



The Lord's Day | November 7, 2021
Worship Christ | Build Community | Love Cary

Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 47:1-2, 6

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples!

All: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Leader: For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

All: Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Prayer of Adoration and Lord's 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn of Adoration

And Can It Be

Hymn 455

And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior'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?

Refrain Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis myst'ry all! Th'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. *Refrain*

He left his Father's throne above (so free, so infinite his grace!),
humbled himself (so great his love!) and bled for all his chosen race!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me! *Refrain*

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

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 th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own. *Refrain*

Prayer of Confession & Assurance

Hymn of Assurance

Jesus Paid It All

Hymn 308

I hear the Savior say, "Your strength indeed is small,
child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me your all in all."

Refrain Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe;
 sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find your power, and yours alone,
can change the leper's spots, and melt the heart of stone. *Refrain*

For nothing good have I whereby thy grace to claim —
I'll wash my garments white in the blood of Calv'ry's lamb. *Refrain*

And when, before the throne, I stand in him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat. *Refrain*

Church Life Announcements

Prayer for Offering

Doxology (with Alleluias)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
alleluia, alleluia!

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Pastoral Prayer

Ralph DeVries

Scripture Reading

II Thessalonians 1:1-12

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

⁵ This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— ⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and

to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

“Hope for the Persecuted Church”

Mike Ross

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and 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, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn of Rejoicing

Gloria Patri

Hymn 735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Benediction

Postlude

All Bible quotations are ESV, unless otherwise noted. Hymn numbers are from the Trinity Hymnal 1990.
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To see our staff, deacons, and elders, please go to www.peacepca.org/leadership.

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Sermon Questions for November 7, 2021
Living in the Last Days - "Hope for the Persecuted Church "
II Thessalonians 1:1-12

1. Is world-wide persecution of Christians increasing or decreasing? Who are the major persecutors in our modern world?
2. What is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church? Why is it important for us to observe it in our local churches?
3. Who were Richard and Sabrina Wurmbrand? How did Matthew 10:34-39 and Mark 8:35 become their "life verses" under Communist persecution?
4. In 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4 Paul commends the Thessalonian church for their endurance under persecution. He tells us that we "ought" to be grateful to God for those who are persecuted. Why does Paul say that gratitude is a duty for all Christians?
5. Why did Pastor Ross say, "Gratitude is an act of grace, not legalism; grace always produces gratitude."?
6. What happens to a congregation when a pastor focuses only on "grace" and never preaches or teaches about Christian duty?
7. When we hear the word "grace," how do we interpret that word differently than those under persecution?
8. In 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10, Paul talks about the return of Christ and the Final Judgment. He indicates that this coming judgment should be a source of comfort for persecuted Christians. For what 3 reasons is the judgment of God a comfort to persecuted Christians?
9. Persecution is always two opposite things at the same time: a badge of honor and a mark of guilty shame. Explain why this is so.
10. Pastor Ross pointed out "the three 'R's' of Judgment." What were they and how are they related?
11. Paul's prayer report in 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 set before us 3 spiritual challenges. What were they and how do they relate to us who are not suffering persecution?
12. Pastor Ross mentioned that the reality of persecution produces in believers 3 spiritual results that "easy Christianity" cannot produce: worthiness, dependence upon God, and an opportunity to glorify Christ. Do you agree with these statements?
13. Finally, Paul boasts in the persecuted church with great pride. Do we hold our persecuted brethren around the world with the same sense of honor? Why or why not?