



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH  
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

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

The Call to Worship ..... Cody Wallace

Hymn ..... "A Mighty Fortress"

The Prayer of Confession and Praise ..... Dirk de Waal

Hymn ..... "Before the Throne of God Above"

Hymn ..... "Man of Sorrows"

The Reading of the Word — *Ezekiel 2:1-10* ..... Dirk de Waal

Hymn ..... "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

The Interlude ..... Instrumentalists

The Sermon — *"Qualifications of Pastor/Elder, Pt. II" (1 Timothy 3:1-7)* ..... Pastor Winn

A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached

Hymn ..... "I Stand Amazed in the Presence"

The Benediction ..... Dirk de Waal

The Postlude

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# EVENING WORSHIP

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

Hymn ..... "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

Hymn ..... "A Wonderful Savior"

Prayer

The Sermon — *"Live and Die with Resurrection Comfort" (John 11:1-44)* ..... Dirk de Waal

Hymn ..... "Face to Face with Christ My Savior"

The Benediction

The Postlude



# COMMENTARY

Dr. Geoff Chang

*Spurgeon the Pastor: Recovering a Biblical & Theological Vision for Ministry*

- What was the leadership structure in Spurgeon's church? In particular, why did he adopt a plurality of elders, a system that was not common among English Baptists in the 19c?

When Spurgeon began pastoring in London in 1854, the church had a single pastor/elder plus deacon board model. This was workable while the church was only a few hundred, but they were soon overwhelmed by caring for all the people joining and the practical challenges that came with a growing church. Coming from the Reformed tradition, Spurgeon was familiar with a plurality of elders. More importantly, he saw clear evidence for that model in Scripture. But since it was uncommon among Baptists in his day, he didn't force the change. Instead, he slowly began to teach on it. He would look for ways to incorporate application points about elders in his sermons and weave in Scripture readings from 1 Timothy 3 or Acts 20. Eventually, the congregation became convinced of the position and voted to establish a plurality of elders.

A plurality of elders made pastoral care, teaching, discipleship, church discipline, catechism, and a hundred other pastoral activities possible in a church of over 5,000. As Spurgeon invested in these lay elders, they multiplied Spurgeon's gifts, so that the congregation could be equipped for the work of the ministry.

- What was distinctive about Spurgeon's strategy for training new pastors?

Three things made the Pastors' College particularly unique:

A singular focus of raising up pastors – Spurgeon was not interested in training people for scholarly vocations, even though some of his students did go on to teach in the academy. Rather, he wanted to train local church pastors. Though many people applied to study with him, Spurgeon was selective in the students he accepted. Only those who gave clear evidence of a call to pastoral ministry would be admitted. For those who had such a call, the college would provide all the funds needed for their tuition and living expenses so that they might be equipped for pastoral ministry.

Second, rather than having his students sent away to a college to learn, Spurgeon wanted them immersed in a working church. So, in addition to their regular coursework, students lived with an elder's or deacon's family, attended all church services, prayer meetings, and congregational meetings, and were active in discipleship and evangelism.

Third, he created a network of like-minded pastors. Once students graduated from the College, they remained in touch with Spurgeon and with one another. *The Sword & the Trowel*, Spurgeon's monthly magazine, provided a way for these pastors to encourage one another and stay up-to-date on the latest endeavors of this network. Once a year, all the graduates would return to the Metropolitan Tabernacle for the Pastors' College Conference, a time of refreshment and edification.



# RESPONSIBILITIES

## Today's Nursery Volunteers

<b>November 12<sup>th</sup></b>
<i>Morning</i> Cortney McDonald, Mary Hunter Sharp, & Wendy Winn
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Bunny Finch & Dumi Thakkar
<i>Wednesday - November 15<sup>th</sup></i> Laurie Price & Bridgette Kimbrell

Today's Sound Operator - Seth Lirette



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Preschool and Children's Choir will meet this afternoon at 5:45 pm.

## BOOK STUDIES

The Ladies' Book Study will meet this Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. Bring a sack lunch for fellowship following the study.

The Men's Book Study will meet this Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast is served at 7 am with the study to follow.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

All OCC boxes must be turned in today so they can be taken to the distribution center. Please include your check in the box or pay via their website and have the correct label on the box.

## HARVEST MEAL

Our annual Harvest Meal will be next Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm. Be sure to sign the sign up sheet. Please feel free to invite family and friends and make plans to join us!

