



grace

presbyterian

church

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 28, 2021

Prelude

Margaret Bradly, Organ

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 149:1-2

“Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly! Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!”

***Hymn of Praise:**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#196

Come thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O’er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;
“Go to him, your praises bringing, Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever now thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

***Prayer of Adoration and 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

Psalm 139: 23-24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, you are worthy of all our praise, you are deserving of our undying adoration, and our unflinching allegiance. Yet, before your glorious presence, we are undone by our depraved hearts. Lord, our praise is distorted, our adoration is half-hearted, and our allegiance is fickle and misplaced. Oh God, we are prone toward trouble, our selfishness and pride burn like fire, and the flames of our affections scorch the beauty of your creation. We are in need of your grace, oh God, for our sinfulness is great. We are in need of your mercy, oh God, for our hearts are malicious. We confess our sins before you this morning and plead for your forgiveness at the foot of the cross. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Daniel 9:9

“To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him.”

Hymn of Preparation:

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners”

#498

Jesus! What a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.

**Refrain: Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.**

Jesus! What a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he my strength, my vict'ry wins. **Refrain**

Jesus! What a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,
even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul **Refrain**

Jesus! What a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
storms about me, night o'er takes me, he, my pilot, hears my cry **Refrain**

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;
he hath granted me forgiveness I am his, and he is mine. **Refrain**

⁹The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour⁹ to pray. ¹⁰And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance ¹¹and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. ¹²In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” ¹⁴But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” ¹⁵And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” ¹⁶This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.¹⁷ Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate ¹⁸and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. ¹⁹And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.” ²¹And Peter went down to the men and said, “I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?” ²²And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.” ²³So he invited them in to be his guests. The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.” ²⁷And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. ²⁸And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. ²⁹So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.” ³⁰And Cornelius said, “Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour,³¹ and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing ³¹and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³²Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ ³³So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

Scripture Reading

1 Timothy 4: 1-5

⁴ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

Sermon

**Counterfeit Faith
Being the Church**

Rev. David Stewart

I. True Faith

II. What is Apostasy?

III. A Life of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Response:

“Rock of Ages”

#499

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfil thy law’s demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

***Three-fold Amen.**

***Indicates congregation will stand, if able**

Benediction:

Romans 11: 33,36

“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.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On December 5, 2021, we will be celebrating the Advent with an evening fellowship and dinner at 5:00 p.m. You are invited to be a part of the program with a Christmas hymn or song you would like to share as an individual, duet, or group, singing or playing an instrument or would like to read a passage of Scripture, please sign up on the sheets provided in the narthex. We would particularly love to see children and young people participate. The choir will be meeting tomorrow night November 29, from 6:30 – 7:30.

Small Group Studies are now meeting!

One, led by Robert Rhodes is meeting on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. at Ann Eyster's home. Two more, one at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening studying the Westminster Confession Faith will meet at the church, beginning November 3, 2021, and the other at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings at the Mitchell's, will begin November 4, 2021.

Wi-Fi access – *GracePCA* | *Grace0777*

There is an offering box in the back of the sanctuary for tithes and offering

11/21/21 Offering	\$ 3,751.00
YTD Offering	\$208,095.40
YTD Budget	\$146,405.00
Building Fund	\$ 150.00

GRACE SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES/AGENCIES

Agape Flights – Venice, FL
Carter, Michael & Cathalain – MTW – Nagoya, Japan
Child Evangelism Fellowship – Charlotte County, FL
Grady, Miriam & son Evan – MTW – Czech Republic
Collin & Zury – RUF Global
Knaebel, Chris & Rebecca – Church Planting – Sarasota, FL
Lennox, Patrick & Regina – MTW – Native Americans
Martin, Jeremy & Angel – Serge – London, England
Matlack, Ken & Tammie – MTW – Global Initiative to Mobilizing Intercessory Prayer
Pregnancy Solutions – Port Charlotte, FL
Stevens, Carla – MTW – Christian Educational Consultant
Tanner, Lucas – RUF – Florida Gulf Coast University
Young Life – Port Charlotte, FL

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