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GraceFallsChurchVA



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Grace Falls Church

November 29, 2020

WELCOME

"ABIDE WITH ME"

[Verse 1]

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers,
fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

[Verse 2]

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me,
though I oft left Thee,
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

[Verse 3]

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself,
my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

[Verse 4]

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death?
Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

[Verse 5]

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks
and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me

CONFESSION OF SINS & FIRST LESSON

Worship Leader: During the Season of Advent we not only prepare to celebrate Jesus' coming on the first Christmas; we also prepare to celebrate Jesus' Second Coming at the end of time. Part of that preparation is reflecting on our personal lives and realizing our shortcomings, our failures, and our sin, and giving that to God who exchanges our pain, our grief, and our shame with the perfection won for us on the cross. Let us confess and be reminded of our sins forgiven:

Congregation: Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you in more ways than I can count. I have sinned in my thoughts, by my words and with my actions. There are sins I know I have done and sins that I do not know I have done. Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Assure me of the forgiveness of my sin, renew my spirit, and lead me to follow you for all my days.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

WL: God, our heavenly Father, is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in faithful love. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. May the God of hope fill you with the peace and joy that comes only through his forgiveness and give you his strength to live according to his will. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²to the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you

have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.

⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

“SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS COME”

[Verse 1]

Savior of the nations, come;
 Virgin's Son, make here your home.
 Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
 That the Lord chose such a birth.

[Verse 2]

Not by human flesh and blood,
 By the Spirit of our God
 Was the Word of God made flesh,
 Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

[Verse 3]

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
 Of the virgin undefiled,
 Though by all the world disowned,
 Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!

[Verse 4]

From the Father's throne he came
 And ascended to the same,
 Captive leading death and hell --
 High the song of triumph swell!

[Verse 5]

Praise to God the Father sing,
 Praise to God the Son, our King,
 Praise to God the Spirit be
 Ever and eternally.

MESSAGE:

ADVENT
amid
COVID-19

“STAY HOME” ORDERS

Today we begin the season of Advent. Grace’s Advent Message Series for this year is titled, “Advent Amid COVID-19.”

Amid COVID-19, we’re familiar with “stay home” orders. We’ve heard about them across the world and in the U.S. In fact, one of the themes of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s approach to dealing with the virus is titled “Safer at Home.” The idea is that we are exposed to less dangers at home. Home is safe. Home is good for us.

In Jeremiah 3:22-25 God is calling his OT people (specifically the people of the Northern Kingdom [Israel]) home...home to him. This is a call to repentance, and thus the true hope found in God. Therefore, this is a message of repentance for us in Advent (which has repentance as one of its themes), and the hope that is found in God.

JEREMIAH 3:22-25

“Return, faithless people;
I will cure you of backsliding.”

“Yes, we will come to you, for you are the Lord our God. ²³ Surely the idolatrous commotion on the hills and mountains is a deception; surely in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel.

²⁴ From our youth, shameful gods have consumed the fruits of our ancestors’ labor—their flocks and herds, their sons and daughters.

²⁵ Let us lie down in our shame, and let our disgrace cover us. We have sinned against the Lord our God, both we and our ancestors; from our youth till this day we have not obeyed the Lord our God.”

PRAYER

Pastor Kevin will offer the Prayer. Following the prayer:

All: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”

[Verse 1]

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

[Chorus]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

[Verse 2]

O come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

[Chorus] x2

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

[Verse 3]

O come, O Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your presence here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

[Chorus]x2

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

[Verse 4]

O come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And guide us till we reach your side.

[Chorus] x3

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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WANT TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE MUSIC?

-*UPDATED*- If you would like to know the songs that we are planning on using during the this series, and listen to them on your own, in the car while commuting, or with your family, you can follow our playlist on Spotify. This playlist will be updated throughout the series.

----- “Grace CREWW – Advent / Christmas 2020” -----

You can search for it there or you can scan this code in the app. To scan a Spotify Code, go to the search bar, tap the search bar and you will see a camera icon, tap the camera and then hover the camera over this code:



WANT TO LISTEN TO MORE?

This playlist contains nearly every one of the songs that we use for contemporary worship over the year:

**Also, feel free to send song suggestions or recommendations to Staff Minister Kyle Heise. 😊*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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