



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
January 15th, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship

The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell

Hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

The Prayer of Confession and Praise Cody Wallace

Hymn "We Will Glorify"

Hymn "Christ of All My Hopes"

The Reading of the Word — *Jonah 3:1-10* Hal Pritchard

Hymn "Abide With Me"

The Sermon — *"Fasting and Prayer" (Matthew 6:16-18)* Pastor Winn

A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached

Hymn "Jesus I Come"

The Benediction Hal Pritchard

The Postlude

EVENING WORSHIP

The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship

Hymn "Praise to the Lord"

Hymn "Face to Face with Christ, My Savior"

The Pastoral Prayer Pastor Winn

The Sermon — *"Progressive Sanctification" (Philippians 2:12-18)* Prashant Thakkar

Hymn "I am Thine, O Lord"

The Benediction

The Postlude



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

Before we look at Jesus' teaching on fasting in today's passage, we need to provide a few closing comments on the Lord's Prayer, the prayer He has given to His disciples (Matt. 6:9–15). Most believers have prayed this prayer verbatim at some point, which is not inappropriate if it is said with thoughtful reflection. Yet this prayer is to be used primarily as a guide for structuring our communion with God. We are to pray like Jesus teaches us (v. 9; Luke 11:1–4). In other words, it is good to compose our prayers after the format of the Lord's Prayer, using it as a model to follow. Taking each petition and applying it more directly to our own lives, we are to pray for our own particular needs, sins, and the extension of His kingdom among our friends and families. Praying for the extension of God's kingdom is especially important (Matt. 6:10). Since our Creator already rules over all (Ps. 97:1), this is a prayer for His rule to be recognized, not established. It is a prayer that we and those around us cease to rebel against our Father and do His will just as it is done in heaven (Matt. 6:9–10) — spontaneously, not begrudgingly, and with full acknowledgment and respect of His holiness. Augustine said that to pray for the kingdom to come is to pray for it to be manifested on earth (Sermon on the Mount, 2.6.20). Today's passage records our Savior's teaching on avoiding hypocrisy when fasting, a major act of

Jewish piety in His day. During Jesus' lifetime, fasting is an opportune time for displaying one's piety; many go about disheveled and visibly hungry to show others their "spirituality." Some even dirty themselves with ashes to show how much they have "given up for God." As with prayer and almsgiving, the Messiah's solution is not to forbid fasting altogether, but to make sure that it is done in secret so that His disciples will receive a lasting reward (Matt. 6:16–18). Our fasting is to be so secretive that we show forth our cleanliness and joy, which was often done with oil in first-century Israel (Ps. 104:14–15). If we are clean and happy, who but God will know we are fasting? Contentment with piety for the Lord's sake and not as a show for others will bring us far more than the fleeting praises of men (Matt. 6:18).

Coram Deo - Fasting is extremely beneficial to our spiritual growth and our prayer lives. Going without food helps remind us how much we depend on God for our sustenance and, indeed, for all things. This helps us seek Him fervently, for we know that the only hope we have to see our loved ones saved and our lives changed is through His working. Consider taking some time to fast and pray this week so that you may know what it means to rely wholly on the Lord.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

January 15th
<i>Morning</i> Jessuca Mullins & Laurie Price
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Dumi Thakkar & Wendy Winn
<i>Wednesday - January 18th</i> Claire Shores

Today's Sound Operator - Jason Pricel



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Preschool and Children's Choir will meet this afternoon.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study will meet on January 5th and 19th at 11 a.m. Bring a sack lunch for fellowship afterwards.

PRO-LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

Join us Saturday, January 21st, on the south steps of the State Capitol building, at 3:30 pm as we celebrate prayers answered and prayers for the work still left to do.

DEEP SOUTH FOUNDERS CONFERENCE

We will once again be hosting the 16th annual Deep South Founders Conference January 26-28. Our topic this year is "The Assurance of Grace and Salvation". Our featured speakers this year are Geoff Thomas and Jeff Durbin. Make plans to attend and register at graceatcastlewoods.org or dsfc.ticketleap.com/dsfc-2023/.

