

***SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**November 27 & 28, 2021**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace**

**Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson**

***OUR VISION***

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “The Wexford Carol”** . . . . . Fred Bornhoeft

**INVOCATION**

**P:** We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

**C: Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”**

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, / and let your lights appear; / the evening is advancing, / and darker night is near. / The bridegroom is arising / and soon is drawing nigh. / Up, pray and watch and wrestle; / at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain / proclaim the bridegroom near; / go forth as he approaches / with alleluias clear. / The marriage feast is waiting; / the gates wide open stand. / Arise, O heirs of glory; / the bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience / their cross and suffrings bore, / shall live and reign forever / when sorrow is no more. / Around the throne of glory / the Lamb they shall behold; / in triumph cast before him / their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, / O Jesus, now appear; / arise, O Sun so longed for, / o'er this benighted sphere. / With hearts and hands uplifted, / we plead, O Lord, to see / the day of earth's redemption / that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurentii, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt. Public Domain.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait, come with mercy upon us.

**C: When we fail in believing that your good news is for us; when we falter in our call to tend your creation; when we find our sense of self in possessions; when we fear those different from ourselves; when we forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy.

**C: Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE: “Christ, Be Our Light”

Christ, be our light! / Shine in our hearts. / Shine through the darkness. / Christ, be our light! / Shine in Your church gathered today.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957; Text & music (c) 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Like a Child, I Wait”** ..... Fred Bornhoeft

## THE READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

P: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## THE PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous. Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord. You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way. You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way. All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? / You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**THE GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

**SERMON: “Signs”** ..... *Pastor Scott Hackler*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, / born to set thy people free; / from our fears and sins release us; / let us find our rest in thee. / Israel's strength and consolation, / hope of all the earth thou art, / dear desire of ev'ry nation, / joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, / born a child, and yet a king; / born to reign in us forever, / now thy gracious kingdom bring. / By thine own eternal Spirit / rule in all our hearts alone; / by thine all-sufficient merit / raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788. Public Domain.

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: 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 into hell. 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 INTERCESSION** (*Response: Your mercy is great.*)

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**C: Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Holy, almighty and merciful God. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying; Take and eat: this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C: 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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

### **BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**C: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**C: Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

Love divine, all loves excelling, / Joy of heav'n, to earth come down! / Fix in us thy humble dwelling, / all thy faithful mercies crown. / Jesus, thou art all compassion, / pure, unbounded love thou art; / visit us with thy salvation, / enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; / let us all thy life receive; / suddenly return, and never, / nevermore thy temples leave. / Thee we would be always blessing, / serve thee as thy hosts above, / pray, and praise thee without ceasing, / glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, / pure and spotless let us be; / let us see thy great salvation / perfectly restored in thee! / Changed from glory into glory, / till in heav'n we take our place, / till we cast our crowns before thee, / lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788. Public Domain.

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Scripture Reader: Phil Nelson

Hymn Vocalists: Pastor Gary Benson, Rick Bredlie, Judy Butz, Anne Ellenberger, Phil Nelson

Audio & Lighting: Jim Miller

Producer & Editor: Jerry Huston

\*\*\*See Announcements and Events on the following pages\*\*\*

### **\*\*\*Announcements & Upcoming Events\*\*\***

**BE KIND** – As more people return to church and activities, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne as many people have a high sensitivity (and some a complete allergic reaction) to fragrances. Thank you for considering others.

**WELCOME SESSIONS** – are an opportunity for new and long-time visitors to learn why our church exists and how you can be more connected and committed to our ministry. You will meet other prospective members, learn about our mission and vision, and our various ministries. Our next Welcome Session is **Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am**. So that we may have sufficient materials, please call the church office (623-977-6000, ext. 100) to register. Hope to see you there!

**ADVENT GIVING TREE** – This year we are supporting Children of Military Personnel at Luke Air Force Base. Purchase a gift card (Amazon, Visa, Target, Walmart), and the families will buy gifts for their children. Write the amount on the gift card if it isn't already specified. Place it in a Christmas Card with a short note to the family if you wish to write one. *Sign your first name only. Do not seal the envelope.* Bring your gift card to the church between now and December 12<sup>th</sup> and place in the box in the Narthex. (It is labeled "Advent Giving Tree Card Drop Off Box" and is colorfully wrapped.) The gift cards will be given to needy families on the base. Contact Deborah Frusciano if you have any questions. 623-977-6000 or cell 602-909-8369.

**BARLEEN'S** – Motor coaches will begin to board Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3:30pm from the Spirit of Grace church parking lot, and we will depart promptly at 4:00pm.

- ❖ If you purchased a ticket (s) for this event, you will be receiving an email from Jan Hylen, around the second week in November.
- ❖ Please print out the email you receive and bring it along with you on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ❖ It will serve as your boarding pass and table reservation.
- ❖ Also, remember that following CDC Guidelines, **FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED**. Face masks are to be worn at all time on the motor coach.
- ❖ Failure to comply will result in denial of boarding or removal.
- ❖ Please remember to bring your mask.

**FA-LA-LA and DECK THE HALL** – is this coming Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 3pm. Doors open at 2:30pm. Bring your red ticket. Those who signed up to go caroling will gather in the sanctuary. Decorating people gather in the Fellowship Hall. Supper will be served between 5:45pm - 6:00pm. See you there!

**2022 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** – For those *who have contribution envelopes assigned to them*, they will be available for pick-up in the Fellowship Hall beginning Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. If you no longer want envelopes, please notify Sheila in the office. If you did not pick-up or use your 2021 envelopes, the 2022 envelopes will not be issued. *However, if you still want them for next year*, please notify Sheila in the office (email: sheila@spiritofgrace.com or 623-977-6000, ext. 100) **by Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**JUDIE LINTON MEMORIAL SERVICE** – Family, friends, and Spirit of Grace worshippers will gather in the sanctuary to honor and remember Judie Linton on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am. Judie went home to the Lord last October 21<sup>st</sup>.

*Everyone is welcome to participate in all Spirit of Grace events and ministries:  
you do not need to be a registered member.*

## ***SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS***

***November 27 – December 5, 2021***

### **Saturday, November 27**

5:00 pm Worship Service

### **Sunday, November 28**

9:00 am Worship Service

### **Monday, November 29**

12:30 pm "Hand & Foot"  
Cardplayers

### **Tuesday, November 30**

9:00 am Staff Meeting  
12:00 pm Counseling Ministry\*  
\*By appointment only  
with Dr Joe Dramise  
3:00 pm Grace Chimes  
4:15 pm Joyful Spirit Singers

### **Wednesday, December 1**

9:00 am Counseling Ministry\*  
\*By appointment only  
with Dr Joe Dramise  
1:00 pm Fellowship Team

### **Thursday, December 2**

8:30 am Online Worship Service  
Video Recording  
10:00 am Women's Bible Study  
Leader Training  
3:30 pm Barleen's Busses Load  
*\*Ticket Required*

### **Friday, December 3**

9:30 am Bulletin Assembly  
3:00 pm Fa-La-La & Deck  
the Halls *\*Ticket Required*

### **Saturday, December 4**

Food Ingathering Donations  
5:00 pm Worship Service

### **Sunday, December 5**

Food Ingathering Donations  
9:00 am Worship Service  
Reception of New Partners  
in Ministry

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