

Sunday Service

6.30pm | Sunday, December 3rd 2023 | The First Sunday of Advent

Welcome: Paula Harris (Children and Families Worker)

Church Family News

Song: Come Praise And Glorify

Come praise and glorify our God,
the Father of our Lord.
In Christ he has in heav'nly realms,
his blessings on us poured.
For pure and blameless in His sight
he destined us to be,
and now we've been adopted through
his Son eternally.

**To the praise of your glory,
to the praise of your mercy and grace,
to the praise of Your glory,
you are the God who saves.**

Come praise and glorify our God,
who gives his grace in Christ.
In him our sins are washed away
redeemed through sacrifice.

In Him God has made known to us
the myst'ry of his will,
that Christ should be the head of all,
his purpose to fulfil.

Come praise and glorify our God,
for we've believed the Word
and through our faith we have a seal
the Spirit of the Lord.
The Spirit guarantees our hope
until redemption's done,
until we join in endless praise
to God, the Three in One.

Bob Kauflin, Tim Chester ©2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

Song: Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed!

**My chains are gone,
I've been set free,
my God, my Saviour has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.**

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand
years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun

Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio ©2006 sixsteps Music,
Vamos Publishing, worshiptogether.com songs

Prayers: Jen Watkins

Confession

Dear heavenly Father, though I am quite capable of fretting, and lamenting about how out of control things seem, the truth is, nothing could be farther from the truth. I may not always see your hand, discern your heart, or like your ways, but you are God and there is no other. Hallelujah, many times over.

Your Word gives us these three magnificent voices today, all affirming the same glorious truth: You are God, and we are not. You were sovereign over King David's challenged rule, crazy family, and personal failures. You were sovereign over Isaiah's difficult ministry and the outlandish promises you gave him to proclaim. You were sovereign over Job's losses and betrayals, misery and waiting. You were sovereign over Peter's rescue and James' death. Indeed, no purpose of yours can be (or will be) thwarted.

Surely, therefore Father, I can trust you with however you choose to write my story. You give and you take away—but always and ever to bring glory to yourself. You work in all things for your glory and our good—no exceptions. When you wound, ultimately, it's to heal. When you enrich, it's to make me generous. When you wait, it's not to frustrate me, but to consecrate me to the mystery and bigger purpose you have planned. When you say "No" to my "good" requests, it's because a better "Yes" is waiting in the wings.

Father, continue to renew my thinking, soften my heart, and deepen my worship. Once again, in this season of life, I humbly and gladly affirm: You are God and I am not. Until the Day "knowing in part" is over, supersize my experience of your grace. Make the gospel bigger and sweeter, that I might whine less and trust more. So, Amen I pray, in Jesus' sovereign and loving name.

Song: Sovereign Over Us

There is strength within the sorrow,
there is beauty in our tears.
And You meet us in our mourning
with a love that casts out fear.

You are working in our waiting,
sanctifying us;
when beyond our understanding,
You're teaching us to trust.

**Your plans are still to prosper,
You've not forgotten us;
You're with us in the fire and the
flood.
Faithful forever, perfect in love;
You are sov'reign over us.**

You are wisdom unimagined,
who could understand Your ways,

reigning high above the heavens,
reaching down in endless grace.

You're the lifter of the lowly,
compassionate and kind,
You surround, and You uphold me;
and Your promises are my delight.

Even what the enemy means for evil,
You turn it for our good,
You turn it for our good,
and for Your glory.
Even in the valley You are faithful;
You're working for our good,
You're working for our good
and for Your glory.

Faithful forever perfect in love
You are sov'reign over us

Advent Video

Reading: Acts 12:1-24 (p.1106)
Heidi Wragg

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: To the Ends of the Earth : The hidden hand of God
Justin Roberts (Minister for Students)

Song: He Who Is Mighty

Oh, the mercy our God has shown
to those who sit in death's shadow.
The sun on high pierced the night;
born was the Cornerstone.

Unto us a Son is given,
unto us a Child is born.

**He Who is mighty has done a great
thing;
taken on flesh, conquered death's sting,
shattered the darkness and lifted our
shame.
Holy is His name.**

Oh, the freedom our Saviour won;
the yoke of sin has been broken.
Once a slave, now by grace
no more condemnation.

Now my soul magnifies the Lord;
I rejoice in the God Who saves,
I will trust His unfailing love,
I will sing His praises all my days.

Kate DeGraide, Rebecca Elliott ©2014 Sovereign Grace Praise, Sovereign
Grace Worship

Hymn: And Can It Be

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies:
who can explore His strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above,
so free, so infinite His grace;
emptied Himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
my chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Cont'd...

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my
own.
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my
own.

Charles Wesley©Praise Trust

Closing Prayer