



Covenant Church
Presbyterian Church in America
Fayetteville, Arkansas

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
THE LORD'S DAY
September 3, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements

Women's weekly Bible study will have their first meeting on Thursday, September 7th at 9:30am. They will be studying "Westminster Confession Study Guide" by Joseph Pipa. Contact Judy Smith for more details. Childcare will be provided.

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 24th convening at 10:30 AM concluding at the end of worship, for the purpose of electing new ruling elders. Phil Schenewerk and Nathan Jarvis have been approved by the session to stand for the office of ruling elder.

We as a church will pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child this coming November. In preparation for this event, please see the information in the back of the sanctuary for ideas on items to include. Contact Jan House for more information.

† Call to Worship

Malachi 1:11

¹¹ For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

† Invocation & Lord's Prayer

Unison

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.

† Hymn of Praise

#222

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Confession of Sin

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 6:22-23

²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

† Hymn of Assurance

#455 (TH #497)

“I Need Thee, Precious Jesus”

† Confession of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator 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, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; On the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. AMEN.

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18
Pew Bible page number 553

¹² I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴ I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. ¹⁵ What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted. ¹⁶ I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷ And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. ¹⁸ For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Paul Sagan

"The Vanity of A Fallen World"

Worship with Tithes & Offerings

† **Doxology**

"Gloria Patri"

#572 (TH #735)

† Prayer of Dedication

† **Hymn of Preparation**

"Jesus, My Great High Priest"

#274 (TH #306)

The Sacrament of Lord's Supper

† **Closing Hymn**

"Amazing Grace!"

#433 (TH #460)

† Benediction

SERMON OUTLINE
September 3, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18
“The Vanity of A Fallen World”

Introduction

- I. An Unhappy Business (v. 14-15)
- II. The Greatness of Solomon’s Wisdom (v. 16)
- III. The Study of Madness and Folly (v. 17)
- IV. The Result of Wisdom (v. 18)

Conclusion

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;
 5. The bus - y tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 • from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 are car - ried down - ward by your flood, and lost in fol - l'wing years.

6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all its sons away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.

7. O God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come:
 O be our guard while troubles last,
 and our eternal home.

From Psalm 90
 Isaac Watts, 1719
 Alt. 1990; mod.

ST. ANNE C.M.
 Attr. to William Croft, 1678–1727
 Tate and Brady, *Supplement to the New Version*, 1708

I Need Thee, Precious Jesus

455

1. I need thee, pre-cious Je - sus, for I am full of sin;
 2. I need thee, pre-cious Je - sus, for I am ver - y poor;
 3. I need thee, pre-cious Je - sus, and hope to see thee soon,

my soul is dark and guilt - y, my heart is dead with - in.
 a strang - er and a pil - grim, I have no earth - ly store.
 en - cir - cled with the rain - bow and seat - ed on thy throne.

I need the cleans - ing foun - tain where I can al - ways flee,
 I need the love of Je - sus to cheer me on my way,
 There, with thy blood - bought chil - dren, my joy shall ev - er be,

the blood of Christ most pre - cious, the sin - ner's per - fect plea.
 to guide my doubt - ing foot - steps, to be my strength and stay.
 to sing my Je - sus' prais - es, to gaze, O Lord, on thee.

Gloria Patri

572

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in

the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er

shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

2nd cent.; tr.

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex) Irreg.
Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

Jesus, My Great High Priest

274

1. Je - sus, my great High Priest, of - fered his blood and died;
 2. To this dear Sure - ty's hand will I com - mit my cause;
 3. My Ad - vo - cate ap - pears for my de - fense on high;
 4. Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell un - known

my guilt - y con - science seeks no sac - ri - fice be - side. His
 he an - swers and ful - fills his Fa - ther's bro - ken laws. Be -
 the Fa - ther bows his ears and lays his thun - der by. Not
 put their most dread - ful forms of rage and mis - chief on, I

pow'r - ful blood did once a - tone, and now it pleads be - fore the throne.
 hold my soul at free - dom set, my Sure - ty paid the dread - ful debt.
 all that hell or sin can say shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.
 shall be safe, for Christ dis - plays his con - qu'ring pow'r and guard - ian grace.

6. By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
 in Jesus' promise I rejoice;
 for though I know my heart's condition,
 I also know my Savior's voice.
 My heart is glad, all grief has flown,
 since I am saved by grace alone.

7. By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
 so long as God is true, it stands.
 What saints have penned by inspiration,
 what in his Word our God commands,
 what our whole faith must rest upon,
 is grace alone, grace in his Son.

Christian L. Scheidt, 1742, cento
 Alt. 1990; mod.

MENTZER 9.8.9.8.8.8.
 Johann B. König, *Harmonischer Liederschatz*, 1738

Amazing Grace!

433

1. A - maz - ing grace!—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his Word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 he will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.

5. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
 and mortal life shall cease,
 I shall possess within the veil
 a life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise
 than when we've first begun.

St. 1–5, John Newton, 1779
 St. 6, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 Traditional American melody
 Adapted and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900