



Prelude

Advent I

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

A: Come, gather in the presence of God with sincerity, offering ourselves as we are in this moment. {pause for reflection} Father, we confess that You remain faithful to us even in the midst of our own unfaithfulness.

C: You are always reaching out to turn us back when we have turned away. You are constantly offering encouraging words of hope when we falter or become discouraged. You are brilliantly enlightening the dimness of our own understandings and expectations through Your wisdom. Forgive our sins and shortcomings. Do not forget or forsake us today or in the days ahead. In all humility, we come seeking the mercy, compassion and grace promised through Christ, Your gift of our salvation.

P: The child who came into the world long ago in the simplicity of the manger and who will come again in great glory, is the sign for us that God is with us, now and always, forgiving our sins, liberating us from our limitations and turning us back to living ever more faithfully. With full trust in God's power and intentions to accomplish all that God has spoken, let us come now with renewed hearts, minds and souls to offer our gifts of prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn

Joy to the World

267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: God's light breaks into the darkness;

C: And hope and peace shine out.

P: God's Word breaks into the silence;

C: And hope and peace speak out.

P: God's Son breaks into our lives;

C: And hope and peace are known.

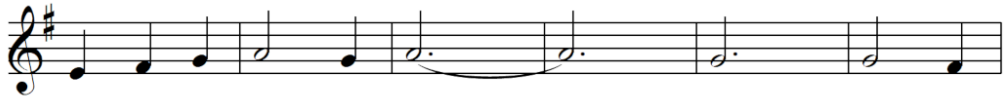
Lighting of the Advent Wreath



1. Longing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for truth,
Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the hearts



we turn to you. Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,
yearn - ing to love. Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,



light for the world to see. Christ be our
signs of your king - dom come.



light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

C: God of Grace and Love, you bring your favor and blessing upon those who least expect them. When your servant Mary received Your message of favor and blessing, she listened and trusted in the accomplishment of Your Word with patience, faithfulness, service and contemplation. As we now light the first candle of the Advent wreath, stir us to come and hear, that we may respond as Mary did while we also await the fulfilling of Your Son's promise to us. In his name we pray. Amen.

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he will execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." For thus says the Lord: David will never lack someone to sit on the throne of the house of Israel . . . If any of you could break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night would not come at their appointed time, only then could my covenant with my servant David be broken, so that he would not have a son to reign on his throne . . .

Just as the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will increase the offspring of my servant David . . .

Have you not observed how these people say, "The two families that the Lord chose have been rejected by him," and how they hold my people in such contempt that they no longer regard them as a nation? Only if I had not established my covenant with day and night and the ordinances of heaven and earth would I reject the offspring of Jacob and of my servant David and not choose any of his descendants as rulers over the offspring of Abraham,

Isaac, and Jacob. For, I will restore their fortunes, and will have mercy upon them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God**

Psalm **The Great “O Antiphons” of the Advent Season**

These Antiphons are an Advent tradition throughout the Church. Each one begins with a name for Christ and reflects one of his attributes in scripture.

P: O Sapientia:

**C: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

Antiphon Hymn

257 vs. 1 & 2

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Second Lesson

Hebrews 1

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, whom God appointed heir of all things, through whom God also created the worlds. This Son is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and this Son sustains all things by his powerful word. When the Son had made purification for sins, the Son sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become much superior to angels, for the name the Son has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when God brings the firstborn into the world, God says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels God says,

"God makes the angels winds, and God's servants flames of fire."

But of the Son, God says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Reader: The Word of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God**

Children's Sermon

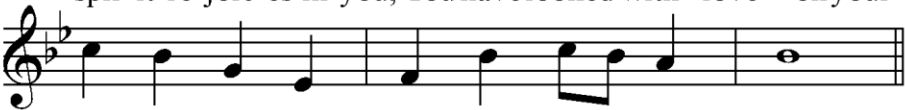
Verse



My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my



spir-it re-joic-es in you, You have looked with love on your



ser-vant here, and blessed me all my life through.



1. Great and might-y are you, O Faith-ful One,
2. All Your bless-ings de-calred through-out the land,

strong is your just - tice strong your love.
Sing of the Sav - ior now at hand!

How you fav - or the weak and low - ly one,
Come a - mong us, Your Word, so meek and mild,

hum - bling the proud of heart.
He is the Ho - ly Child!

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

The Annunciation to Mary

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings to one who is favored! The Lord is with you."

But Mary was very perplexed by the angel's words and thought about what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and will bear a son, and you will name him "Jesus." He will be great and will be called "The Son of the Most High," and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob into the eons, and of his kingdom there will be no completion."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be holy. He will be called the "Son of God." And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also

conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her - who was said to be barren! - because every word of God is not beyond God's power to accomplish."

Then Mary said, "Behold, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* **265**

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

Glo - ri - a!

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church and Passing of the Peace

Offering / Offertory & Offertory Prayer

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. We three kings of Orient are;
 bearing gifts we traverse afar,
 field and fountain, moor and
 mountain, following yonder star.</p> | <p><i>O star of wonder, star of light,
 star with royal beauty bright,
 westward leading, still proceeding,
 guide us to thy perfect light.</i></p> |
|--|---|

5. Glorious now behold him arise; sounds through the earth and
King and God and sacrifice: skies.
Alleluia, Alleluia,

A: Let us pray:

C: In the midst of this Advent season of preparing to give and receive, we now offer our gifts of gratitude to you, Lord, acknowledging of the blessings we have known in our past, the blessings we know on this day, and the blessings that we are certain to know in the age to come. May what we bring before you be welcome, pleasing and adequate in your sight and may it give glory to your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

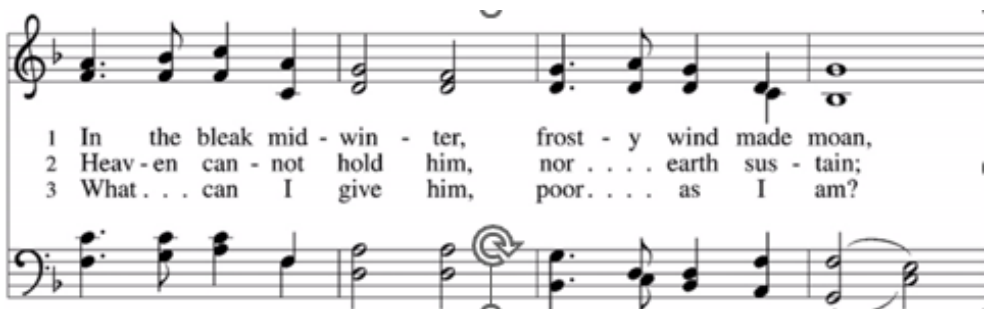
P: It is indeed . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
*Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Distribution Hymns



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Post Communion Prayer

Benediction & Recessional

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: 'Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.' The word 'wor-ship' is hyphenated across two notes. The music ends with a double bar line.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Altar flowers are dedicated by Margaret Swift, in loving memory of Bill Swift.



Sunday, December 3 *Advent I*

*Last day to register for Grace Christmas Party
Holiday fellowship after each service with
cider & donuts provided by the Fellowship
Committee*

Last Day to donate items to Sunday School Stocking Stuffing Project

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal

9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, December 4

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Tuesday, December 5

6:30 a.m. Early Birds Bible Study & Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – hybrid

7:00 p.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – online

Wednesday, December 6

9:00 a.m. Peacemakers Quilting Group Meeting – in person only

7:00 p.m. Last Choir rehearsal of 2023!

Friday, December 8

6:00 p.m. Grace Christmas Dinner in the fellowship hall

Sunday, December 10

Advent II Lessons & Carols

Commitment Sunday

Holiday Fellowship after each service – bring a traditional Christmas dish to share!

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School Stocking Assembly/Pageant Rehearsal & Confirmation Class
10:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship



Dec 3 - *Cider and Donuts*

No need to bring anything but an appetite for donuts and cider courtesy of the Fellowship Committee.



Drop-Off at Grace
Through Dec 3rd

Caring and Sharing

Help Grace Sunday School Fill Stockings
for Children accessing the Community
Food Pantry in Mohegan
Lake this Christmas!

[Item List & \\$\\$\\$ Donation Info](#)



Today is the last day to donate to the Sunday School Stocking Project!

Christmas Party!

Today is the last day to RSVP for Grace's Christmas Party!
Sign up on the list in the narthex today!

December 17

Worship 8:30 a.m.



Pageant Service
10:00 a.m.



If you just can't get enough of those wonderful Christmas Carols, come out with Grace to travel about with a raucous band of players and singers to bring cheer and a merrier Christmas to some of the home-bound members of Grace. No experience necessary—just a good sense of direction, stamina against the cold and the willingness to share the joy! No need to study the words, song sheets will be available.

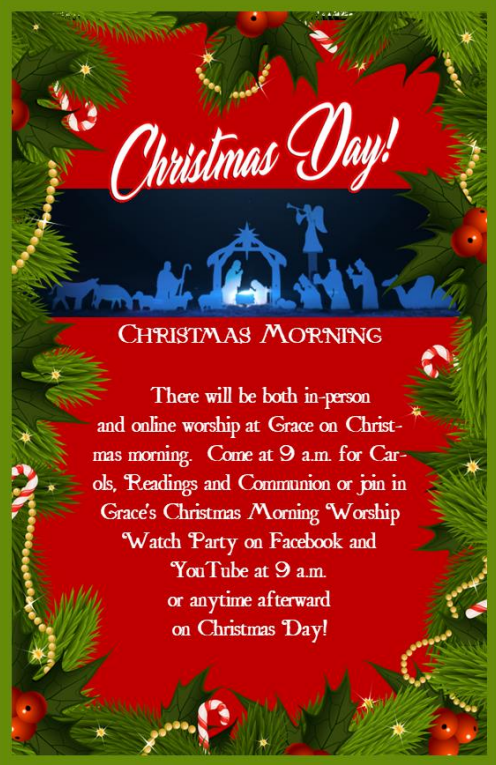
Sunday December 17th

3:00 p.m.

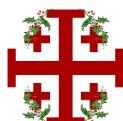
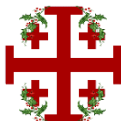


Christmas Eve

2:30 p.m. Casual
7:30 p.m. Traditional



A Thrill OF Hope Invite Someone to Grace This Season!



JUNIOR
YOUTH



LOVE



GROW



SERVE

Info Meeting
12/17 @ 11:30

After the pageant

SERVICE TRIP



Also meeting on Monday 12/18 @ 4:30 p.m.
Questions? Please ask Pastor Chris

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*

Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*

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