

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 7, 9:30 a.m. Grace Academy Christian Education Classes begin the Winter Term in the Bannerman Building.

Sunday, January 14 11 a.m. Adult Education classes in the Heritage Room.

Sunday, January 21 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship and Annual Meeting.



Communion Liturgy

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

...who forever sing to the glory of your name.

CHOIR: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Great is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread

The Sharing of the Cup

(You are invited forward to receive the elements.)

Prayer

Spiritual Food for Thought

The heart of the first Christmas is that God was giving you himself, so that you might accept him as your Ruler and rely on him as your Redeemer—so that you might place your faith in him and enjoy a faith that saves you.

--Alistair Begg, Christmas Playlist

Session:

Class of 2017
Barbara Matlack
Randy Niederer

Class of 2018
Patti Manz
Tim Shaub

Class of 2019
Mark Niederer
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

Deacons:

Class of 2017
Judy Niederer, Secretary

Class of 2018
Gail Butterfoss
Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

Class of 2019
Chris Manz, Moderator

Ministers: All members of Titusville Church

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good

Worship Assistant: Barbara Matlack

Music Directors: Jon and Helen Eastburn

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*
Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*

December 31, 2017

THE EXTRAORDINARY

GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK of REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION

All praise and glory to God!
Today is the 7th day of Christmas.
We also close the calendar year with our worship, and a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Entrance into a new calendar year will often provide time to reflect on our work and the life we seek to build. Moses reminds us that the Lord is our ultimate authority, and that his call for his purposes is our

most fulfilling identity. The concluding chapter of I Thessalonians teaches about the Day of the Lord, and how we can best live for the glory of God until that day comes. For the last time together in 2017, let us worship God!



Call to Worship

Psalm 1

Blessed is the one who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, God of love. Forgive us, as we step out of our shadows into your light. Restore us, as we reveal our brokenness. Hear us, as we proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and our God.

...Let us pause for a silent time of personal confession...

(prayer written by Christine Longhurst)



Order of Liturgy

Prelude

***Call to Worship** (page 1)

***Opening Hymns / Prayer** (page 1)

Confession (page 1)

—call, prayer, assurance

*Gloria patri

Scripture (page 1)

Message

***Hymn of Response** (page 1)

*Apostles Creed

*New City Catechism (page 2)

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Offering: "In The Bleak Midwinter"

*Doxology

Communion (page 4)

***Sending Hymn** (page 1)

Benediction

Choral Benediction: "A Blessing of Light"

**Please stand if able*

Scripture

Exodus 4 (page 42)

I Thessalonians 5 (page 837)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

Opening Hymns

Insert "Joy Has Dawned"

#279 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Hymn of Response

Insert "All Glory Be To Christ"

Sending Hymn

#270 "Joy to the World"



Notes on Morning Scripture

Exodus

Vs 18 Moses had fled to Midian from Egypt forty years prior

Vs 23: expands on earlier verses about Moses in Egypt: 3:18-22

I Thessalonians

Vs 2 Day of the Lord: a coming day “referring to the consummation of God’s kingdom and triumph over his foes and deliverance of his people. It begins at the Second coming and will include the final judgment” (New International Dictionary of the Bible, pg. 259)

Vs 8: compare with Ephesians 6:10-17

Vs 8, 16: the four attributes illumined by the Advent Candles

Vs 23: only mention in Scripture of the phrase, “spirit, soul, body”

Vs 26: compare with Exodus 4:27

Web Link

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/the-day-of-the-lord-god-christ.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDeWpTkMgFU> The song “All Glory be to Christ”, to the tune of “Auld Lang Syne”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses_Leaving_for_Egypt_\(Perugino\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses_Leaving_for_Egypt_(Perugino)) Did you know that Exodus 4 was part of the Sistine Chapel’s artwork?

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/gods-anger-is-good/> introducing the Hebrew and Greek words for anger

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/articles/theology/isgodangry.html?start=1> Answering the common thought of God in the Old Testament as angry and the God as loving in the New Testament

New City Catechism

A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>

Part 3: Spirit, Restoration, Growing in Grace

Question 50: What does Christ’s resurrection mean for us?

Answer: Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

To learn more about Question 50, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/#50>

Editorial The Day of the Lord

Advent looks both back and forward to the coming of the Lord. The Day of the Lord is a term found in both the Old and New Testaments. It speaks to the ways God will bring forth justice and peace to the new creation. The Day of the Lord includes the glorious light of Christ’s return and judgment of all that opposes God’s reign. Scripture speaks to the seriousness of the day, and that we must prepare our hearts. Amos and Joel call the day, ‘dreadful’, and ask who might endure? Paul and Peter suggest that the day is like a thief in the night; jolting people out of their self-created deception.

Thinking about this day brings us into the presence of the righteous God who rescues and redeems. “For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Thess. 5:9). While we do not like to think about judgment, the Holy Spirit also points us to its goodness. Rejecting sin and its harm, raising up what it righteous, restoring God’s intent for the creation: these are good things! This is what we want. We don’t want to read of the next tragedy, we want to hear good stories. We don’t want to fear the violence of people, we want to live securely in the light of God. We don’t want relational distance, we want right relationship. The judgment of God found in the Day of the Lord will scatter all that separates, including the enemy of death. Paul writes “Christ died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up” (5:10-11).

Paul is saying that in Christ, we have our hope. Though judgment may come, we have been called into the light. Therefore our calling should shape our living. We are to be in the light, having faith, clearly belonging to the day. The final instructions of verses 12-22 are built upon a healthy reverence for the God who is coming on his day, to bring his rule of “truth and grace which makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness (and wonders of his love)” The final instructions move us, not out of fear, but by love.

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.” (5:23-24)

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life

(offered in 12/31 worship by the congregation)

Dear Tabby, Raising Life (issues) Acts 9:36

Dear Tabby,

How does Christ coming again shape my day to day living?

Reflecting in Reaville

Dear Reflecting,

When we start to understand earthly life as compared to eternal life, Christ’s coming should invoke a sense of preparation. Just as we prepare for hosting, or holiday, so we should see our life as including preparation to behold the glory of God when Christ comes again.

Rather than feeling gloomy about such things, the life of preparation is liberating (even if there are aspects of challenge and sacrifice). Paul speaks to the day of the Lord, and then he gives practical instruction regarding how we should live in light of God’s future work. What does this life look like?

*A life that sees and supports those hard at work for God’s kingdom.

*a life that seeks to live in peace with one another

*a life that warns about the dangers of idleness and disruption

*Helping the weak

*being patient and doing good

*rejoicing always

*praying continually

*Giving thanks, which is the will of God

*Beholding the power of God’s Spirit at work (rather that working to quench the Holy Spirit)

*Listening to God’s word

*rejecting evil

*Greeting brothers and sisters

*experiencing the grace of the Lord Jesus

In short, understanding that Jesus will come again is very good. It is good because the Lord will make everything right. Therefore, our work should support this truth. Supporting this truth is good for the soul, as well as body and spirit. “The One who calls you is faithful, and he will do it” (5:24).