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*Choir Carol Service  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Jackson Center, Ohio  
December 10, 2023  
8:00 am*

Welcome to  
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*Second Sunday of Advent*  
December 10, 2023 ~ 8:00 A.M.

**Welcome to Our Guests**

God sends us out as messengers with his good news. Who has brought that news to me? Who needs me to carry that news to them? We believe God has a purpose for you being here today and our desire is to be an instrument in helping you discover and fulfill that purpose. You are invited to come and worship with us again. If you are a visitor, we ask that you sign the guest register in either vestibule and fill out a card found in your pew. Please let us know if the pastor or we may be of service to you in any way.

**The Common Thread in Today's Readings**

The call goes out to comfort God's people. This is to be accomplished by preparing the way of the Lord so that God's glory may be revealed. The preparation comes through the Word of the Lord that stands forever. That word proclaims forgiveness of sin, the only way for there to be peace for his people. The promise is given: salvation is near to those who fear him. God is fulfilling his promises, slowly by our accounting, yet surely nonetheless. As we wait, we must be diligent to be found blameless and spotless through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**As We Gather**

*\* Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

Welcome & Announcements

Rick Russell

The Prelude

Nancy McName & Cheryl Burch

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Rick Russell

L: Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ.

Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace.

*(Light two adjacent Blue Candles).*

L: God envisions a peace for the world. We dream of God's peace, we long for it. Peace among nations, peace within our own borders, peace in our hearts, peace in our homes. When there is no peace to be found, we look back to the manger, to the infant Christ, who is the Prince of Peace longed for through the ages. We remember the peace glimpsed on that Holy Night so long ago, peace that surpasses all understanding, and we long for the risen Christ's return. We light this candle in Peace.

**C: On this day, we pray in hope of peace as we cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

## Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Opening Hymn

**“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Green Bk. No. 45

Confession and Forgiveness

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit, that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**C: Amen**

*(Silence for personal confession)*

L: Let us pray.

**C: Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion, forgive our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

L: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep, us in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

\*Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

**ALL: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

Anthem

**“Noel Festival”**

Choir

Reading

“Sing for Me”

Cheryl Burch

Hymn

**“Angels We Have Heard on High” (verses 1 & 3)**

No. 71

Reading

“Prepare for His Coming”

Kay Byrd

Hymn

**“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (verse 1)**

No. 54

Reading	“The Light of Life”	Nancy McName
Anthem	<b>“Little Bitty Baby”</b>	Choir
Reading	“Immanuel Has Come”	Shirley Schindel
Hymn	<b>“What Child Is This?” (verses 1 &amp; 3)</b>	No. 40
Reading	“The Man and the Birds – Part 1”	Susan Ware
Hymn	<b>“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verse 1)</b>	No. 41
Reading	“The Man and the Birds – Part 2”	Patty Mann
Anthem	<b>“Glory Hallelujah to the Newborn King”</b>	Choir
Reading	“The Man and the Birds - Conclusion”	Tom Schindel
Hymn	<b>“Away in a Manger” (verses 1 &amp; 2)</b>	No. 67
Reading	Luke: Chapter 2, Verses 1 - 7	Cortney Copeland
Hymn	<b>“Silent Night” (verses 1, 2, &amp; 3)</b>	No. 65
Reading	Luke: Chapter 2, Verses 8-16	Seth Regula
Hymn	<b>“The First Noel” (verses 1 &amp; 2)</b>	No. 56
Reading	“Hope Brings Joy and Peace, with Love”	Linda Jenkins
Anthem	<b>“Glory Be to God”</b>	Choir

## Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the saving Word and all God’s gifts.

Gathering of the Gifts

\*The Offering Hymn      **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ”**      LBW # 60

Response of Thanksgiving (sung to the tune of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”)

Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise, what he has done proclaim,  
 Let all who seek the Lord rejoice, and proudly bear His name.  
 Who leads His thankful people forth, His promises to claim  
 Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
 Oh tidings of comfort and joy.

\*Prayers of the Church

\*The Lord’s Prayer

## Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

\*Benediction

\*Closing Hymn

*“Joy to the World”*

No. 39

Postlude

Silent Prayer and Meditation

## ***Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve***

There is a **box for offering** located on a table at the back of the church, for you to drop off offerings. Ways of giving on our website there is a link if you click on the online giving tab, is set up with Vanco electronic giving. Another way to give is by your banks bill pay or by check or cash. All offerings are greatly appreciated to help facilitate the Lord's work here.

**Jingle Offering** – Today there will be a “special” offering for our area “Fish Pond Food Pantry”. Any loose change that you have, please place in the labeled jar at the back of the church. Remember that this loose change offering will be used to continue to provide assistance for area families who are in need.

**Today following worship** there will be a breakfast during fellowship time. There will be a breakfast each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month to support the Tanzania trip in May 2024.

**Volunteers needed** at the Sidney F.I.S.H. store. If you are interested in volunteering, stop and fill out an application at the store.

**The Backpack program** is asking for donations for the program. They are asking for fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups and peanut butter cups, small individual boxes of cereal, & small individual microwave meal cups. There is a labeled box in the south vestibule for your donations.

**Thrivent Choice dollars** need to be designated for next year, Thrivent members can designate by going online.

**Altar Flowers** If you would like to provide altar flowers for a special occasion, you can do so by ordering them from your chosen florist. Please have them delivered to Grace Lutheran and placed on the altar. Also notify Nikki, in the church office, regarding the bulletin announcement of the occasion.

**Merry Christmas!** The Children's Christmas Sunday School Program will be on December 17<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am service. They have been practicing lines and music during Sunday School in preparation for this worship service. Please come see the result of all their hard work!

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** at both 8:00 am & 10:30 am worship services will be the installation of the newly elected officers.

**NALC 2023 Convocation** business and election **summary book** is in the north deacon cabinet for you to view. As we look at the **work and mission of God** for our congregation of **Grace** and our community of Jackson Center, there are very good reflection questions for our future on pages 58-67. We encourage you to consider these questions at your next Bible study, committee meeting, or personal devotion time.

Grace will be once again doing the **Christmas Angel Tree**. This is an opportunity to share Christmas gifts with those who have needs in our community. The Angel tree is set up at the back of the church with tags for the various needs and wants. We have 2 families of 2 children and 2 senior citizens. Please stop in and take a tag, if you are able. **Deadline for returning gifts to Grace is Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please wrap gift and tape tag on the outside of the gift.**

At the **back of the church** there is a **pastoral letter packet** from Bishop Selbo in regards to the conflict between Israel & Hamas. Please feel free to pick up a packet and take home with you to read.

## Grace Christmas Schedule

**Children's Christmas Program** will be December 17th at the 10:30 AM Worship Service.

### **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

9:00 AM with Choir

10:00 AM Sunday School

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight**

7:00 PM with Communion.

10:30 PM with Communion & Choir.

### **Christmas Morning Worship**

9:00 AM with Communion & Baptism.