



# **Welcome to Worship**

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

December 18, 2016 10:45 a.m.

**Welcome!** If this is your first time worshipping at Grace Lutheran, the Visitor Center in the Gathering Hall (right outside the sanctuary) has information for you about our congregation. Please sign the guest book, ask questions, say hello! We invite you to join us for coffee, tea, and donuts in Grace Hall between services. The greeters, ushers, or announcement sheet will happily fill you in on education hour offerings, Sunday school, and the teen hangout.

If you are interested in finding out more about **membership** at Grace, please contact Pastor Mike at [Mike@gracedm.org](mailto:Mike@gracedm.org), 515-276-6873.

We worship together in many ways: Standing, sitting, singing, speaking, listening. You are invited to worship in as many (or few) ways as you are comfortable and able. **When following along in the bulletin, the congregation is invited to read the items in bold (often marked with a C:) aloud.**

**Large print bulletins** are available from the ushers. Please sign the **Attendance Registration** sheets which are found in each pew.

**Children belong and are welcome in worship!** Children's bulletins are available from the ushers, and activity bags are available outside the doors to the sanctuary. If your children become restless, the service is broadcast in the Gathering Hall so you may still watch and participate together. The nursery is available for newborns to age 3 and is staffed by Grace Kids Care staff members.

**Communion** – We welcome all people to the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion. Children ages 3 and above are welcome at the parents' discretion, after meeting for instruction with the pastor. Children not instructed are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are not able to come forward to take communion, please notify an usher before the service. Then try to sit by the aisle and the pastor will commune you in your pew.

Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one care giving ministry for those experiencing personal problems such as grieving or crisis situations. If you would like to be connected to a Stephen Minister, please contact the office for assistance.

Welcome

*Please stand as you are able*

Gathering Hymn

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

#244

Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer

The Carney Family

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



1, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.	Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.
2	Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.	Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.	Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.	Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flow'r may flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965  
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham  
Associates.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16**

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking refuge in Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign of Immanuel that is the only source of true safety: God is with us!*

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

L: the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Children's Sermon

### **Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19**

*You are invited to read the lines in bold responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

*Please stand as you are able*

### **Gospel Acclamation**



### **Gospel Acclamation**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the First Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the

child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”  
<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord  
**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be seated*  
**Sermon**

*Please stand as you are able*

**Hymn of the Day** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” #815

**Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

L: Let us pray,

C: "O Little Town"

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Little Town". It is written for voice and piano. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Im-man - u - el!". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

C: **Amen.**

**All: God of love, have mercy on us. Pour out your Spirit upon us. Center us in worship. Hold us in grace. Strengthen us in love. Send us forth in mission. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.**

## Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: **And also with you!**

*Please be seated*

## Announcements

## The Offering

**Offertory** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" by Joel Raney

*Please stand as you are able*

## Offering Prayer

P: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

C: **Amen**

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

## Lord's Prayer

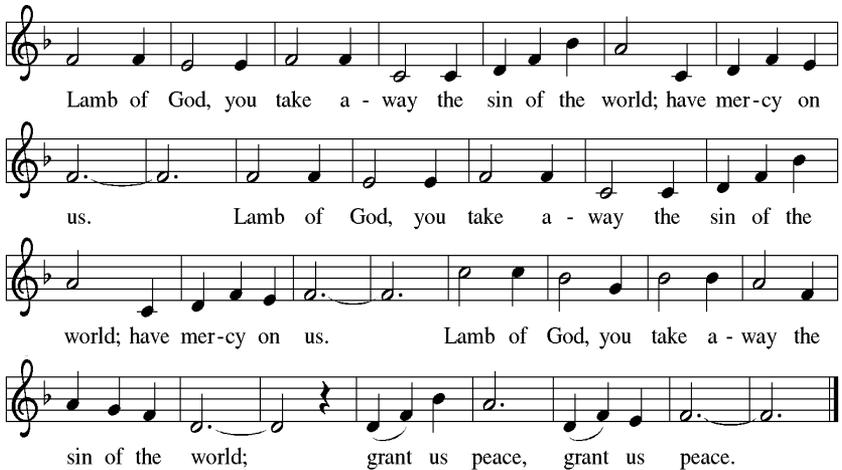
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

## Invitation to Communion

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

*Please be seated*

## Lamb of God



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.

**Offering Hymns:** 482, 484, 515

*Please stand as you are able*

## Prayer after Communion

P: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers in their home. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you...in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**Sending Hymn:** “Come Thou Almighty King”

#408

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

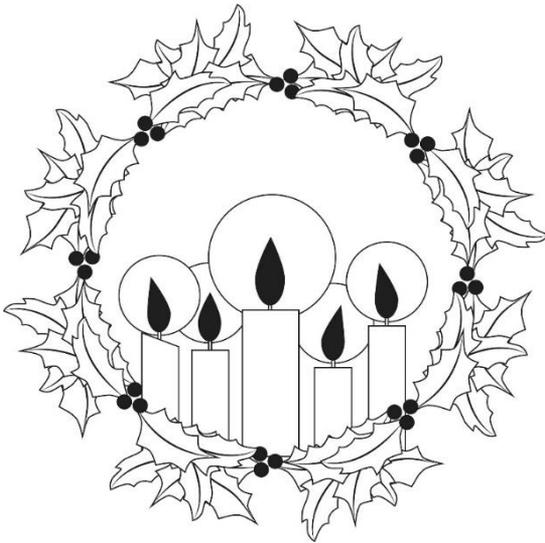
C: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

“I Saw Three Ships”

by Phillip Keveren

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## Welcome to Grace!

**Ministers** – The People of God

**Pastor** –

The Rev. Michael Schmidt .....[mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org)

**Director of Music Ministries** –

Emma Stammer .....[emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org)

**Developer of Youth and Family Ministry** –

Ellen Rothweiler.....[ellen@gracedm.org](mailto:ellen@gracedm.org)

**Organist** –

Rich Snyder .....[snydersathome@att.net](mailto:snydersathome@att.net)

**Grace Kids Care Director** –

Heather Nelson ..... [heathernelsondc@msn.com](mailto:heathernelsondc@msn.com)

**Church Administrator** –

Denise Friesth..... [denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org)

**Director of Communications** –

Michelle Voelker .....[michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org)

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Ushers** – Mark Stumme, Jay Wangerin, Dee Hummel, Tom McCleary

**Liturgist** – Janet Habick

**Lector** – Felicia Adams

**Children's Sermon** – Carol Woodruff

**Altar Guild** – Carol Woodruff, Sue Anderson

**Counters** – Mark Stumme and Chris Lawson

**Coffee** – Karen Taylor



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**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

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