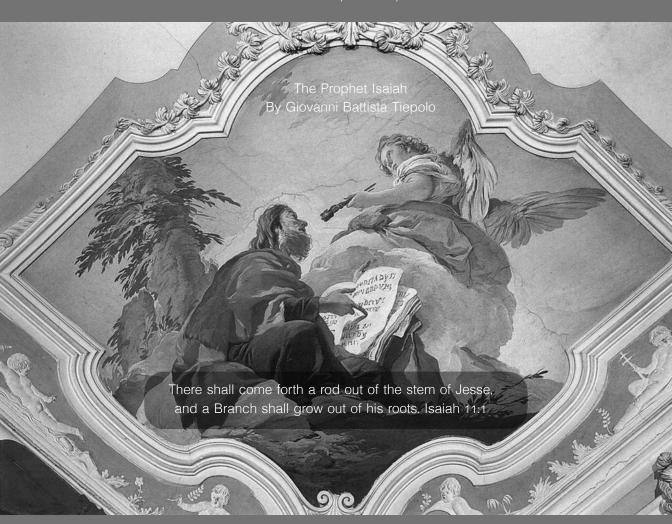


Advent December 10, 2023, 10:30a



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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship Psalm 85

Leader—Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin. Selah
You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

Congregation—Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!
Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Leader—Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Congregation—Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

Opening Prayer

Song of Praise, It Is Well With My Soul

When peace like a river
Attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot
Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, It is well with my soul

Chorus—

It is well with my soul It is well, It is well with my soul

Tho' Satan should buffet
Tho' trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ hath regarded
My helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood
For my soul

My sin O the bliss
Of this glorious tho't
My sin not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross
And I bear it no more
Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord O my soul

And Lord haste the day
When the faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound
And the Lord shall descend
Even so it is well
With my soul

Personal Confession of Sin (in silence)

Corporate Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven. We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt. We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins. When this doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction. Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change through our own efforts. We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower. This has left us arrogant. This has left us anxious and depressed. Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting your grace. Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Song of the Gospel, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for, with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood. He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

-Lighting of the Candle of Peace-

Leader— Friends, today we light the Candle of Peace and are reminded of the shalom that our King ushers into the world. We are reminded that peace is not merely absence of war, but that it is a restoration of wholeness. We celebrate the victory that Christ, the Righteous Branch from the Stump of Jesse, has won in conquering sin and death and Satan. We celebrate the Lion, who is the Slain Lamb.

Children ages 4 to 6 are dismissed to Children's Church

We love for the corporate worship gathering to be a family-friendly time, however, please feel free to either use overflow space in the office suite or check your children into the nursery/children's church if they are finding it difficult to sit through the service. Children's interactive bulletins are also available in the foyer.

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament, Isaiah 40:1-11 (Page 599 in the Pew Bible) Leader—This is the word of the Lord Gospel, Mark 1:1-8 (Page 836 in the Pew Bible) Leader—This is the word of the Lord Congregation—Thanks be to God

Congregation—Thanks be to God

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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 have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sermon, "Preparing for Our King: Repentance"
Pastor Matt Wireman
2 Peter 3:8-18 (Page 1019 in the Pew Bible)

Song of Response, O Great God

O great God of highest heav'n
Occupy my lowly heart
Own it all and reign supreme
Conquer ev'ry rebel pow'r
Let no vice or sin remain
That resists Your holy war
You have loved and purchased me
Make me Yours forever more

I was blinded by my sin Had no ears to hear Your voice Did not know Your love within Had no taste for heaven's joys Then Your Spirit gave me life Opened up Your word to me Through the gospel of Your Son Gave me endless hope and peace

Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face
You are worthy to be praised
With my ev'ry thought and deed
O great God of highest heav'n
Glorify Your Name through me

The Lord's Supper

Please come forward, when you like, to share from the common bread, which signifies our oneness in Christ. It is also gluten free to enable as many to partake as feasible. Then take from the individual servings of wine or juice, which signifies our individual discipleship with Jesus. You may leave your cup at the table or take it back to your seat and drink it there.

Song of Communion, I Will Wait For You

Out of the depths I cry to You In darkest places I will call Incline Your ear to me anew And hear my cry for mercy Lord

Were You to count my sinful ways How could I come before Your throne Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze I stand redeemed by grace alone

Chorus
I will wait for You I will wait for You
On Your word I will rely
I will wait for You surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied

So put Your hope in God alone Take courage in His power to save Completely and forever won By Christ emerging from the grave

His steadfast love has made a way And God Himself has paid the price That all who trust in Him today Find healing in His sacrifice

Chorus

I will wait for You I will wait for You
Through the storm and through the night
I will wait for You surely wait for You
For Your love is my delight

Benediction

Commissioning

Pastor— Let us go into the world as children of God and servants of Christ to love and serve others.

Congregation—Thanks be to God!

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye, heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Notes:

Prayers

Greenville

We pray this week for **The Greenville Baptist Association**. We thank you for having a group of like minded believers that we can fellowship and serve with. I pray that you would help us as we try to reach out to our area as a group of churches to be effective servants of you.

United States

Father, we pray for the **Switch Ministries**. We pray that you will help them as they care for those in need. Please strengthen their employees as daily they are faced with tough situations and give them wisdom as to which way they should go.

World

We pray this week for the **Vachan Church in Lucknow, India** and for the **Singhs**. We thank you for their desire to raise up a generation of leaders and servants for you in their area. We pray that you would bless their efforts and bring in many students to their **Pastors College**.

Announcements

English Club | Tuesday Nights, 6-8p

Fellowship Meal | Today, after the service

Lessons and Carols Service | Dec 24th, 4-5pm

Joint Worship Service w/Tabernacle Baptist | Dec 31st

Fourth Sunday Service & Youth Nite | Jan 28, 5-6:30p

Freedom That Lasts | Starting in the New Year. For more info, contact Ben Marshall (bmarshall@freedomthatlasts.com)

Note: Children are a blessing from the Lord but may have trouble sitting through an entire service. Parents who would like to tend to their children may utilize the Augustine Library in the lower level.



We are united by our Core Values

Community | Discipleship | Liturgy | Mercy + Mission | Simplicity

—Church Leadership—

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