

# GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WATERTOWN, NEW

## The Gospel

There are few things as precious to the Jesus Movement as the gospel. The word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the sermon of the Jesus Movement. Its central proclamation is the good news of God’s love and initiative not only to save us from hell, but also to bring us into a healthy relationship with Himself. The point of this book is that the gospel is good news, and its core is a restored relationship with God.... [This message of good news] stands at the center of the church’s mission in the world. If we ask what message Jesus brought, the short answer is simply this: He brought the good news that God’s promised rule of deliverance has arrived.

Darrell L. Bock

~ *Recovering the Real Lost Gospel:  
Reclaiming the Gospel as Good News*

JANUARY 5, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE

# WELCOME

We are glad you decided to come and worship our God and Father through his Son Jesus Christ by His Spirit with us today! We are a mission church of the Presbyterian Church in America, with deep roots in the reformed catholic<sup>1</sup> tradition. Our mission is to glorify and enjoy God through faithful worship and proclamation of the Gospel, and our goal is to embody the love of God in Christ through our words and deeds, including practical, generous acts of love and service.

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We want you to feel welcome, and we've prepared this guide to help you enter body and soul into worship. We deeply believe that worship is not just watching and listening; we are called to be active and engaged in the dialog between the covenant God who speaks and his people who respond. Please note:

- the words of Scripture are in *italics*,
- **boldface type** indicates congregational participation,
- words in *red* are guides to what's happening, and
- the † symbol means everyone stands, as able.

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We have coffee and snacks in the fellowship hall following worship. We hope you will stay for a while so that we can get to know one another a little bit.

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If you would like to seek prayer or physical help for any need; if you have questions about anything you have heard or about

- who Jesus is,
- what he has done, or
- why that matters;

or if you would simply like to connect with our pastor, feel free to reach out after the service, or email Pastor Frank at [gracepreswt@gmail.com](mailto:gracepreswt@gmail.com).

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**[gracepcawatertown.org](http://gracepcawatertown.org)**

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<sup>1</sup>We are catholic Christians because we are in communion with that Church from which the Gospel is spread throughout the world (St. Augustine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Homily on 1 John).

# LORD'S DAY DIVINE SERVICE

## The Welcome and Announcements

Jesus proclaimed, *"The time is fulfilled,  
and the kingdom of God is at hand;  
repent and believe in the gospel."*

~ Mark 1:15

## The Prelude

*Take a moment to prepare in silence for worship  
and to pray for God's assistance to worship him rightly.*

GOD CALLS US | WE GATHER TOGETHER AND PRAISE HIM

## The Apostolic Greeting

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!*

## † The Call to Worship

*Isaiah 60:1-3; Psalm 72:11*

*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,*

***Amen!***

*The LORD be with you!*

***And with your spirit!***

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

***May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!***

*Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Let us worship God.*

## † The Hymn of Praise, p. 10

*As With Gladness, Men of Old*

† Please stand, as able

## †The Opening Prayer

*Prayers for Common Worship (1936)*

*The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children.*

**Almighty God, Lord of all being, and Fountain of all blessings, whose mercies are ever new: As you have spared us to see the light of this day, renew us, we pray, in the spirit of our minds, and grant that we may begin this hour and this new year in your blessing, continue them in your favor, and spend the remainder of our lives in your faith and obedience. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

## †The *Gloria Patri*

**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.**

## GOD CLEANSSES US | WE CONFESS OUR SINS

### The Call to Confession

*from the Scriptures*

The Scriptures teach us that *the grace of God has dawned upon the world, bringing salvation for all people through our Savior Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us, to purify a people for himself. And everyone who hopes in Christ purifies himself, even as Christ is pure.*

**Let us, therefore, humble ourselves before the throne of Almighty God, our heavenly Father, and confess our sins and transgressions with lowly and contrite hearts, that we may obtain forgiveness of them through the merits of our Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### The Confession of Sin, *in unison*

**Almighty and most merciful God, our heavenly Father: We cast ourselves down before you, under a deep sense of our unworthiness and guilt. We have grievously sinned against you, in thought, in word, and in deed. We have come short of your glory. We have broken your commandments, and turned aside—every one of us—from the way of life; and in us there is no soundness nor health. Yet now, O most merciful Father, hear us when we call upon you with penitent hearts; and for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us. Pardon our sins, and grant us your peace. Take away our guilt. Purify us, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, from all inward uncleanness; and make us able and willing to serve you in newness of life to the glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord...**

*Take a moment of silence to confess your particular sins to God through Jesus Christ our Advocate and Shield who sits at the God's right hand.*

## **The Proclamation of Forgiveness**

*2 Timothy 1:8, 10*

*The power of God... now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

## **The Prayer for Grace, *in unison* Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the U.S.**

*Let us lift up our hearts to God in heaven.*

*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.*

Let us pray together to the Lord:

**Almighty and everlasting God, who by your only begotten Son has made us to be a new creation for yourself, and has bathed us in the new light of your Incarnate Word: Preserve in us, we beseech you, the works of your mercy, and cleanse us from all our old stains, that by the assistance of your grace we may be found in his form, in whom our substance dwells with you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

GOD CONSECRATES US | WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND OFFERING

## **The Offering Prayer and Collection of Tithes and Offerings**

### **The Offertory**

GOD SPEAKS TO US | WE HEAR IN FAITH

### **The Scripture Readings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Christmastide**

The Old Testament Reading: *Jeremiah 31:7-14*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Epistle Reading: *Ephesians 1:3-14*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

† The Gospel Reading: *John 1:10-18*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**The Hymn, p.11**

Take My Life, and Let It Be

**The Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-5**

*Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you...*

**The Prayer for Illumination**

**The Sermon**

GOD COMMUNES WITH US | WE EAT AND DRINK  
WITH THE LORD AND ONE ANOTHER

**The Invitation to the Meal and Fencing of the Table**

† **The Hymn of Preparation, p. 12**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, vv.1-3

† **The Confession of Our Faith, p. 13, *in unison***

The Nicene Creed

† **The Passing of the Peace**

*1 Corinthians 6:11; Romans 5:1*

*You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

**And also with you.**

† **The Words of Institution**

*Matthew 26:26-29*

† **The Prayer of Humble Access**, *in unison* *Book of Common Prayer (1552)*

We do not presume to come to this your table, O Merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord who ever loves to show mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his cup, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. AMEN.

**The Prayer of Consecration** *Book of Common Prayer (1552)*

**The Serving of the Elements**

*Brothers and sisters, lift your eyes from the visible elements and lift up your heart to heaven, where Christ is now, seated at the right hand of the Father, from where he will come again to complete our redemption. In him alone are all the promises of God fulfilled and all Spiritual blessings found.*

*Come to the Table now in joy of heart, in Spirit-wrought unity, in holy love, and partake of the Feast of Christ, giving thanks for the great love that God has shown us.*

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

† **The Hymn of Response**, p. 12 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, v. 4

**The Prayer of Intercession**

**The Lord's Prayer**, *in 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.*

GOD COMMISSIONS AND BLESSES US | WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD

†Closing Hymn, p. 14

Oh, Jesus, I Have Promised

†The Song of Simeon, *in unison*

Luke 2:29-32

*Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. AMEN.*

†The Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

†The Benediction and the People's Amen

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, 28

*May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. AMEN.*

## Sermon Notes


## As with Gladness Men of Old

1. As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
 2. As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly cra-dle-bed,  
 3. As they of-fered gifts most rare at that cra-dle rude and bare;  
 4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;  
 5. In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre-at-ed light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be-fore him whom heav'n and earth a-dore;  
 • so may we with ho-ly joy, pure, and free from sin's al-loy,  
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra-cious God, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.  
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
 • all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.  
 there for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King.

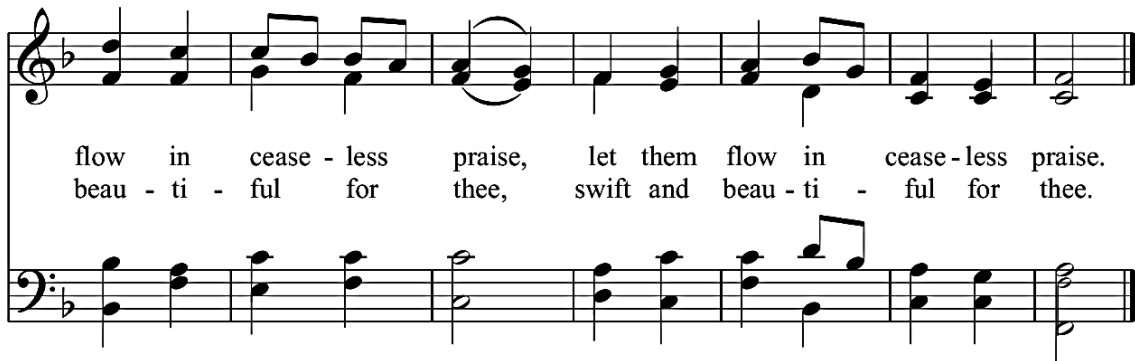
## Take My Life, and Let It Be



1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed,  
2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse



Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days; let them  
of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and



flow in cease - less praise, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
beau - ti - ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.

3. Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne,  
it shall be thy royal throne.

4. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take my self, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee,  
ever, only, all for thee.

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ my God: all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down: did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

## he Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE IN one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and 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 incarnate by the Holy Ghost 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 Ghost, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son  
together is worshipped 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.

## O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible study on the book of Job will meet this Thursday evening at the Harrymans'. Supper will be at 6:p.m. and the Bible study at 7.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### NOTES ON COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, is one of the means by which Christ graciously blesses his people. We believe that the whole Christ—body, soul, and divinity—is present to the believer by the power of his Spirit. In it, our Lord assures us of his atonement for us, the forgiveness of our sins, even as he strengthens and nourishes us in our life of faithful discipleship. Grace welcomes to Communion all who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and who, having been baptized, are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel. Children who have made a public profession of faith and been admitted by the elders to the Table are able to share in Communion.

Please note:

- The inner rings of cups contain wine, the outer ring grape juice.
- Gluten-free bread (rice and corn flour based) is available.
- Our custom is to wait until everyone has been served, whereupon we eat and drink together.
- After the service, please place your empty cup in the basket provided near the entrance.

*We are God's people.  
We proclaim Christ,  
who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.  
In him we are  
Taught by the Truth and  
Liberated by the Life to  
Walk in the Way.  
The goal of our instruction is love  
for God and neighbor  
that flows from a pure heart and  
a clear conscience and  
a sincere faith.*



**GRACE**  
Presbyterian Church  
Watertown, New York



*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America*

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