



CHRIST  
fellowship  
[gatheredbygrace.com](http://gatheredbygrace.com)

Sunday January 28, 2024

# Welcome

## Welcome

Good morning, Christ Fellowship, and guests. We are glad that you are here, let's prepare to worship our Great God and Savior.

## Worship Primer

“If there is anything that applies to all of us, it is the need for the remission of our sins.”

***R.C. Sproul***

“It will be a sad day for the Church, when there is no distinction between the children of God and those of the world.” ***Charles Spurgeon.***

“When Christ is preached, the hearts of those who are elect and chosen begin to soften and melt at the abundant mercy of God.” ***William Tyndale***

## Call to Worship

God has called us to worship his holiness in the midst of everyday life. The call to worship, usually taken from the Psalms or one of the poetic prophets, is a call to celebrate the character of God as a faith community.

## SONGS OF PRAISE

We sing songs of praise to celebrate the majesty and faithfulness of our God. He is a great God and worthy of our praise and thanks.

# Song of Praise

## Awake My Soul

**1.** The image of God invisible  
The firstborn of all life  
Before and within,  
He holds it all in  
One name, one faith, one Christ

**Chorus:** No one is good enough  
To save himself  
Awake my soul tonight  
To boast nothing else

**2.** I trust no other source or name  
Nowhere else can I hide  
This grace gives me fear,  
and this grace draws me near  
And all that it asks it provides(Repeat chorus)

**Bridge:** No seam in this garment  
All my rags to hide  
No less than your love  
For Jesus is mine

**3.** When I stand on the edges of Jordan  
With the saints and the angels beside  
When my body is healed  
and the glory revealed  
Then still I can boast only Christ(Repeat chorus twice)

# Call to Worship

## Call to Continued Worship and Prayer of Invocation

### Psalm 99:1-5

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he! The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

## Confession of Faith (Shorter Catechism, Question 34)

**Leader:** What is adoption?

**People:** Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.

## Scripture Reading

### Colossians 1:15-18

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

## Prayer of Invocation

An invocation is our calling on God to be glorified and powerfully present in our worship today. Our invocation is done with the Triune God in view: we worship the Father, through Jesus the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Creation:

The way things were

### Fall:

The way things are

### Redemption:

The way things can be

### Restoration:

The way things will be

## Scripture Reading

Our faith is strengthened by the reading and hearing of the word of God; we worship as we hear the Scriptures, believing that the word of God is a means of grace.

## SONGS OF PRAISE

The songs we sing are based on biblical truth.

We glorify God and build one another up as we sing together.

# Song of Praise

## Lion and the Lamb

He's coming on the clouds  
Kings and kingdoms will bow down  
And every chain will break  
As broken hearts declare His praise  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

**[Chorus]** And our God is the lion  
The Lion of Judah  
He's roaring with power  
And fighting our battles  
And every knee will bow before Him  
Our God is the lamb  
The lamb that was slain  
For the sins of the world  
His blood breaks the chains  
And every knee will bow before the lion and the lamb  
Every knee will bow before Him

So, open up the gates  
Make way before the King of Kings  
The God who comes to save  
Is here to set the captives free  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

### **[Chorus]**

For who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty

### **[Chorus]**

# Song of Praise

## Your Glory/Nothing but the Blood

My life is Yours  
And my hope is in You only  
And my heart You hold  
'Cause You made this sinner holy  
And holy holy

'Cause Your glory is so beautiful  
I fall onto my knees in awe  
And the heartbeat of my life  
Is to worship in Your light  
'Cause Your glory is so beautiful  
'Cause Your glory is so beautiful

My life is Yours  
And my hope is in You only  
And my heart You hold  
'Cause You made this sinner holy  
And holy holy

'Cause Your glory is so beautiful  
I fall onto my knees in awe  
And the heartbeat of my life  
Is to worship in Your light  
'Cause Your glory is so beautiful  
'Cause Your glory is so beautiful

Glory glory hallelujah  
Jesus You are good  
(x4)

What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh, precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow  
No other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Glory glory hallelujah  
Jesus You are good

## Songs of Praise

God's word  
encourages us to  
"speak to one another  
in psalms and hymns  
and spiritual songs,  
singing and making  
melody to the Lord  
with all your heart."  
Ephesians 5:19

# Liturgy of Community

## Community

Church is not an event, it is the body of Christ gathered. One of our goals as we gather to worship is to "stir up one another to love and good deeds."  
Hebrews 10:24

## Assurance of Pardon

God's word promises us assurance of God's forgiveness as we confess our sins. We are forgiven not because we confess, but because Jesus Christ died for sinners and paid the full payment for our sins. We are truly free in Christ.

## Responsive Reading (Psalm 99)

**Leader:** The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

**People:** Great is the Lord in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy.

**Leader:** The King is mighty, he loves justice—you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right.

**People:** Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.

**Leader:** Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the Lord and he answered them. He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

**All:** O Lord our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

## Corporate Confession of Sin

**All:** Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us so that we love and serve you in all that we do. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon: Acts 10:43

**Leader:** To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

## Resources: Giving and Library

New visitors - Thank you for joining us. We have a gift for you in the library.

## Giving Grace

Take a few minutes to get coffee and share life. (If you need time for reflection please feel free to remain seated and listen to the music)

# Sermon Text

## Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

**Title: "Count Your Blessings, Part 3"**

**Text: Ephesians 1:3-14**

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. **11** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

## SERMON

The sermon is an explanation and application of the word of God. It is designed to bring us face to face with our God and lead us to thanks, repentance and obedience. Let us "be doers of the word and not hearers only."  
James 1:22

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God





# Song of Response

## Holy Holy Holy

### **Verse 1**

Holy holy holy  
Lord God Almighty  
Early in the morning  
Our song shall rise to Thee  
Holy holy holy  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons  
Blessed Trinity

### **Verse 2**

Holy holy holy  
All the saints adore Thee  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Falling down before Thee  
Who was, and is, and  
evermore shall be.

### **Verse 3**

Holy holy holy  
Though the darkness hide Thee  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see  
Only Thou art holy  
There is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power  
In love and purity

### **Verse 4**

Holy holy holy  
Lord God Almighty  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
In earth and sky and sea  
Holy holy holy  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons  
Blessed Trinity

## **Songs of Response**

We respond to the word preached in song as an expression of our anticipated faith and obedience.

### **Note to guest:**

We hope you have felt welcomed. Christ Fellowship is a gathering of imperfect people who seek to serve a perfect God, full of grace and truth. We hope you will come back.

### **BENEDICTION**

The benediction is a "good word" from God, as He sends us into the world to be His ambassadors. It is designed to encourage us as we depart.

### **Leader:**

The Peace of Christ  
with you

### **People:**

And also with you

## Prayers: (for those not communing)

### Prayers

Wherever you are on your spiritual pilgrimage, we want Christ Fellowship to be a safe spiritual home for you to think, question, and dialogue about the claims of Jesus Christ. We invite you to use these prayers as a guide for reflection and responding to what God is doing in your life.

### Our Vision

To be a Gospel Centered, outward-facing Church with a passion to see Christ's Kingdom flourish in our families, communities and surrounding region.

### Our Mission

Worshipping & enjoying God as we Live Work and Play.

- **Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth**  
Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.
- **Prayer of Belief**  
Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved than I ever dared hope. Thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.
- **Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin**  
Lord Jesus, enable me to see in you the fulfillment of all my true needs, and may I turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to see that your Gospel is bigger than my sin, and that your work breaks the power of sin as well as freeing me from its penalty. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and author of my faith. Amen.

# Announcements

## Winter Events:

We have several opportunities this Winter to engage together God's word, fellowship and pray with the body. If you are interested in any of these groups, please contact Jeremy Prather at [jeremy@gatheredbygrace.com](mailto:jeremy@gatheredbygrace.com), or see one of the Elders.

- **Becky Wood - Women's Life Group**, studying the Book of James, and meeting on Thursday evenings, 7:00pm, at the Wood's home, 156 Archie Way, Woodstock, GA 30188.
- **Garen Smith - Journey Group**, meets Friday mornings.
- **Sam Sampson - Men's Life Group**, studying the second half of the Book of Romans meets Tuesday mornings at 6:30am in Roswell.

We are offering Sunday School classes, from 9:10-9:50am before our Sunday gathering:

- **Adult Sunday School - Michael Head is teaching on Prayer; this class will run for 8 weeks (beginning 1/14/24) and will meet in the Library.**
- **We are providing childcare and the following options for Children's Sunday School:**
  - **Kids Sunday School (4 - 8 years )** - John Norris is leading a Sunday School class for the 4 to 8 year olds.
  - **Kids Sunday School (9 - 12 years )** - Lin and Cindy Acuff are leading a Sunday School class for the 9 to 12 year olds.

## Prayer Requests:

- **Pray for 10 new or old families to join/rejoin us in worship over the next 6 months. Invite others to church.**
- **Pray for us to have success in finding musicians both in our congregation and outside who will join us.**



## Calendar of Events

- **Sunday - January 28: Pulpit Search Committee Meeting**
- **Monday - February 5: Session Meeting**
- **Sunday - February 18, 5:00pm: Community Groups**