

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

Is it possible to live out and speak the truth so that any offense taken is limited to the offense of the cross?

The answer, I believe, is YES. We will make mistakes and blunder, of course. We have clay feet, and the Scriptures do not give us leave to witness to the truth only after achieving some sort of perfection. There will be plenty for which we must seek forgiveness from our unbelieving friends, but amazingly such authenticity and humility can be attractive in its own way. Our foul-ups can even, by God's grace, at least occasionally be redeemed instead of remaining a hindrance in the relationship. The primary reason, however, for being confident that it is possible to be winsome and attractive to sinners is the example of Jesus. He was without sin and never compromised the truth, and yet attracted sinners to himself. He even called them to repentance—not a particularly popular message for sinners—and though not all believed, the record of the Gospels is that they followed him around in droves. Our message is the gospel of Christ, and since he is attractive, shouldn't our proclamation be attractive as well? Since our lives are to reflect his righteousness, shouldn't our lives be as winsome as his was?

Denis Haack

“What Does Winsome Look Like?”

MARCH 16, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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 catholic¹ 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.

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.

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.

gracepcawatertown.org

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

LORD'S DAY DIVINE SERVICE

The Welcome and Announcements

*I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
~ Ezekiel 36:25*

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

*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!

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

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

† The Hymn of Praise, p. 10

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

† Please stand, as able

†The Opening Prayer, *in unison*

Prayers for Common Worship (1936)

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" (Psalm 139:23-24)

Almighty Eternal God, in splendor of light are hidden from our eyes, but we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your Son, the Word made flesh. We come to worship you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for you alone are God, and besides you there is none else. Be present to us now, we pray, for we come in the name of Christ alone. And grant that with pure hearts, good consciences, and sincere faith we may worship you in spirit and truth and offer worthy praise for the wonders of your grace. 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

Luke 15:18

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.*

I will arise and go to my Father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you."

The Confession of Sin, *in unison*

Eternal God our Father: With the wayward son, we confess that we have sinned against heaven and before you. We are not worthy to be called your children. So often we have failed to be an obedient people; we have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; we have not heard the cry of the needy. Yet in love you have drawn us to yourself in Christ, our Redeemer, the Way, the Truth, the Life. And as you promised, through him you have put your Spirit within us that we might be able to walk in love for you and our neighbor. Forgive us, we pray, and free us for joyful obedience. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

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

Luke 15:22-24

The father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

The Prayer for Grace *Order of Worship, Reformed Church in the US (1866)*

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 God, who sees the helpless misery of our fallen life: Grant us, we humbly beseech you, both the outward and inward defense of your guardian care, that we may be shielded from the evils which assault the body, and be kept pure from all thoughts that harm and pollute the soul. 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 2nd Sunday in Lent

The Old Testament Reading: *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Philippians 3:17-4:1*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

† The Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:31-35*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

†The Psalm, p. 11

Psalm 27: The LORD's My Shining Light

The Sermon Text: *John 4:7-10, 13-26*

The Prayer for Illumination

The Sermon: The Woman of Samaria

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

†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 *Westminster Directory for Worship (1644)*

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 Psalm of Response, p. 14 *Psalm 116:12-19: What Shall I Render?*

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

May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

May the grace of Christ our Savior
and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favor,
rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
with each other and the Lord,
and possess, in sweet communion,
joys which earth cannot afford. Amen.

†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

†The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

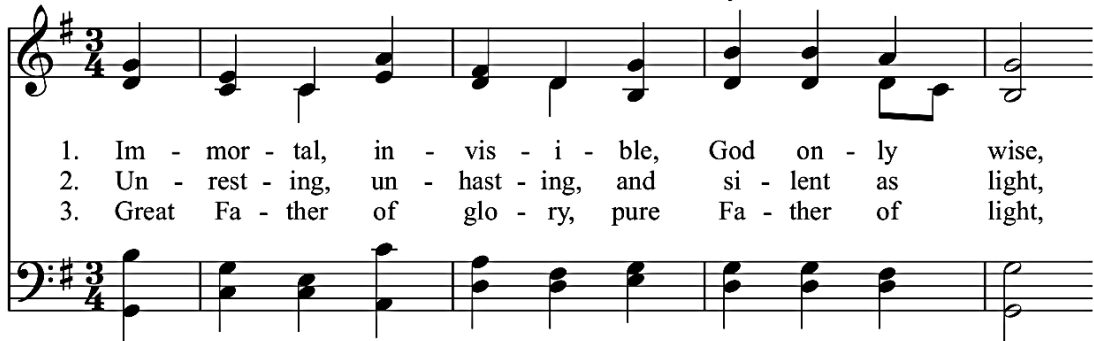
*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

†The People's Amen

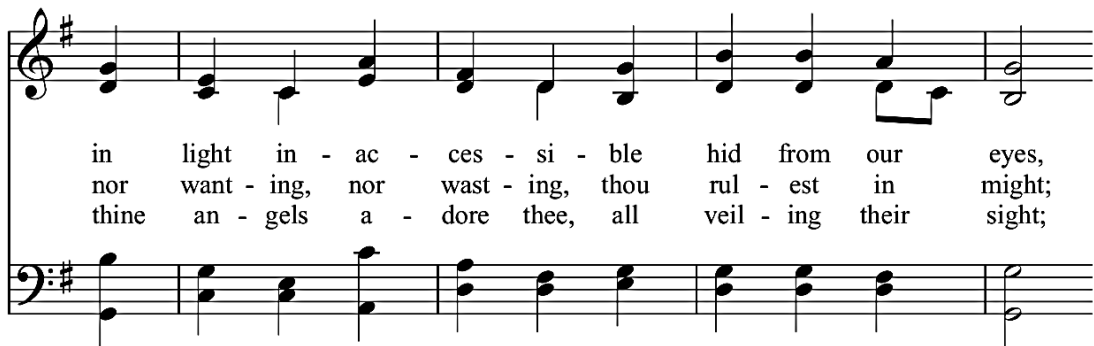
A musical score for 'The People's Amen' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - - - men.' are written below the treble staff. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final phrase that is held over from the previous measure. The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

SERMON NOTES

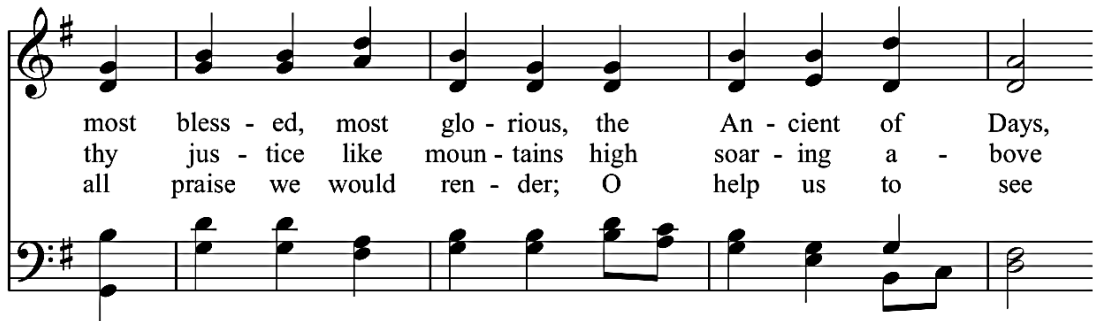
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



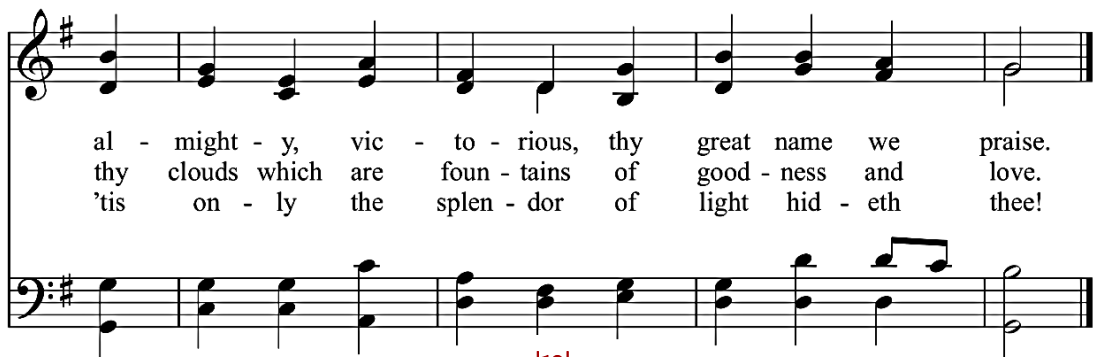
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

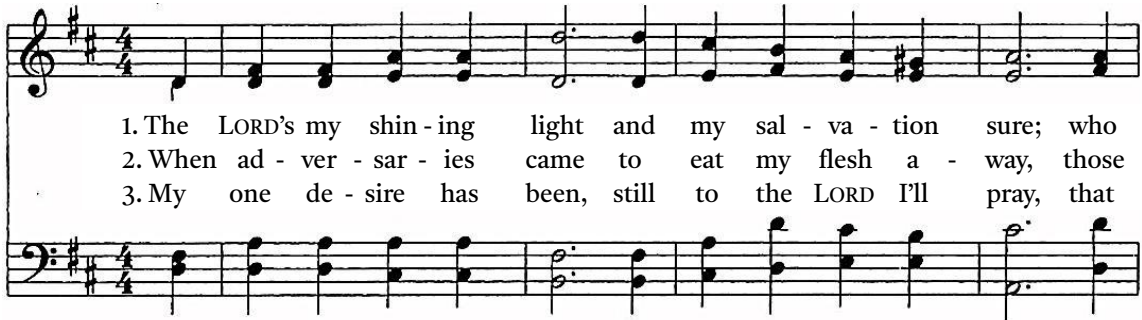


most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

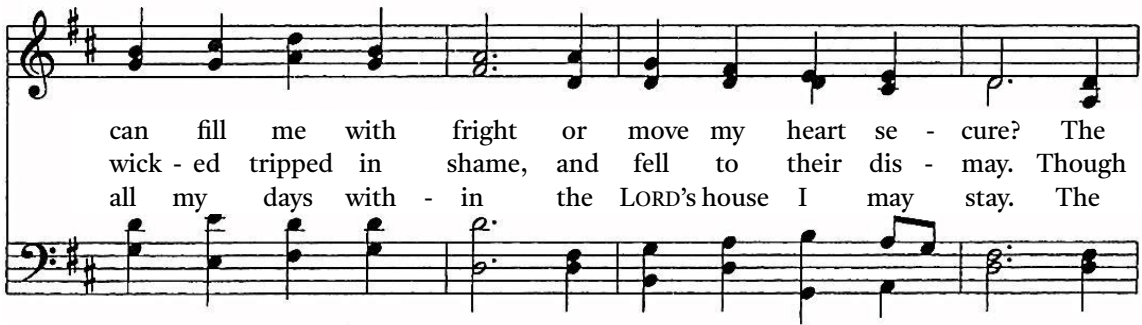


al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

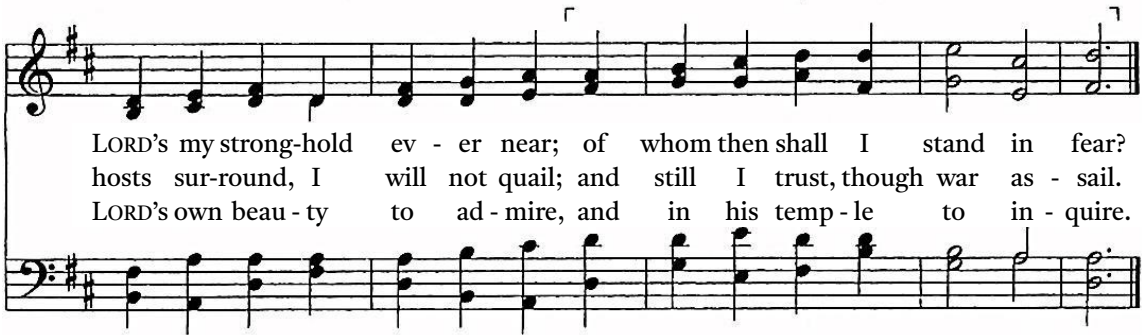
Psalm 27:1-6: The Lord's My Shining Light



1. The LORD's my shin - ing light and my sal - va - tion sure; who
2. When ad - ver - sar - ies came to eat my flesh a - way, those
3. My one de - sire has been, still to the LORD I'll pray, that



can fill me with fright or move my heart se - cure? The
wick - ed tripped in shame, and fell to their dis - may. Though
all my days with - in the LORD's house I may stay. The



LORD's my strong-hold ev - er near; of whom then shall I stand in fear?
hosts sur-round, I will not quail; and still I trust, though war as - sail.
LORD's own beau - ty to ad - mire, and in his temp - le to in - quire.

4. When troubles fill my day,
when fears and dangers throng,
securely hid I'll stay
in his pavilion strong.
He'll hide me in his tent always;
And high upon a rock me raise.

5. My head shall lifted be
above my enemies.
Within his tent with glee
I'll offer sacrifice.
With shouts of joy my song I'll bring;
There praises to the LORD I'll sing!

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2. King of kings, vet born of Mar - v. _ as of old _ on
3. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to
in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to
as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

The 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.

Psalm 116:12-19: What Shall I Render?

1 What shall I ren - der to the LORD for all his
 2 Sal - va - tion's cup of bless - ing now I take and
 3 His saints the LORD de - lights to save; their death is

G D A D

ben - e - fits to me? How shall my life, by grace re -
 call up - on God's name. Be - fore his saints I pay my
 pre - cious in his sight. He has re - deemed me from the

A G Em A D

stored, give wor - thy thanks, O LORD, to thee?
 vow and here my grat - i - tude pro - claim.
 grave, and in his ser - vice I de - light.

4 With thankful heart I offer now
 my gift and call upon God's name.
 Before his saints I pay my vow
 and here my gratitude proclaim.

5 Within his house, the house of prayer,
 I dedicate myself to God.
 Let all his saints his grace declare
 and join to sound his praise abroad.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THURSDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Thursday night fellowship will *not* meet as the Harryman's will be out of town.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS

Prayer request cards for our intercessory prayer time are available on the table where the bulletins are found. If you use one, please write your requests briefly and legibly on the card and put it in the collection plate when it is passed. We will continue ask for spoken prayer requests before prayer time.

NOTES ON COMMUNION

- 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.
- Non-communing children are encouraged to come to the Table with their parents, where they will receive a prayer of blessing.

*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.*



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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