

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



*December 8, 2024,
10:00am*

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

GATHERING

Prelude

Messianic Longings

Angela Craft Cross

Welcome

Opening Hymn All Earth Is Hopeful

#266

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,

let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

Hymn

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The First Reading is from Malachi, chapter 3

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading is from Philippians, chapter 1

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem *The Advent Candle*

arr. Bob Chilcott

Tonight we are lighting a candle, A candle to burn until you come to bring light to darkness and warm us with goodwill.

Tonight in the sky there's a star we've never seen before, a star to lighten our darkness and bring us to your door.

Tonight there's a window inside us, a window you'll open wide. We are lighting a candle to guide us. Soon we'll be by your side.

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.

The Gospel for today comes from Luke, chapter 3 Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for

you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn of the Day *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

#249

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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

... Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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, grant us peace.

Prayer After Communion

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn Prepare the Royal Highway

#264

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Prepare the Royal Highway

Otto Olsson

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones **Organist:** Elaine Mann
Assisting Minister: Paul Lokken **Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi
Reader: Jan Adams



2024-12-8

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Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (8th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

MONDAY

Elizabeth Circle – 10am

TUESDAY

Prayer Group – 11am
ADRC – Strong Bodies – 1pm

WEDNESDAY

Text Study – 12pm
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

THURSDAY

ADRC – Strong Bodies – 1pm
Pacibells – 6pm

SATURDAY

Church Christmas Decoration – 9:30am

SUNDAY (15th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

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

Church Christmas Decoration

Visual Ministries will be decoration the church sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, December 14th. Everyone is invited to come and help in any way you can. For those interested in lending a hand, the decorating is scheduled to begin at 9am.

Lessons & Carols

The worship service on Dec 22 will be a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Christmas services in this format have been a tradition around the world since the late 1800s. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings. The adult choir, family choir, and Pacibells will present special music. Christmas carols will be sung by all.

The UW-Eau Claire Choirs
present

Handel's
SINGALONG
Messiah

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

Christopher G. McGinley, conductor
UWEC Symphonic Choir & Chorale Nouveau, core choirs
Guest Soloists and YOU!

FOR UNTO US A
CHILD IS BORN

Isaiah 9:6

**Service of
Nine Lessons and Carols**

December 22, 10am

The story of Christmas in
Scripture and music

Reception to follow

**Christmas Eve
Service**

December 24, 4:30pm

With choirs
and candlelight

Grace Lutheran Church

202 W. Grand Ave

Eau Claire

grace-church.org

Children's Communion Class

Whether your child already receives communion or is waiting to learn more, Pastor Phil will include teachings about the Lord's Supper in each children sermon left this year and this Sunday, Dec. 8 at 9:30am we will gather in the room where communion preparation occurs. Then after worship we will have a short class to go over the basics of what Holy Communion does.

Sunday School

Sunday School continues this fall and into the winter. Check out the following schedule for the rest of the year and the first half of 2025.

- December 15
- January 5
- January 19
- February 2
- February 16
- March 2
- March 16
- April 6
- May 4

Sunday school takes place right after the Children's Time during the service. See you there!



Lessons & Carols: Be Still, My Soul

December 14, 2024 |

1:00pm

Saint Charles

Borromeo Church

Chippewa Falls, WI

Sponsors: The Friends
of The Master Singers &
The Lamoureux



Lessons & Carols: Be Still, My Soul

**December 13, 2024 |
7:30pm**

*First Congregational
United Church
Eau Claire, WI*

Sponsor: Chippewa
Valley Eye Clinic

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/our-ministry> *Bulletins may also be found on the same page.*

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page — <https://bit.ly/49WLWPj>



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