



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH  
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

The Prelude ..... Prepare your heart for worship

The Call to Worship ..... Daniel Ranck

Hymn ..... "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

The Prayer of Confession and Praise ..... Seth Lirette

Hymn ..... "All People that on Earth Do Dwell"

Hymn ..... "Jesus is All the World to Me"

The Reading of the Word — *Numbers 12* ..... Hal Pritchard

Hymn ..... "Amazing Grace"

The Sermon — "*Pursue Unity*" (*Philippians 4:2-9*) ..... Prashant Thakkar

A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached

Hymn ..... "Trust and Obey"

The Benediction ..... Hal Pritchard

The Postlude

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# EVENING WORSHIP

The Prelude ..... Prepare your heart for worship

Hymn ..... "Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"

Hymn ..... "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Prayer

The Sermon — "*The Covenant Confirmed*" (*Exodus 24*) ..... Seth Lirette

Hymn ..... "Just as I Am"

The Benediction

The Postlude



# COMMENTARY

David Strain

Euodia and Syntyche are two leading women in the Philippian church and they are at loggerheads over some disputed issue. They are not like the Judaizers of 3:2 or those enemies of the cross of Christ of 3:18–19. They are fellow laborers with Paul, along with Clement and many others. Paul is confident that their names are in the Book of Life. They are destined for this glory he has been speaking of. They are citizens of heaven. But they are not currently living like it. They are at odds with each other. Brothers and sisters, let me say to you that holding grudges is a shocking contradiction of your profession of faith. How long have you been tending the embers of some slight or offense, real or imagined, large or small, that some brother or sister has given you? How long have you been fanning the flames of frustration and anger? Paul says it's time to let those flames die out. You need to practice unity. Extinguish the last embers of your bitterness and forgive one another and learn to be of the same mind in the Lord. But instead of division in the body, Paul offers two positive alternatives. "We are to rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, Rejoice!" And we are to "Let your gentleness be known to all men." After all, "the Lord is at hand." Jesus is on His way. He is coming soon. The joy that shows in your life because Christ is coming soon ought to mark you out and set you apart. Replace sourness and resentment with rejoicing. And instead of hard feelings, let gentleness be your badge. Live so that all people can see that you are a citizen of heaven who is ready to live forever with all God's people in unity and love. Live with the values of eternity in the here and now. Replace Anxiety with the Peace of God "The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." The Lord is at hand, and we are going to be conformed to His glorious body. Our names are in the Book of Life. If that is true, surely our lives ought not to be marked by anxiety. Oughtn't they be marked, rather, by the peace of God? But how do you get a hold of this peace of God that so befits the life of a heavenly citizen? What does Paul say? You do it "in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (4:5–6). Now note carefully what Paul says there about prayer. First, there is prayer's occasion. He says we are to pray like this in everything. That is, in every situation, in every trial, facing every temptation, in every triumph, in every joy and every sorrow, when the future is uncertain and you are tempted to worry—in everything—pray! Some of us only pray at the fringes of our lives, when things are going wrong and we are worried already. And often the Lord is gracious to answer such prayers, but for the most part if you wait to pray till you are already overtaken by anxiety you have waited too long. You read this verse and you say, "I don't understand

it. I've been praying fervently ever since this difficulty came to me but my anxiety levels keep climbing and climbing." But do you see your mistake? You have waited to pray until the crisis has struck. You should have been praying in everything. Pray in everything and the peace of God will be yours. Second, there is prayer's persistence: "in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." The different terms, piled up one on top of the other by Paul here (prayer, supplication, thanksgiving, requests) are designed to give the impression of someone who keeps at it, who piles up prayer upon prayer, who gives himself to all kinds of prayer for all kinds of occasions. And do not overlook thanksgiving. What is thanksgiving? It is what faith does when it sees the answers of the Lord to its prayers. We pray urgently when the crisis comes, and when God is gracious to bring us through, do we linger in His presence to give Him praise and to thank Him? Our lack of thanksgiving probably relates directly to our lack of faith and our growing anxiety. If we took note of answers to prayer and gave thanks we'd boost our faith and remind ourselves the Lord is the hearer and answerer of prayer. And I cannot help but believe that we'd find ourselves, as a result, more inclined to give ourselves to all kinds of prayers and supplications in everything, not just when things go wrong. And finally, notice prayer's results: The "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" comes to us as we pray, to "guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (v. 7). The word Paul uses for guard is a military term. It means to "garrison something against an enemy." The peace of God will garrison our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. We are all familiar with peacekeeping forces. The UN or NATO often send troops on peacekeeping missions to protect a previously war-torn society and guarantee the security of the region. The peace of God is ours in Christ Jesus. He is the focus and source of this peace. He garrisons our whole inner self, our hearts and minds, Paul says. He deploys His forces of grace to protect the battlefields of our hearts and minds from the assaults of anxiety, unbelief, and despair. This is the peace Jesus promised us. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). The peace, the shalom, the perfect unity and integration and serenity and wholeness that is God's is ours in Christ. It is Christ's and He gives it to us as we pray. What a marvelous encouragement to be people of prayer! Do you attend the church's weekly prayer meeting? Will you lead your family in prayer? Will you pray in everything? If you neglect prayer, no wonder anxiety lays siege to your hearts and invades your minds. You need Christ's own peace to garrison and protect you while you wait for His glorious appearing.



# RESPONSIBILITIES

## Today's Nursery Volunteers

June 18 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Morning</i> Kelly Jackson & Jessica Mullins
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Dumi Thakkar & Wendy Winn
<i>Wednesday - June 21<sup>st</sup></i> Dacia Long & Lawanda Winn

Today's Sound Operator -Jason Price



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PASTOR THOMAS' APC TRIP

Continue to pray for Pastor Thomas as he is in Malawi with the African Pastor's Conferences. Pray for him as he travels and for his health, and as he preaches and teaches nineteen times during his time there. Also pray for the other two pastors who will also be preaching with him at these conferences, Tony Karwa and Chris Minguni. He will return on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

## FAMILY CAMP

Family Camp this year is July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. Much truth has been taught during this years, as we have been going through the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith. Families are encouraged to attend. If you cannot attend as a family, make sure you send your youth. If you do not have any children going, please consider supporting those going with your prayers and even consider sponsoring a child. The cost will be \$100/camper. There will also be a few fund raising activities to help with expenses. More information is coming soon. Be sure to mark your calendars!

