



grace

presbyterian

church

THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, December 03, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Margaret Bradly, Organ

*Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:2

"A people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined."

*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 ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring 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:

Psalms 57:1-2

“Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.”

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we humble ourselves in your presence, confessing our unworthiness and our sinfulness in your sight. We have broken your holy law. We have not sought first your kingdom and righteousness. We have been anxious and troubled about many things. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves or done to others as we would have them do to us. Most Gracious God, our heavenly Father, who has given your Son, Jesus Christ, to save your people from their sins; forgive us, we pray; cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and renew a right spirit within us; through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.

Private Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Psalms 59:16-17

“But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.”

***Hymn of Preparation:**

“Not All the Blood of Beasts”

#242

Not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain,
could give the guilty conscience peace or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav’nly Lamb, takes all our sins away,
a sacrifice of nobler name, and richer blood than they.

My faith would lay her hand on that dear head of thine,
while like a penitent I stand, and there confess my sin.

My soul looks back to see the burdens thou didst bear,
when hanging on the cursed tree and knows her guilt was there.

Believing we rejoice to see the curse remove;
we bless the Lamb with cheerful voice and sing his bleeding love.

Scripture Reading:

Romans 3:21-31

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Randy Bibby

Scripture Reading

Genesis 8:1-22

8 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. ² The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³ and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, ⁴ and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. ⁶ At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷ and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. ⁹ But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. ¹⁰ He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. ¹¹ And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹² Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore. ¹³ In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. ¹⁵ Then God said to Noah,

¹⁶ “Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” ¹⁸ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. ¹⁹ Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark. ²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse^{the} the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²² While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**“A New Beginning”
“Beginnings”**

Rev. David Stewart

I. God Remembers His People

II. The Lord Tests the Righteous

III. The Creation Mandate Reaffirmed

IV. Salvation Leads to Worship

***Confession of Faith - The Nicene Creed**

#846

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was made incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

#735

Glory be to the Father, and to the son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

***Hymn of Response:**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

#32

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed thy hand hath provided –

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love **Refrain**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Benediction:

Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

***Three-fold Amen.**

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

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

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

11/26/23 Offering	\$ 3,967.00
YTD Offering	\$ 181,707.21
YTD Budget	\$ 179,520.00

Announcements:

Bible Studies

Wednesday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the church. The gospel of John, led by David Greenwald (941) 380-1987, theophilus777.0”at”gmail.com

Wednesday, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the home of Randy and Robin Bibby, 3825 Barnegat Drive, Punta Gorda (410) 279-8732; olenole”at”yahoo.com, Jerry Bridges, “The Discipline of Grace” beginning October 4th.

Thursday, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the church. Ruth and Esther, led by Bob Rhodes, (863) 303-4579; rgr31574”at”aol.com, beginning October 5th.

Choir Practice: Choir Practice is held on Thursdays, at 6:45 p.m. in the choir room. All choir members and anyone who is able and interested in joining the choir, are welcome.

Christmas Dinner and Musical Celebration

There will be a dinner and musical celebration on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at Grace. The church will provide the main course and the congregation will bring the sides. A sign up is available in the narthex beginning today. Please plan to join us for this time of fellowship and worship.

Carol Sing-Along

We will have a time of fellowship and celebration on December 16th at 6:00 p.m. as we join voices together in singing our favorite Christmas Carols.

GRACE SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES/AGENCIES

Agape Flights – Venice, FL

Carter, Michael & Cathalain – MTW – Nagoya, Japan

Child Evangelism Fellowship – Charlotte County, FL

Dalfred, Karl & Sun – OMF International - Thailand

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

Pregnancy Solutions – Port Charlotte, FL

Stevens, Carla – MTW – Christian Educational Consultant

Tanner, Lucas – RUF – Florida Gulf Coast University

TWIG – Venice, FL

Young Life – Port Charlotte, FL

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