



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH  
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

- The Prelude ..... Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship ..... Chris Kimbrell
- Hymn ..... "Come Ye Thankful People, Come"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise ..... Cody Wallace
- Hymn ..... "Now Thank We All Our God"
- Hymn ..... "Count Your Blessings"
- The Reading of the Word — *Jeremiah 1:1-19* ..... Dirk de Waal
- Hymn ..... "Give Thanks"
- The Interlude ..... Instrumentalists
- The Sermon — *"The Work of an Elder" (II Timothy 4:1-5)* ..... Pastor Winn
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Hymn ..... "There Shall Be Showers of Blessing"
- The Benediction ..... Dirk de Waal
- The Postlude

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# EVENING WORSHIP



# COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

Despite brief revivals under kings such as Asa, Hezekiah, and Josiah, division and decline marked the history of God's old covenant people after David (1 Kings 15:9–15; 2 Kings 18:1–8; 22:1–23:25). Following Solomon's death, the one nation of Israel was split in two—the northern kingdom, Israel, and the southern kingdom, Judah (1 Kings 12:1–24). God sent prophets to both nations to warn them of the judgment they faced if they would not turn from their idolatry, and both nations refused to repent of their apostasy. Finally, the Lord executed the covenant curse of exile upon both nations. Assyria conquered Samaria, Israel's capital, in 722 B.C., and Babylon conquered Jerusalem, Judah's capital, in 586 B.C. (Deut. 28:58–68; 2 Kings 17:6–23; 25:1–21).

About forty years before Jerusalem fell to Babylon, God raised up the prophet Jeremiah to plead with the people for their repentance. Ministering during the waning days of Judah, Jeremiah prophesied during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah, which encompassed the years 627–586 B.C. This was a tumultuous time for the covenant community. Internationally, Assyria was weakening rapidly, and it fell to the Babylonian Empire in 612 B.C. At home, Judah's relationship with God initially seemed to be improving. Good king Josiah was spearheading a return to the pure worship of Yahweh by removing idols and celebrating a grand Passover (2 Kings 22:1–23:25). Yet this was short-lived, and the people returned to

their sins after Josiah died in 609 B.C. Judah became a political football, with Egypt and Babylon both laying claim to the country's treasure (2 Kings 23:28–24:1a). The Chaldeans (Babylon) and other peoples—Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites—attacked Judah, and Babylon invaded Jerusalem several times. The city finally fell to Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. (2 Kings 24:1b–25:21). Through tears, Jeremiah warned the Judahites repeatedly to repent during this period, but they refused, and Josiah's successors opposed the prophet bitterly (Jer. 32:1–3; 36). In Chapter 1, Jeremiah describes his call to ministry, which occurred when he was just a young man (Jer. 1:6–8). Yet the Lord determined to issue this call long before Jeremiah was born, even before he was an idea in his parents' mind. When God formed the prophet in His mother's womb, He had already purposed to send forth His word through Jeremiah (vv. 4–5). Jeremiah's ministry was ordained in eternity past.

**Coram Deo:** Jeremiah 1:1–8 has much to say to us theologically. First, that God formed Jeremiah in the womb affirms that human beings are made in the Lord's image from the earliest stages of development and worthy of protection from conception onward. Jeremiah's call also helps establish our doctrine of vocation. If the prophet's calling was established before he was born, surely it is not a stretch to assume that our sovereign Lord has established a calling for all of His people before their births.



# RESPONSIBILITIES

## Today's Nursery Volunteers

<b>November 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<i>Morning</i> Terri & Rayah Pogue & Lana Wakefield
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Elise de Waal & Wendy Winn
<i>Wednesday - November 22<sup>nd</sup></i> No Prayer Meeting

Today's Sound Operator - Cody Wallace



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Preschool and Children's Choir will not meet this afternoon.

## HARVEST MEAL

Our annual Harvest Meal will be this evening at 6 pm. Please bring your food early so that we might begin on time. You are encouraged to bring friends and family, but bring enough for those as well.

## PRAYER MEETING

There will be no prayer meeting this Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## YOUTH, COLLEGE, AND YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party for the youth, college, and young adults will be on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30. The cost is \$15/family. Please see Bethany Wallace if you are attending or have any questions.

## SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Senior Adult Christmas party will be on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Please sign the list in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions please see Mrs Lawanda.

## ADVENT SERMON SERIES

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, a series of sermons will be on the incarnation of Christ. These sermons will continue through December 24<sup>th</sup>. May God use these sermons to encourage us to worship Him more faithfully, especially during this time of year when we are confronted with much worldliness. May we “by the mercies of God present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2.

