

# Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church

Order for the Worship of God — 10:30 a.m. on November 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Ephesians 2:11-13

### PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

### OPENING HYMN

Exalt the Lord (TH# 12)  
Psalm 135:1-7; Psalm 135:21

1 Exalt the Lord, his praise proclaim;  
all ye his servants, praise his name,  
who in the Lord's house ever stand  
and humbly serve at his command.  
The Lord is good, his praise proclaim;  
since it is pleasant, praise his name;  
his people for his own he takes  
and his own peculiar treasure makes.

2 I know the Lord is high in state,  
above all gods our Lord is great;  
the Lord performs what he decrees,  
in heav'n and earth, in depths and seas.  
He makes the vapors to ascend  
in clouds from earth's remotest end;  
the lightnings flash at his command;  
he holds the tempest in his hand.

3 Exalt the Lord, his praise proclaim;  
all ye his servants, praise his name,  
who in the Lord's house ever stand  
and humbly serve at his command.  
Forever praise and bless his name,  
and in the church his praise proclaim;  
in Zion is his dwelling place;  
praise ye the Lord, show forth his grace.

### Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
The third day He arose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty;  
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 1:15-23

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever. Amen

### SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 1:1-3

### SERMON

The Crux of the Matter

Rev. Jake Susek

### PRAYER

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

### CLOSING HYMN

Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ (TH# 524)  
Horatius Bonar (1857)

Thy works, not mine, O Christ,  
speak gladness to this heart;  
they tell me all is done;  
they bid my fear depart.

Refrain:

To whom, save thee, who canst alone  
for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

Thy righteousness, O Christ,  
alone can cover me:  
no righteousness avails  
save that which is of thee. [Refrain]

### BENEDICTION

CCLI: 11601899

## SERMON NOTES

### “Come to the Banquet”

#### Feasting on the Rich Theological Truths of Hebrews

### *The Crux of the Matter*

Hebrews 1:1-3

#### Reflections:

“...before giving an account of Polycarp’s death, they relate what happened to the other martyrs, vividly describing the heroism with which they faced their torments...sometimes they were torn with scourges to the innermost veins and arteries, so that even the secret hidden parts of the body, the entrails and internal organs, were laid bare; sometimes they were forced to lie on pointed eggshells and sharp spikes. After going through every kind of torture, they were finally flung to the beasts as food...(some were) confined in the darkness of a filthy prison; clamping the feet in the stocks, stretched apart to the fifth hole; and other agonies which warders when angry and full of the devil are apt to inflict on helpless prisoners. **Thus the majority were suffocated in prison – those whom the Lord wished to depart in this way, so revealing His glory.**”

From Eusebius, The History of the Church (The church’s 1st Historian, circa 300 AD)

*What I’m saying is, if God wanted to send us a message, and ancient writings were the only way he could think of doing it, he could have done a better job.*

Dr. Arroway in Carl

Sagan’s Contact

“So I say to the disciple, is it really so that your master, the son of man, is lord of the Sabbath? Then – so I asked before, so I ask again – is your master God? And that forms the crux of the matter.” Jacob Neusner in A Rabbi Talks with Jesus

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

Review: The book was written to encourage Jewish believers who were suffering for their faith to endure their suffering.

Why should they? True / Promises / Where else go?

\*\*\*But “some” (i.e., “others”) God calls to suffer in particular ways to honor Him.

**Cf. Eusebius...**

[by remaining faithful we show others how precious God is]

“I didn’t give a da\_\_ about who God was to you in your happiness. But now that you are suffering, I want to know: who is your God? Where is He in your suffering?”

*A comment made to Rosaria Butterfield in The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*

#### God’s Final / Ultimate “Word” is Jesus:

Vs. 1,2

[a] God takes the *initiative* to Self-Disclose...

-General Revelation

-The Law written in our hearts

#### [b] Intelligent / Purposeful

-i.e., there is a plot-line, and “unfolding”, like a mystery

“If you are traveling down a river in a canoe at two miles per hour and the wheels fall off, how much pancake mix would it take to repair the shingles on your roof?” (Tolstoy / Steinbeck / Clancy / Calvin and Hobbs)

#### [c] Varied... many times, many ways, through many prophets

God has used different people, during different times, in different cultures, using different genres, over a long period of time to convey a singular message. Cf. The Koran: One author / One time period / One culture / One method

NOTE:

This communication occurred by means of the Holy Spirit...

II Peter 1:20,21 / II Tim 3:16 / Even N.T. John 14:26

#### [d] The “Last Days”...

We are living in the Last Days...

The “end” point – the “climax” – the “pinnacle” = Jesus

-The OT prophets has puzzle pieces...

-The “final” word would rule out Islam...

-When the U.C.C. says God is “still speaking” – Yes, but never *independently* from or *in contradiction* to the Scriptures.

POINT:

John 5:39 Luke 24:27

III: Painters “sketch” first, then fill in the color. (cf. Sagan)

#### Who is this Jesus? John 8:53 / John 10:33 (cf. Neusner)

**POSITION:** vs. 2

[a] Son (Adam, Lk 3:38 / Israel, Hos 11:1 / David, Ps 2:7)

[b] Heir (“Joint-Heirs” – Ro 8:17 / “World” – Ro 4:13)

[c] Creator (John 1:3 / Col 1:16)

**PERSON:** vs. 3a

[a] He manifests the Glory of God (John 1:14 replaces Isa 46:13)

*He is God made visible*

[b] He manifests the Character of God

*Imprint – GRK χαρακτηρ – Character (icon εικων image– Col 1:15)*

**PERFORMANCE:** vs. 3b

[a] He sustains the universe (Newton / Einstein / Hawking / Greene)

[b] He “himself” made purification for sin (“Middle Voice”)

[c] He sat down (μκαθεδρα-cathedral) - Rules / Intercedes

#### APPLICATION:

\*The only reasonable thing to do is to...

Believe / Trust / Listen

*“He who does not long to know more of Christ, knows nothing of Him yet.”*

Spurgeon