materna

Worshippers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude.

Or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and briskly.

Postlude “The Lord Reigns!” Gerald Peterson

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

We are moving toward the close of the church’s liturgical year. The new church year begins on November 29, the first Sunday in Advent. The Gospel themes for these final three Sundays of the current church year come from Matthew, chapter 25. Here Jesus gives three parables about preparedness and accountability: the story of the wise and foolish maidens, of different talents given to different servants, and of the judgment which separates the sheep from the goats on the basis of how each ministered to those in need. These accounts point to the promised reign of Christ, which now we hold by faith and hope. Hope in Christ is also central to our epistle reading today, in which Paul assures the Thessalonians that the death of loved ones in no way cancels the promise of resurrection or of Christ’s return. We also today take note of the coming Veterans Day holiday this week. (JMK)