

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,  
**All and grant us your salvation.**  
Leader Listen to what the Lord our God says:  
**All He promises peace to his people, who are his beloved saints.**  
Leader The Lord will indeed give what is good.  
**All Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.**  
Leader May the Lord make his holy face  
to shine upon us in this time of Advent worship.  
**All May we have eyes to see the salvation God has prepared for all people.** —from Ps. 85; Lk. 2:31-32

SONG OF RESPONSE & PRAISE

THE FIRST NOEL / TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL; ARR. THE REINDEER TRIBE

1. The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay  
tending their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night  
that was so deep.  
CHORUS  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.  
2. They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued  
both day and night.

3. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made heaven  
and earth of naught,  
and with His blood mankind  
hath bought.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; the one who follows me  
will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”  
We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ and  
remember the promises of God, who said: “It is too light a thing  
that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to  
bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the  
nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” —Is. 49:6  
**All Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH / TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL; ARR. C. TOMLIN

1. Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing over the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
CHORUS  
Gloria in Excelsis Deo  
Gloria in Excelsis Deo  
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song  
3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ our Lord, the new born King

4. See Him in a manger laid  
Whom the choirs of angels praise  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid  
While our hearts in love we raise!

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL / J. NEALE

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
REFRAIN  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.  
2. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;  
from depths of hell Thy people save,  
and give them victory over the grave.

3. O come, Thou Dayspring,  
from on high and cheer us  
by Thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death’s dark shadows put to flight.  
4. O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader Arise, shine: for your light has come.  
**All O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**  
Leader And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
**All We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.**  
Leader For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.  
**All We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**  
Leader And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
**All Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It’s time that we prepare for your coming. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

Silence for private confession.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

YOUR LOVE REMAINS / THE BRILLIANCE

1. Through the darkness  
Through the fire  
Through my wicked heart’s desire  
Your love remains, Your love remains  
Though I stumble, though I falter  
Through my weakness You are strong  
Your love remains, Your love remains  
CHORUS  
Oh my, my soul, it cries  
Oh my, my soul, it cries out  
Soul, it cries out  
Soul, it cries, it cries out  
2. Through my failure  
Through my heartache  
Through my healing  
In my pain Your love remains,  
Your love remains  
Though I stumble, though I falter  
Through my weakness You are strong  
Your love remains, Your love remains

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He comes to dispel the  
darkness of sin and death. The good news of this Advent season is  
forgiveness of sin and new life. Believe and be at peace!  
**Together Thanks be to the Advent God! We lift our eyes to him and receive his salvation and peace!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**Together And also with you!**  
\* Children and Middle School students are invited to participate in their in-person  
programs during the announcements and sermon. Please see the back page for more  
information about these programs.  
\*\* Please note, on 12/19, children and youth are invited to participate in the entire service.  
In addition to the wiggle room for little ones, the Cliff Benedict room will be available for  
toddlers ages 2+. The service will be streamed in each room.

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND OUR OFFERING

During the offertory, we consider all that we have and all that God may be asking us  
to give. Please take this time to ask God how you might give of your financial gifts,  
personal time and even vocational calling. There are different ways to give. You may  
mail your offering to our office address: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA  
91101; or make an online payment via our website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.  
PLEASE NOTE: Any tax-deductible gifts for 2021 must be postmarked by 12/31/21.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:25-35 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man  
was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy  
Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that  
he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in  
the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do  
for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and  
blessed God and said,  
<sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation  
<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”  
<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.  
<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is  
appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed  
<sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from  
many hearts may be revealed.”

Leader This is the word of the Lord  
**Together Thanks be to God!**

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Brannin Pitre

Advent Series: The Theology We Sing  
Sermon Title: “Simeon’s Song”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Lord God, we long for the coming of your kingdom in Jesus Christ,  
our Lord. We lament before you the signs that your kingdom has  
not come in fullness. We lament signs of brokenness in the com-  
munity of nations. We lament signs of brokenness in your Church.  
**All “O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all man- kind. Bid all our sad divisions cease, and be yourself our King of peace.”**  
Leader We lament the broken relationships that bring such pain to many  
we know. We lament the loneliness and isolation experienced by  
so many. We lament that many of our friends and coworkers have  
chosen to ignore or disown the gospel of Christ.  
**All “O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.”**  
Leader We lament racism that plagues our community. We lament the  
physical and emotional abuse of children and spouses in our  
homes. We lament gun violence and addictions that break lives.  
**All “O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar! Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.”**  
Leader Though we lament, we remember the good news that Jesus Christ  
has come and is coming again, and so with resolute hope, we sing  
with all heaven and earth:  
**All “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.” Amen.**

COMMUNION

**GUIDELINES:** The sacrament of Communion is also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist. It is the family meal for those who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. The invitation is from Jesus Christ alone, not from this church or any minister. If you are baptized and can call yourself a Christian, come to the table.

**DIRECTIONS:** When instructed, please come forward to receive Communion. Receive the bread and juice from the servers. Participate as you feel comfortable.

**CHILDREN:** Children who are baptized, can profess faith in Jesus Christ in an age appropriate manner, and have talked to a pastor or an elder may participate in communion.

COMMUNION & CLOSING SONGS

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS / C. WESLEY; ARR. B. COLEMAN

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in Thee.

*Israel’s strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.*
2. Born Thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

*By Thine own eternal spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by Thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN / AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL; ARR. B. COLEMAN

- REFRAIN**  
*Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills, and ev’rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*
1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior’s birth.

3. Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader

All

Stay alert, our King and Redeemer draws near! As we keep watch,  
may the love of God enfold us, the grace of God uphold us, and the  
power of God set us free to love and serve all God’s people.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!**

ABOUT ADVENT

Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation; it’s the season the church anticipates the coming of Christ. We look forward to and prepare for the celebration of his birth in the little town of Bethlehem many years ago. We also look forward to and prepare for his future and final coming to judge the world and mend all things. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting. The color of the season is purple, which is associated with repentance and preparation.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT GRACE

Date	Series	Notes
12/19	The Theology We Sing	Family Service @ 10am
12/24	Christmas Eve	Service at 4:00pm
12/26	Home Church in Small Groups	Liturgies available 12/19

Worship resumes as usual on January 2, 2022.

LOCAL & GLOBAL PARTNERS OF THE MONTH

Please pray for our following partners and consider ways you could get involved. Contact the deacons or other leaders of the church to learn more at [info@gracepasadena.org](mailto:info@gracepasadena.org).

- Door of Hope, a local organization helping families break the cycles of homelessness.
- Fabien and Regina Girard, church planters in France.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

It is our great joy that you and your family are with us today! We want you to know that all children, no matter their age, are welcome in our worship service. We also offer the following:

- Throughout the service, we offer a wiggle room for little ones and parents or guardians. The wiggle room is located behind the children’s check-in table in the Community room. The entire service is streamed for parents and guardians.
- During the announcements and sermon, we offer two classes for children. The first, located in the Cliff Benedict room, is for toddlers ages 2-3. The second, located on the back patio, is for children age 4 to 5th grade. When dismissed, please meet leaders in the hallway on the east side. Pick-up will be in the same location. Don’t forget to check in your children at the children’s welcome table.
- Students in middle school are invited to participate in a youth Bible study during announcements and the sermon. Meet Ben in the hallway at the start of announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please visit our website for the latest announcements. Scan the QR code to go to our site!



GRACE PASADENA’S VISION STATEMENT

Grace Pasadena exists to **Experience** & **Extend** the life-giving grace of God

- As** we grow in the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- In** every sphere of life
- For** our neighborhoods, city and the world

GRACE PASADENA’S CORE VALUES

- God-Centered Worship** – We seek to be transformed in worship as we experience the wonder of God and respond appropriately
- Gospel-Driven Identity** – We seek a personal experience of the gospel that both humbles us, and assures us that we are more deeply valued and loved by God than we can possibly imagine
- Outward-Facing Community** – We seek the betterment of our city as we extend God’s grace by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- Kingdom-Minded Movement** – We seek to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by creating community and global partnerships that can reach and serve those in need

GIVING & BUDGET

	JAN-DEC ‘20	JAN-NOV ‘21	DEC ‘21¹
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	502,102	416,367	15,072
BUDGETED GIVING _____	468,00	396,000	72,000
DIFFERENCE _____	+34,102	+20,367	-56,928

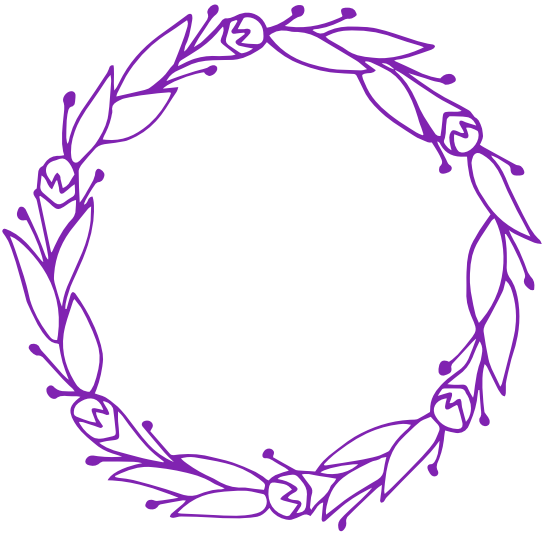
¹as of 12/11/21; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



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The church prepares our devotion before Christmas Day with four Sundays in Advent, which bring Christ nearer and nearer to us and remind us that he is coming to enable us by a further examination of ourselves to depart in peace, because our eyes have seen his salvation.

JOHN DONNE | “Showing Forth Christ”

So before we sing “Joy to the World,” before we pop open the bubbly, before we ring bells and open gifts on Christmas morning, we recall the actual and ordinary ways we need God’s blessings to “flow far as the curse is found.” We recall how we await the coming of Christ in the specific pain, disappointments, losses, relationships, work, needs and joys of this very moment in our lives.

TISH HARRISON WARREN | *NEW YORK TIMES*, 12/5/21

THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 12, 2021