



**GRACE CITY
CHURCH**

Order of Worship

November 29, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 97:1-6

Leader: The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
Fire goes before him
and burns up his adversaries all around.
His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.

All: *The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.*

SONG OF PRAISE

My Defense

SONG OF EXPECTATION

We Are Waiting

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

Amos 5:23-24

Leader: Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON & PRAYER

SONG OF PRAISE

God with Us

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 42:1-4

MESSAGE

Longing for Justice

SONG OF EXPECTATION

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

SONG OF PRAISE

Hosanna

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLOSING BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



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Message Notes: Longing for Justice

1. The Longing of Our Culture.

2. The Problem with Our Longing.

3. The Ancient Longing.

4. The Fulfillment in Jesus.

5. The Already and the Not Yet.

6. The So What.



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Questions for Gospel Reflection & Application

1. What are some of your biggest and most persistent longings?
2. What are some examples of injustice you observe in our culture?
3. What's the worst instance of injustice you've personally suffered?
4. How did the situation in #3 make you feel? How does that compare/contrast with the way you feel about the things in #2? What do you observe?
5. When people who've been on the losing side of injustice for a long time suddenly find themselves in power, what are some things they tend to do? What does the negative/dark side of this reveal they really wanted all along [hint: it's not justice]?
6. What are some differences between equity and equality? Which does our culture tend to demand – and why do you suppose that is?
7. If God simply gave you the justice you think you want/deserve, what problems would that create for you? What do you actually want instead of bare justice?
8. How does the Gospel address the problems that arose in your answers to #7? How is the Good News of Jesus even better than “everyone gets justice”?
9. If you have received the justice + mercy of Christ, how then will you live? List 2-3 practical ways this Good (Advent) News ought to transform your everyday life.
10. What one thing will you do with this message this week?