

GRACE COMMUNITY

Presbyterian Church, PCA

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

July 12, 2009

10:30 a.m.

Reflection

“Outward darkness is when men do not have that light by which they are enabled to see. So outward spiritual darkness is upon men when there is nothing to enlighten them about God and spiritual things (*Matt 4:16; Psa 119:105; Psa. 19:1-4,8; 2 Pet 1:19; Rom 10:15, 18*). It is the work of the Holy Spirit to remove this darkness by sending the light of the gospel (*Acts 13:2, 4; 16:6-10; Psa. 147:19,20*).

However brilliant the mind may be, and however brilliant the preaching and presentation of the gospel might be, yet without the Holy Spirit first creating this light in them, they cannot receive, understand and agree with the truths preached, and so will not be led to salvation (*Eph 4:17, 18*).”
John Owen

Prelude*Love Crucified, Arose!*

Welcome

Silent Preparation

WORSHIP IN PRAISE

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.

Call to Worship.....*from Psalm 21*

Minister: Be exalted, O LORD, in your strength!

People: We will sing and praise your power.

Hymn of Praise.....*All Creatures of Our God and King*
(*This hymn can also be found in the red Trinity Hymnal found under or near your seat, hymn #115*)

1. All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

Refrain
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Refrain
3. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,

Make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light.

Refrain

4. And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care!

Refrain

5. Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

Refrain

Response of Praise and AdorationFrom *Psalm 34*

Minister: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

People: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Minister: I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

People: Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

ALL: The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

—————**WORSHIP IN CONFESSION AND PARDON**—————
Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Comfort and Promise.....*from Acts 13*

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Commissioning of Our Missionaries...*Deacon Andrew Caudal*
Scott Thanisch (Team Leader), Cooper Thanisch, Grayson Thanisch, Brian Cervantez, Philip Hamby, Phil Bassett, Josh Emrich, Lisa Emrich, Danny Black, Rick Hudson, Carol Hudson, Glenn Mayo, Jarren Rollins, Matt Linnenburger.

WORSHIP AND THE MEANS OF GRACE

The First Reading of God's Word.....Ezekiel 36:22-32; 37:1-14
(Pages 724-725)

The Second Reading of God's Word.....John 3:1-8
(Pages 887-888)

Reader: This is the Word of God

People: Amen!

Prayer of Consecration

Children 4 years old through 1st grade may be dismissed for Children's Church at this time. The children will be hearing from the same text that the sermon is based upon so that you may discuss the message as a family after church if you should choose to do so. Children's Church should be seen as optional. All children of all ages are invited to remain with their parents during the sermon.

Hearing from God's Word.....John 3:1-8
The Holy Spirit *The Spirit in Regeneration*

Rev. Kyle Oliphint

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

We have come to the Lord's Table at the invitation of the Lord Himself and so we come on His terms. Therefore, Grace Community Presbyterian Church welcomes to the Lord's Table all those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior and who acknowledge Him as Lord. Because Communion is a sacrament of the church, all are welcome to partake who are baptized members in good standing in an evangelical church (a church where the gospel is loved and proclaimed). It is our request that children not participate in the Lord's Supper until they themselves have become communing members of such a church. We come not as those who are intrinsically righteous, but as those who have been given through grace the righteousness of our perfect Redeemer. So, while we repent of known sins as we come, we recognize our righteousness before the Father is completely dependent on the accomplishment of Jesus Christ for His people. Reflect on the work Jesus did for you and come forward to receive the grace offered to you in these elements.

Words of Institution.....1 Corinthians 11:23-26

We serve wine during our celebration of the Lord's Supper. If for reasons of health, conscience or preference we have provided grape juice in the ***inner rings of each tray in the lightly tinted cups***. Please deposit your wine cups in the trash receptacles at the side aisles and the doors as you exit.
We also provide gluten-free bread in the line to the left as you face the pulpit.

This is a celebratory time and a time for reflection. Please do not feel rushed. Spend a few moments reflecting on the words below, praying, and singing the songs and hymns in praise and worship, thanking God for what He has done for you in Christ Jesus. Then come forward, take the bread and wine, eat and drink in faith, and anticipate the Spirit's work of grace on your behalf.

The prayers below are simply suggested places to start. If you choose to use one of them, build on the prayer with your own words as you prepare to come to the Lord's Table.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIANS

Lord Jesus, this table testifies to the fact that you have risen. My need for this sacrament testifies to my fallenness. I need the power of the resurrection, the power of Your gospel because my flesh is weak. As I go forward and take and eat and drink, use these elements to enliven my heart to a deeper devotion and greater love of You. In flame in me a hatred for my sin. Sustain me, by Your Spirit, that I might follow you and endeavor to new obedience.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIANS WHO DOUBT

Jesus, if all of what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open my eyes to the reality of who You are. I let my circumstances inform me, which leads me to doubt what You say about Yourself. As I take the bread and the wine, may Your Spirit give me an understanding that is convincing and compelling that will lead me to the life that You promise.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIANS STRUGGLING WITH SIN

Savior, my sin is before me! It has entangled me and now engulfs me. Help me see the beauty of You and the horrid ugliness of my sin. Use these elements, by Your Spirit, to break the power of sin over me. Give me faith to fight my sin and rest in You.

PRAYER FOR UNBELIEVERS

God, I don't know You or trust You. But I am here. Change me and make me alive. Give me faith, that I might profess before the world that You loved a sinner like me. Dear God, save me from sin and save me to Yourself that I might come to Your table, not this week, but in weeks to come.

The quotes below will help you focus your heart and mind on our Savior and the Sacrament:

“It is our heaven to lay many weights and burdens upon Christ. Let him find much employment for his calling with you; for he is such a Friend as delighteth to be burdened with suits and employments; and the more homely ye be with him, the more welcome.”
Samuel Rutherford

“When the soul is emptied by faith, and is lost, it is faith that first spies out Christ, as that all-sufficient satisfaction received by God the Father. When the soul is in a storm, and is even cast away in his own apprehension, when it hath thrown overboard all his own goods, all his own righteousness, all his own hopes, all his own abilities, or whatever it be, and if God should leave the soul in that condition, the wrath of God, like mighty waves, would break in upon it, and swallow it up. What doth faith now? It climbs up to the top of the mast. Oh there is Christ, I have spied out the Lord Jesus, and it makes out to him instantly.”
Thomas Goodwin

“Terror accomplishes no real obedience
Suspense brings forth no fruit unto holiness.
No gloomy uncertainty as to God’s favour
can subdue one lust,
or correct our crookedness of will.
But the free pardon of the cross uproots sin,
and withers all its branches.
Only the certainty of love,
forgiving love,
can do this.”
Horatius Bonar

“What matters supremely is not, in the last analysis, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it—the fact that he knows me. I am graven on the palms of his hands. I am never out of his mind. All my knowledge of him depends on his sustained initiative in knowing me. I know him because he first knew me, and continues to know me. He knows me as a friend, one who loves me; and there is not a moment when his eye is off me, or his attention distracted from me, and no moment, therefore, when his care falters. This is momentous knowledge. There is unspeakable comfort—the sort of comfort that energizes, be it said, not enervates—in knowing that God is constantly taking knowledge of me in love and watching over me for my good. There is tremendous relief in knowing that his love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery now can disillusion him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quench his determination to bless me.”
J.I. Packer

COMMUNION HYMNS

The Church's One Foundation - *S. Stone/S. Wesley*

1) The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the Word;
From Heav'n He came and sought
her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought
her,
And for her life He died.

2) Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation -

One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

3) 'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place - *L. Edmunds/A. Gretry*

1) My faith has found a resting place
Not in device nor creed.
I trust the ever-living One,
His wounds for me shall plead.

***I need no other argument,
I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died,
And that He died for me.***

2) Enough for me that Jesus saves,
This ends my fear and doubt;
A sinful soul I come to Him,
He'll never cast me out.

3) My heart is leaning on the Word,
The written Word of God:
Salvation by my Savior's Name,
Salvation through His blood.

There Is a Redeemer - *M. Green*

1) There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

***Thank You, oh, my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til
The work on earth is done.***

2) Jesus, my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for sinners slain.

3) When I stand in Glory
I will see His face.
There I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place.

—————**WORSHIP IN GRATITUDE**—————

Offering.....*Up from the Grave He Arose!*

Those playing and singing during the offering are worshipping God as they share the gifts with which God has blessed them. They desire to enable our worship of Him as well. To that end we will occasionally include particular verses from pieces that will be played or sung during the offering with the purpose of furthering our corporate worship together as we strive to focus on our Triune God during this part of our service.

Meditation:

Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o’er His foes!
He arose, a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.

Closing Hymn.....*How Great Thou Art*

(This hymn can also be found in the red Trinity Hymnal found under or near your seat, hymn #44, verses 1,3&4)

1) O Lord my God
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy
hands have made
I see the stars; I hear the rolling
thunder
Thy power throughout
The universe displayed.

Chorus
Then sings my soul
My Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art
Then sings my soul
My Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art

2) And when I think that God
His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die
I scarce can take it in
That on the cross
My burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away
my sin
Chorus

3) When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home
What joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration and there
proclaim
“My God, how great Thou art!”
Chorus

Benediction

Postlude.....*Before the Throne of God I Stand*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nursery Service*

This week:	Jonathan and Amy Love
Next week:	Tom and Mary Liggett
July 26th:	Matthew and Melissa Linnenburger
August 2nd:	Jeff and Traci McMickle

**Dawn Thanisch is coordinating our nursery. If you would like to serve, or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact her. She will be happy to help you.*

GCPC is a Praying Church

"A prayerless soul is a Christless soul. Prayer is the lisp of the believing infant, the shout of the fighting believer, the requiem of the dying saint falling asleep in Jesus. It is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honour of a Christian" –
Charles H. Spurgeon

Men's Prayer Meeting will meet this Tuesday morning, July 14th, for prayer. Join us at 7am at in the conference room of the church building. All men (and their sons) are encouraged to join us.

Prayer Chain—If you have a request or reason to give thanks and would like those who are on the prayer chain to join you in prayer, please send your request or thanksgiving to Mary Hamby at mehamby1@verizon.net. She will distribute your request to all who are on the chain. If you would like to join the prayer chain, please send an e-mail to Mary requesting to be added and she will do it.

*Blessed be the Lord, because He has heard the voice of my supplications!
Psalm 28:6*

Meet the Candidates!

This morning, July 12, after our worship service we will enjoy lunch together while you have the opportunity to meet the men who have been involved in officer training the last 12 months. They are trying to discern whether God is calling them to serve GCPC as either an elder or deacon. We trust this time will encourage you to visit with each man individually in the months to come. Please plan to join us for this very important time. (Please reference the "Primer", pg. 12)

For the most part, God's rich blessings upon this, His church, are unquantifiable. However, a few numbers give us a small glimpse of the ways in which God has provided for our needs more than we deserve.

2008

We received 56 new members last year, 16 of those by way of baptism! Through your generosity, we had total receipts over \$420,000.00, over \$103,000.00 of that was designated for our building with \$316,000.00 for our general fund. Praise God for all He is doing in our midst.

First Quarter of 2009

Average Sunday morning attendance in the first quarter of 2009 (January through March) was 177. Because of the way you responded to God's grace by your faithful giving, we received \$87,919 towards the ministry of this church, and \$2,960 towards the building fund. And because of the gifts of God's people, we have been able to pay down our loan, so that the remaining balance, after only 17 months, is \$155,742. Let us all be thankful for God's provision!

CAPITAL GIVING - Because of the generosity of the members and friends of GCPC, we were able to pay for most of the construction costs of our new building, and only had to borrow \$240,000. We have a 10-year zero-interest note that we are paying down monthly, and we plan to use gifts above and beyond our normal receipts to pay off the note early. This will enable us to set aside funds for more ministry and perhaps even start building funds for building improvements, ongoing expenses, and future construction. If you were not able to participate in the GCPC capital campaign and would now like to invest in the future of GCPC, or you desire to increase the level of your previous pledge, please prayerfully consider whether you can help pay down the note early. If, in addition to your regular giving, you would like to designate gifts towards the building, please write BUILDING or CAPITAL in the "memo" area of your checks. If you have any questions about the finances of our church, please speak with any Elder or Deacon. Thank you for your generosity!

GCPC is Committed to Missions

GCPC Summer Mission Trip

We are excited that GCPC will be sending a group of members on a mission trip to Reynosa, Mexico (across the border from McAllen, TX) on July 18-25. We will travel to Reynosa with a team from Fort Worth Presbyterian Church, and work with other teams on a construction project for Mission to the World, our denomination's world mission's agency. Please begin now to pray for our missionaries who have committed to being a part of this trip. *If you would like to contribute financially to this mission effort, above and beyond your regular giving, the team would be very grateful. You may write "Reynosa Trip" in the memo section of your check if you do contribute.*

The Team our church is sending: Scott Thanisch (Team Leader), Cooper Thanisch, Grayson Thanisch, Brian Cervantez, Philip Hamby, Phil Bassett, Josh Emrich, Lisa Emrich, Danny Black, Rick Hudson, Carol Hudson, Glenn Mayo, Jarren Rollins, Matt Linnenburger.

Church Planting in the Philippines

We are, as a church, supporting the aggressive church planting efforts in the island nation of the Philippines. We are also supporting the building and maintenance of homes for the many street children in the Philippines. These homes are under the direct oversight (and often physically connected to) the local Presbyterian churches in the Philippines. For more information or to receive e-mails on how you can pray specifically for this work, please speak to Andrew Caudal.

Church Planting in North Texas

Your church is committed to planting churches in our area and supporting current church plants. We are supporting the new church in Denton, Denton Presbyterian Church. Please pray for our efforts in this endeavor and begin to pray for the future churches God may allow us to play a part in planting.

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Church Office-A Primer*

The Apostle Paul teaches us that the desire to serve as an officer in the church is a worthy ambition. He heartily endorses, but then explains in 1 Timothy 3 the demanding requirements of being an elder or deacon. So, the desire to be a spiritual leader in the church is a good thing, but not everyone is qualified to serve as an officer. Those who aspire to office in the church must meet the highest standards, and must be examined and tested (1 Timothy 3:15).

Paul describes the church as the “household of God...the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15). Those are strong statements, and if we believe them, we must embrace a high view of the church, and seek only the most qualified men to lead her. Officer nominations and elections have little to do with popularity and a lot to do with a person’s consistent and deepening love for God above all things which nurtures a growing love and servant attitude toward his neighbor. In the kingdom of God leadership is about loving God and neighbor; worshipping God and serving one’s neighbor.

The Offices of Elder and Deacon

Elder—The office of elder is one of spiritual oversight and government of the church (Titus 1:5ff; 1 Tim. 3:1-7). In the NT elders are sometimes referred to as shepherds (Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:1-3) because they are charged with the care and nurture of the church just as a shepherd cares for his flock. Elders are also responsible for the teaching ministry of the church (1 Tim. 5:17-18). Thus, elders must understand the truths of God’s Word, and be able to effectively minister in the body as one who encourages, edifies and when needed, confronts and rebukes.

Deacon—The office of deacon is one of service, extending mercy and sympathy to those in need, especially to those within the church. Deacons are first mentioned in Acts 6:1-6, as those chosen to minister to the physical needs within the church. The spiritual nature of the deacon’s service of mercy is not less vital than the elder’s rule; the health of the church is inseparably tied to both offices.

The duty of the office is threefold: 1) To minister to those in need and distress, 2) To administrate financial issues within the church (giving and distribution of gifts), and 3) To care for the church’s property.

Any man assuming the office of elder or deacon must meet the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9 (elder) and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 (deacon), as a minimum and must also be willing to carry forth the vision and mission of Grace Community Presbyterian Church as determined by the current leadership of the church. The solemn vows the officers take include protecting and pursuing the peace and purity of the church. This peace and purity is protected and pursued, first, in the Session and Deaconate. Both offices are perpetual—that is, for life, unless extraordinary circumstances allow or call for the dissolution of one’s office.

*(*Thanks to Lexington Presbyterian Church, PCA for parts of this helpful primer.)*

WHO IS DOING WHAT???

The gatherings announced in this section are wonderful examples of organic ministry, God's people taking the initiative to do something for which they have a particular burden. **These are not programs coordinated by GCPC neither organized nor “overseen” by your elders. But these are examples of God's people stepping up and reaching out and practicing their faith and inviting you to join them! We are happy to help them make you aware of what they are doing.** (*Church officers and Ministry Coordinators for GCPC are listed on the inside back cover of our bulletin.*)

○ **Baby Shower Committee**

If you are interested in joining one of the baby shower committees, contact Natasha Tracy for more information.

○ **Coffee House Seminary**

What does Christianity have to do with professional sports? Politics? The internet? These periodic discussions deal with the intersection of faith and culture. Contact Brian Cervantez

○ **Gospel Mission Work**

Women and children in need are befriended and served. Contact Tasha Tracy

○ **Guy's Movie Night**

Guys' movie night plan to meet soon. Watch this space. Please see Phil Bassett if you have any questions.

○ **Meals on Wheels**

Would you like to volunteer to deliver meals one day a week? Or would you care to be part of a group at Grace, delivering food 5 days a week? If you would like to ride along with Tom Liggett to get a first-hand look at this service, contact Tom at 817 454-4208. Tom delivers on Wednesday mornings.

○ **Neighborhood Bible Study**

This year this group studied the book of Esther. They are taking a summer break and will resume in September. Contact Mary at 817-431-3023 if you have any questions.

○ **Women's Book Discussion**

Women's Book Discussion group information will be available here soon.

