



PREPARE FOR THE MESSIAH

Sunday, December 3, 10am service
Isaiah 60: Darkness shall cover the earth

Sunday, December 10, 10am service
Isaiah 40: The voice crieth

Thursday, December 14, 6:30pm
Messiah: Community Sing
UWEC, Gantner Concert Hall

Sunday, December 17, 10am service
A Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24, 10am service
Isaiah 9: Unto us a child is born



Handel's Messiah and the Spirit of Christ's Advent



GATHERING

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Prelude on Veni Emmanuel

Wilbur Held
Charles Callahan

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1, 2, & 6)

#257

Gathering Litany

Blessed be God, the eternal † One—in—Three,
who was, and is, and is to come

Blessed be God forever and ever.

During a season of busyness and in a culture that demands
immediate response,

we pause and wait for your appearing.

In the midst of anxiety, chaos, and fear,

we pause and trust that your hand is leading us.

Uncertain about the future and weighed down with worries in the present,

we pause and know your presence fully.

Come, O Christ, and set us free.

**Come, Emmanuel, bring in your
reign of justice and peace.**

We wait for a new heaven and a new earth,

where righteousness is at home.

Hymn of Praise

People, Look East (Verses 1 & 3)

#248

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Children's Message (Lighting of the Advent Candle)

Hymn

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (Verse 1)

#240

The First Reading: Isaiah 60:1–7

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from faraway,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.
All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you,
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;
they shall be acceptable on my altar,
and I will glorify my glorious house.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem *Advent Echo Carol*

Mary Kay Beall

Prophets told it long ago, prepare the way, O Zion.
Like a rose, he'll bloom and grow, prepare the way, O Zion.
He comes! The pow'rs of earth confounding, the joy of peace resounding.
Truth and justice in His hand, prepare the way, O Zion.
Son of God and Son of man, prepare the way, O Zion.
He Comes! The pow'rs of earth confounding, the joy of peace resounding.
The lame will dance, the blind will see. Ransomed souls will be set free.
Prepare, prepare the way.

Hills and valleys shout and sing, prepare the way, O Zion.
Tribute of our hearts we bring, prepare the way, O Zion.
He comes! The pow'rs of earth confounding, the joy of peace resounding.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel for today comes from Mark, Chapter 13* Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus continued, "However, in those days after that oppression,
'the sun will be darkened, and the moon won't give its light,
and the stars will be falling from the heavens,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.'

And then people will behold The Human One coming on the clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather the chosen ones from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Now from the fig tree learn the riddle, when its shoots are tender and it puts forth leaves, you know that summer's near. So also you, when you see these things taking place, you know that it's near, at the doors.

I tell you, this is the way it is, this generation definitely won't pass away before all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words definitely won't pass away.

But about that day or the hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, only the Father. Look out! Stay awake! 'Cause you don't know when the opportune time will be. It's like a man off on a trip, on leaving his house and giving authority to his slaves, to each their work, he also ordered the doorkeeper to keep watch. So, stay awake, 'cause you don't know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening or at midnight or at the rooster crow or early in the morning. Otherwise, he might come unexpectedly and find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to everyone. Stay awake!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

* Pastor Phil's translation

Sermon

Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

#244

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

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

...Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Come Down, O Love Divine

Charles Callahan

Offering Prayer

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

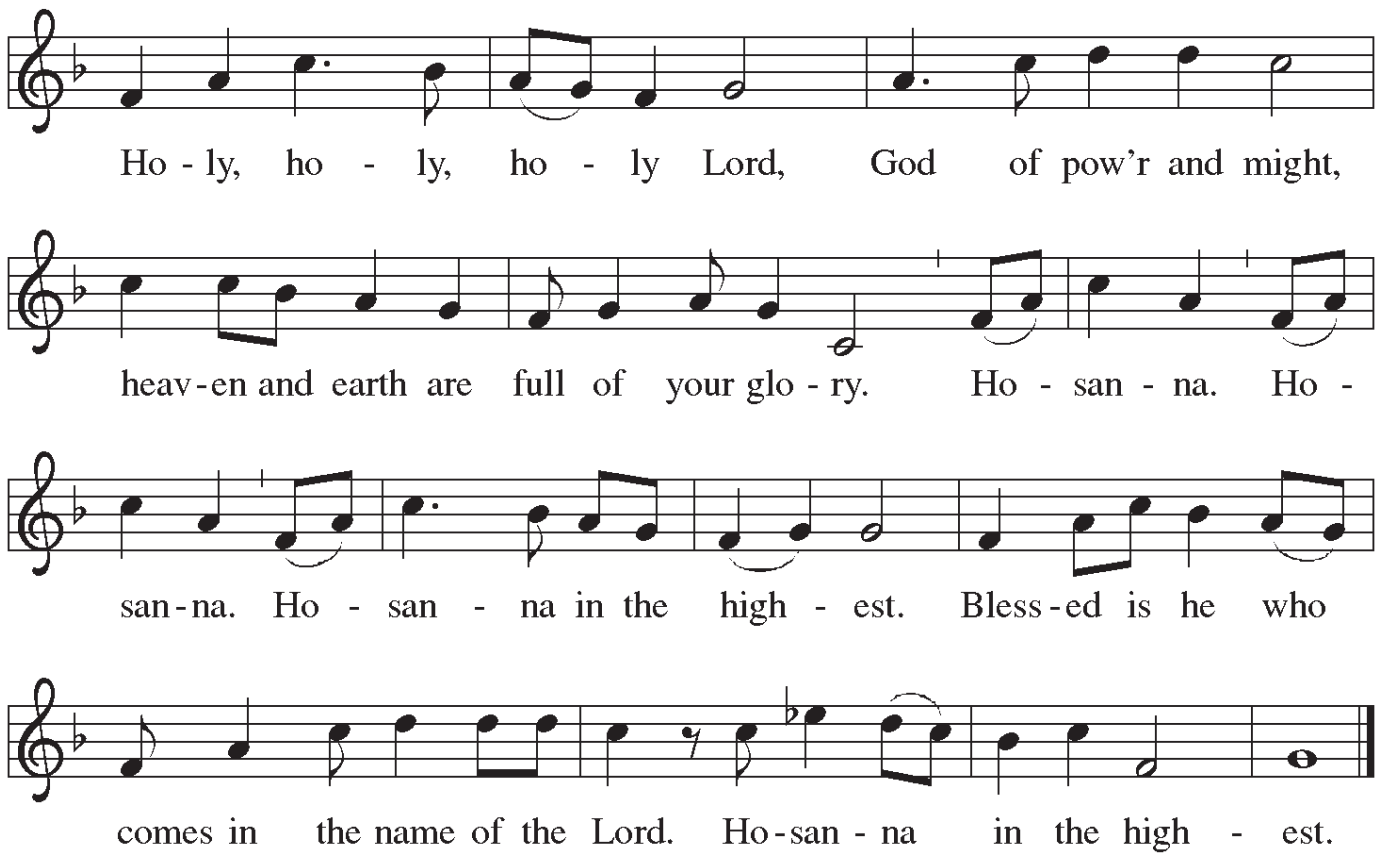
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Communion

Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

Prayer After Communion

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit † remain upon you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn *The King Shall Come*

#260

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

VI Poco Vivace

Hermann Schroeder

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones **Organist:** Wilma Hovland
Assisting Minister: Bev Page **Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi
Reader: Lynne Ziehr



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

2023-12-3

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (3rd)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

WEDNESDAY

Crafters – 10am
Text Study – 12pm
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

SATURDAY

Decorating the Sanctuary for
Christmas – 9am

TUESDAY

Prayer Group – 11am
Strong Bodies – 1pm

THURSDAY

Strong Bodies – 1pm
Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

SUNDAY (10th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT, ADRC

Habitat for Humanity Update

Habitat for Humanity continues to move forward on the project for veteran apartments even if we are still waiting for an official government ok. Floor plans like the one included here for each apartment are now located in the old education hallway. They have assured me that this project will go forward even if it should require fundraising. They have told us that we can consider our work emptying the wing done and that they will deal with what we leave there.



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Reconciling Works

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is starting the Reconciling in Christ process. We need volunteers for the team that will guide the synod through the process to publicly guide, practice, and teach particularly for LGBTQIA+, racial identity, and neurodiversity. If you think this is important enough to spend some time on Zoom each month, and maybe one in-person meeting or two, please send your expression of interest to synodadvocate@nswi.org. We only need eight more people, and if you represent one of these identified groups, we need you! Thank you!

Address Update

Amy Benson would like members of the church to know she now lives in:

Azura Memory Care Attn: Amy Benson
Room #39
4803 Bullis Farm Road
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Please update your address books accordingly. Thank you.

Joyce Simpson Memorial Service

The memorial service for Pastor Dean's mother, Joyce Simpson, will be at 11am on Monday, December 4th, at Lake Street United Methodist Church.

Visual Ministry Christmas Decorations

The Visual Arts ministry will be preparing the sanctuary for Christmas beginning at 10am on Saturday, December 9th. This is a delightful party of active preparation which would be even more wonderful with your presence so please join us. Come and help us make our space beautiful for Christ's arrival.

Sunday School

Classes will be held during the worship service following the children's message on the following dates:

- December 3
- December 17

Family Choir Schedule

The Family Choir will meet to rehearse after the worship service on the following dates:

- December 3
- December 17

The first rehearsal is this Sunday. See you there.

Blessing Box

A special thank you to our church members for supporting the Blessing Box, located at the front entrance of Grace Church. The Blessing Box provides non perishable food as well as hygiene items to our neighbors in need. As the weather becomes colder, we will not be collecting canned goods or liquid items since they may freeze and explode.



Some suggested items:

- cereal
- crackers
- soap
- hats
- packaged soup
- packaged noodles
- toothpaste
- hand warmers
- tuna pouches
- packaged potatoes
- scarves
- socks
- granola bars
- peanut butter
- gloves

You are always welcome to put your items directly in the Blessing Box at any time.
Thank you for your continued support!

Mission Outreach Ministry



Grace Lutheran Communities is happy to provide employees of our owned and managed programs the opportunity to participate in our Joys of Christmas program. The goal of the project is to help Foundation employees who need extra financial support during the holidays by providing Christmas gifts for their children ages 0-18 years old.

You have 2 ways to support a Grace Communities family:

1. Support the program financially by placing a check made out to *Grace Lutheran Foundation* in the offering plate or send your donation to the Corporate Office **by Sunday, December 10th**. Any amount is appreciated and welcomed! Foundation staff/elves will do the shopping!
2. If you wish to shop for a child or family, please fill out the form below and drop in the offering plate or go online to complete a survey by **Friday, November 17th** and you will be matched with a family in need. Sponsor's should anticipate spending approximately \$50/ child sponsored. Shop for a child and drop off the gift at the corporate office by **Wednesday, December 13th** to allow for time for gift distribution.

NAME:	
TELEPHONE:	
EMAIL:	
HOW MANY CHILDREN WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR:	

Sponsor

For more information contact Stephany Faherty:
stephanie.faherty@graceluthfound.com
Grace Lutheran Foundation Corporate Office
3410 Sky Park Blvd
Eau Claire, WI 54702

UW-Eau Claire Choirs &
Chippewa Valley Voices present

Handel's
SINGALONG
Messiah

Bring a score
and sing
along!
...
Listeners
welcome

Christopher G. McGinley, conductor
UWEC Symphonic Choir | Faculty Soloists | and YOU!

Thursday, December 14 @ 6:00 pm gather | 6:30 pm start
Gantner Hall - Haas Fine Arts Center
\$15.00 General Admission

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org> go to "Our Ministry."

Bulletins can also be found at <https://grace-church.org/> under the "Our Ministry."

Recordings of worship services are also broadcast on:

- Televised on Sundays 10:30am WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)
- Radio Service Sunday 8:30am WAYY 790 AM

If you missed one of our services, they are posted at "Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin" YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck3CdLQ1sDO6esaa3zUMKCQ>

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713