

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Beloved of God: wake up!
It is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

Together **For God’s salvation is nearer than we believe; the night is far gone, the day is near.**

Leader Let us then lay aside the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light.

Together **We have walked in darkness, but we have seen a great light. For unto us a child is born, to us the Son of God is given.**

Leader Come, let us worship and sing the wonders of our God:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. — Mt. 24:42; Ro. 13:11-12; Is. 9:6

SONG OF RESPONSE & PRAISE

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL / J. WADE

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold Him,
born the King of angels;

2. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

REFRAIN:
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

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.”
In Christ, these words are fulfilled: “Then your light shall break
forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your
vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your
rear guard.” —Is. 58:8

All **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

JOY TO THE WORLD / I. WATTS

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven
and nature sing!

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING / F. FRANZEN

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

2. Christ, by highest Heav’n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time, behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th’incarnate Deity;
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

REFRAIN:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

3. Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace;
hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die;
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

REFRAIN:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together: When we allow darkness to overcome the light, Lord, have mercy.
When we have no patience to prepare for your coming, Christ, have mercy.
When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, Lord, have mercy.
When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing,
hearing and embracing one another:
let your grace consume us, O God.
When the wars around us are of no concern,
forgive us, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.
When our caring is not extended to action,
have mercy, and move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.
We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.
Forgive us, cast out our sin and enter in,
be born anew in us today. Amen. **Amen.**

Silence for private confession.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH / FRENCH CAROL

1. Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn 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.

REFRAIN
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?

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Beloved, God has caused light to shine in our hearts, the light that
is knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Jesus
Christ is the light of the world. Turn to him and be at peace.
—based on 2 Cor. 4:6; Jn 1:2

Together **Thanks be to God!**

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS + BAPTISM

Membership and Baptism Vows

- Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly
deserving His displeasure, and without hope except in His sovereign mercy?
- Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of
sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is
offered in the Gospel?
- Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the
Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
- Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of
your ability?
- Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church,
and promise to study its purity and peace?

New Members: Gen & David Alexander, Ashley & Anders Corey, Kristen & Josh
Gary, Caroline & Blake Huxell, Mary Frances Dunlap, Kyle Kortenhoeven

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

Together **And also with you!**

*** Please note, there are no Sunday School classes today. However, there is a wiggle room
for little ones under 2. The Cliff Benedict room is also 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: All tax-deductible gifts for 2021 must be postmarked by 12/31/21.*

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Go Tell It On the Mountain

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-7 (ESV)

- ¹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he
brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the
latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the nations.
- ² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- ⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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: “His Name is Wonderful With-ness”

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

LIGHT OF THE STABLE / C. WESLEY; ARR. B. COLEMAN

1. Hail, hail to the newborn King
Let our voices sing Him our praises
Hail, hail to the Guiding Light
That brought us tonight to our Savior

2. Come now, there it shines so bright
To the knowing light of the stable
lean close to the Child so dear
Cast aside your fear and be thankful

REFRAIN:
Halle, Hallelujah; Halle, Hallelujah
Halle, Hallelujah; Halle, Hallelujah

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN / AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL; ARR. REINDEER TRIBE

- REFRAIN
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and everywhere;
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

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.
- All

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
12/24	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.

- 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	27,025
BUDGETED GIVING	468,00	396,000	72,000
DIFFERENCE	+34,102	+20,367	-44,975

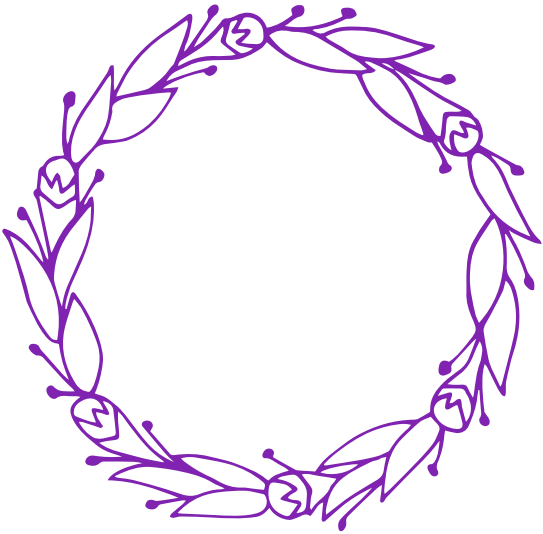
¹as of 12/17/21; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



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“Often I have heard people say, ‘How good God is! We prayed that it would not rain for our church picnic, and look at the lovely weather!’ Yes, God is good when He sends good weather. But God was also good when He allowed my sister, Betsie, to starve to death before my eyes in a German concentration camp. I remember one occasion when I was very discouraged there. Everything around us was dark, and there was darkness in my heart. I remember telling Betsie that I thought God had forgotten us. ‘No, Corrie,’ said Betsie, ‘He has not forgotten us. Remember His Word: “For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him.” There is an ocean of God’s love available—there is plenty for everyone. May God grant you never to doubt that victorious love—whatever the circumstances.’”

CORRIE TEN BOOM

“For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning - not home but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last.”

FREDERICK BUECHNER | THE MAGNIFICENT DEFEAT

THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2021