

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 20, 2020

Welcome to Grace

We give thanks that you have come to Grace to worship in God's house.

To our guests — We invite you to worship with us often and consider our family of faith yours.

Everything you need for worship is printed in this bulletin. Large Print Bulletins and Quiet Books (for our very young worshipers) are available from the ushers.

Our facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system to accommodate hearing difficulties. Please ask the sound technician for a receiver.

Please turn off or silence your personal communication device.

We also ask that you not bring food or drink into our worship space.

We are a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The NALC embraces four core values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused. The NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go _____ and make disciples in North America and around the globe. We invite you to learn more about our congregation and the NALC.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

God had dangerous business in mind for the young Galilean girl who was betrothed but not yet married. She was chosen by the Most High God to carry, give birth, and raise the Lord's Son. If anyone found out she was pregnant out of wedlock, she could have been stoned, or at the very least shunned and rejected. But Mary, who answered the call of God, instead is known for her unwavering faith and obedience.

Cover Image:

The Adoration of the Shepherds, 1622

Gerard van Honthorst (1592-1656, Dutch)

Oil on Canvas, 164 x 190 cm

Wallraf-Richartz Museum

Cologne, Germany

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - arr. William R. Ward

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" - arr. Wilbur Held

Linda Hoch

Please stand as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful Father,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free;
From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.

The musical score is written in G minor, 3/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: Gm, Dm, Gm, F, Gm; Gm, Dm, Eb, Bb, Dm, Gm; Gm, Bb, Gm, Dm, Eb, Bb, Gm, Dm; Gm, Dm, Gm, Dm, Gm, Eb, F, Gm.

The Gathering

GREETING

- A 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

A Kyrie eleison.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Christe eleison.
C **Christ, have mercy.**

A Kyrie eleison.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Stir up your power, O Lord, and come.
C **Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH ADVENT 4: Peace The Angel Candle

**8:15 am Vaughn, Regina, Lauren, and Leah Place
11:00 am Chris, Benny, and Maggie Hoch**

Leader Just as the angels announced peace and goodwill at the birth of Jesus—
at the end of time, Christ will come with the angels to usher in his eternal
peace, in which He will reign forever and ever. We pray that his kingdom
would come here and now, among us, by faith.

In peace, we light the fourth candle in the Advent wreath, the Angel
Candle. We read in Luke, Chapter 2:
*Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly
host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and
on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*
(Luke 2: 13-14 ESV)

Light the fourth candle

CAROL FOR LIGHTING THE ANGEL CANDLE: A verse from “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plain,
and the mountain in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Glo...ria, in excelsis deo; Glo...ria in excelsis Deo.

PARISH CONCERNS

HYMN OF PRAISE

Maria Laderman - flute, Linda Hoch - piano

"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" - arr. Anne Krentz Organ

The Word

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

King David had arrived! Once a shepherd boy, he was now the conquerer of nations and had a beautifully built cedar house to show for it. As he looked at his new home he felt compelled to build God a house worthy of his divine majesty. God had other plans, however. He never asked to have a house built, in fact God promised that it would be he who would build his house and establish David's reign.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

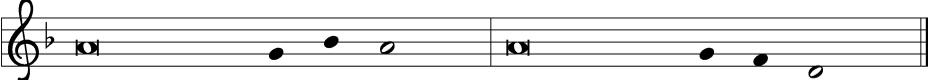
⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 89:1-5; 19:2-9

Refrain 
Your love, O LORD, for - ev - er will I sing.

Psalms Tone 

- L ¹Your love, O Lord, forever | will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.
- C ²**For I am persuaded that your love is estab- | lished forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.**
- L ³"I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:
- C ⁴**"I will establish your | line forever,
and preserve your throne for all | generations." Refrain**
- L ⁵The heavens bear witness to your won- | ders, O Lord,
and to your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones;
- C ¹⁹**You spoke once in a vision and said to your | faithful people:
"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen
out | of the people.**
- L ²⁰I have found Da- | vid my servant;
with my holy oil have I a- | nointed him.
- C ²¹**My hand will | hold him fast
and my arm will | make him strong. Refrain**
- L ²²No enemy | shall deceive him,
nor any wicked man | bring him down.
- C ²³**I will crush his | foes before him
and strike down | those who hate him."**
- L ²⁴My faithfulness and love shall | be with him,
and he shall be victorious | through my name.
- C ²⁵**I shall make his domin- | ion extend
from the Great Sea | to the River.**
- L ²⁶He will say to me, 'You | are my Father,
my God, and the rock of | my salvation.'
- C ²⁷**I will make | him my firstborn
and higher than the kings | of the earth.**
- L ²⁸I will keep my love for | him forever,
and my covenant will stand | firm for him.
- C ²⁹**I will establish his | line forever
and his throne as the | days of heaven." Refrain**

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Paul ended his letter to the believers in Rome with a final blessing. He reminded them that there is one who is able to give strength, it is the one about whom the apostle preached - Jesus Christ. What was once a mystery of faith is now known. What was once hidden has now been revealed through the prophets to all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

To a young virgin girl an angel was sent with an incredible message. "The Lord is with you," he said as he laid out for her God's plan for the salvation of the world. This young girl, not yet married, would be the chosen vessel for God's one and only Son. Mary would be the God-bearer [Theotokos] and was instructed to name the infant Jesus, which means "God saves."

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P The gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor Nicholas Hopman

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

1 Oh. come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

APOSTLES' CREED

A We confess our Christian faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence

After each petition:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A O heavenly Father, give us all such things through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and savior, in whose name we thus 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.**

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . *The Presider continues with the preface, concluding:...*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he also took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and said, "Take and drink it all of you. This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Please be seated.



*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.*

*All baptized persons are welcomed to the Lord's Table.
Children who do not commune are invited forward to receive a blessing.
You may receive the Communion Wine by taking a communion glass from the tray as it is offered to you.
Grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray.*

*After you have received, please place the empty communion glass in the basket provided
(Gluten-free hosts are available by telling the person giving the host)*

COMMUNION MUSIC

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" - arr. J. Bert Carlson

"Unexpected and Mysterious" -arr. Nancy M. Raabe

Linda Hoch

After communion is finished, please stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through
the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you
would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent
love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

The Sending

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ grant you peace.
C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.

Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The first system contains the lyrics: "1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home." The second system contains the lyrics: "Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come" - arr. Hugo Distler

Linda Hoch

Dismissal: *Ushers will release rows from the back of the church to the front. Please keep your bulletin.*

Offering: A basket will be placed by the baptismal font for offering. Offerings can be placed in the basket before or after the service

Today's flowers are given by...

*Lisa Kuhar in celebration of son Chris Kuhar's Birthday.
Rod Rice and family in remembrance of Barbara Rice.*

Remember in our prayers... *The Family of Ellen Sue Riddle, Connie Caldwell, Grace Sima, Randy Cashman, Marilyn Braatz, Tom Phillips, Manjula Kothuru, Mary Ross, Mary Ulrich, Clarence Clapham, Rosemarie Litzinger, Shirley Wortman, Janice Hardick, Joan Hassler, Eileen Damm, Shawn Turnbull*

Notes & News

WELCOME, GUESTS! *We welcome you as our guest in our church home and invite you to continue to worship with us.*

Christmas Eve Services: This year 3 Christmas Eve services will be offered in the sanctuary at Grace: 4pm (Registration FULL), 6:30pm (FULL) and 9pm. The 4pm Christmas Eve Service will be recorded and posted to our website. Each worship service will include communion and special music. Seating for the Christmas Eve services will be limited this year to allow for social distancing and advance registration is required. There are two ways to sign-up to attend the Christmas Eve Services at www.grace43081.org, click on the sign-up link (registration through Sign-up Genius) or by calling the church office (614-882-3026) with your name, phone number, and number attending. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. We will not be able to accommodate walk-ins on Christmas Eve.



Christmas Eve Services Live on Facebook: For the first time, Grace will be live streaming the 4pm and 6:30pm Christmas Eve services, which will allow the option to view services in real time rather than waiting for the service to be posted later in the evening. You must have a Facebook account to view the service at <https://www.facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville>. As it will be the first time live streaming, please be patient with interruptions as we provide an additional option for participating in Christmas Eve at Grace.



Christmas Program will be TODAY at 4:00pm, Registration is required. This Program is built around the familiar carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful." The Christmas Program for Sunday School this year will not be a Worship Service. Registration is required as seating will be limited to allow for social distancing; we will not be able to accommodate walk-ins. If you have questions contact Molly King.



2021 Giving Envelopes have been placed on tables in the Gathering Space and are ready to be picked up. Envelopes can be picked up Sundays, during office hours, and also during office hours, call ahead and the staff will bring them out to your car.



Service Recording: The recorded 8:15am service will be available at www.grace43081.org around 11am.

NURSERY will be closed until further notice. If you have any question see Molly King.

Holiday Office Hours:

Thursday, December 24th: 9am-3pm

Friday, December 25th: Closed

Monday, December 28th: Closed

Friday, January 1st: Closed

2021 WORSHIP SPACE FLOWERS To sign-up for flowers in the Worship Space, please select the preferred Sunday in the folder at the Welcome Center, include your name, phone number and the reason for the flowers. Gifts for the Worship Space flowers will be combined for arrangements; **the suggested gift for the arrangement is \$20.** Payments accepted by one of the following: include in your weekly giving envelope (notation: flowers) or online at: www.grace43081.org All special memories and celebrations will be noted in the weekly worship bulletins.



REACHING OUT TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

FIRST FRUITS SUNDAYS *Let all that you do be done in love". (1 Corinthians 16:14)*

December Grocery List:

Boxed Pasta, Potato, Pasta, Rice Sides, Instant Potatoes, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Condiments, Canned Chicken, Tuna, Sloppy Joe Mix, Canned Chili, Beef Stew, Chicken & Dumplings, Canned Soups, Canned Fruit, Personal Care Items - Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant, Bar Soap, Tooth Paste & Brushes, Laundry & Dish Soap, and Toilet Paper & Paper Towels. We cannot accept food that has reached its expiration date. WHILE THE CHURCH IS CLOSED TO SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES PLEASE TAKE ALL ITEMS DIRECTLY TO W.A.R.M. along with any fresh produce, baked goods and dairy products directly to WARM. Make Checks Payable to: Grace Lutheran Church, memo notation for WARM. Blessings to all who are making this a part of your regular tithes and offerings.

Westerville Caring and Sharing has reached out to Grace for support of their Christmas gift card drive due to an increase in need related to COVID. They are requesting gift cards in increments of \$25 for groceries, retail, entertainment, bookstores, etc. (any denomination will gratefully be accepted). Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 970, Westerville, OH 43086 or put in Molly's mailbox by Sunday, December 20 and she will deliver them. For more information about <https://westervillecaringandsharing.org/>, 614-470-4320 or contact Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org.

TEACHING THE FAITH... ENCOURAGING DISCIPLESHIP

The Women's Bible Study: On Wednesday, December 16th the Women's Bible study will

start a new study from the Lifeguide series. Advent Of The Savior is a six week study helping us get the most out of Advent and prepare for Christmas. For more information contact Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org.

AN ADULT BIBLE STUDY EXPERIENCE: The adult class led by John Westenhaver meets in the fellowship hall at 9:45 a.m. For more information contact John at jwestenhaver@gmail.com.

Adult Learning: The adult education class lead by Bill Kulju is studying Jonah. At the end of the day, God is less concerned with what we do for Him than who we are in Him. No one illustrates that truth better than Jonah. Focused on the prophet rather than his prophecy, the story of Jonah gives us a picture of a man on the run due to his own selfish desires. Instead of showing mercy to his enemies, he determined to keep God's grace to himself rather than share it with those he considered undeserving. The study offers a profound glimpse into the conflict that occurs when God calls resistant believers to His mission. More importantly, it underscores the depths of His compassion not only in redeeming the lost, but redeeming those He has called to participate in His reconciling work. Please join us in the fellowship hall at 9:45 for this 8 week adult study of the book of Jonah. This study is facilitated by Bill Kulju.

MUSIC NOTES

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” – arr. William Ward

From the seven antiphons sung in the medieval Roman Church at Vespers before and after the *Magnificat* (Mary's Song), just prior to Christmas, sometime in the 13th century five of these antiphons were selected for a hymn and the “Rejoice, rejoice” refrain added. Biblical references to the Great “O’s” are: Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14), Root of Jesse (Isaiah 11:10), Dayspring (Malachi 4:2), Key of David (Isaiah 22:22), and O Lord (Adonai) (Exodus 3:15). The verses point us toward the purpose of Advent – to prepare for Christmas, just as Lent prepares for Easter.

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” – arr. Wilbur Held

Although this hymn usually appears in the Advent section, the author, Charles Wesley (1707-1788) wrote it for Christmas. The text was first published in his small compilation of 18 poems, *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord* (1744). Names given for Jesus: strength, consolation, hope, dear desire, and joy. The hymns ultimate emphasis is on the kingship of Jesus, closing with a prayer that Christ will rule in our hearts alone.

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” – arr. Anne Krentz Organ

This hymn crafted by Martin A. Seltz (b. 1951) and Frank W. Stoldt (b. 1958) is a paraphrase of Mary's song, the *Magnificat*, in Luke 1:46-55:

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” – arr. J. Bert Carlson

This hymn has its origin as a Basque carol – “Birijina gaztettobat zegoen” – in the Euskara language. In the form we have, it tells the story that begins with the angel Gabriel’s announcement in Luke 1:26 (see today’s Gospel lesson), summarizes Mary’s song in verses 46 – 55 (see above), and by means of the single word refrain “Gloria” at the end of each stanza gives a peek at the “Gloria in excelsis Deo” in Luke 2:14 and its later elaboration. The final stanza tells us that we’re headed to Christmas morning, though the focus remains on Mary and her song.

“Unexpected and Mysterious” – arr. Nancy M. Raabe

The “unexpected and mysterious” is expressed here in the grace of God carried through Mary in the meeting of eternity and time and in our pondering, waiting and embodying of it. The hymn was written in 1996 for using during Advent at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Rockport, Massachusetts, and is based on Luke 1:26-56, the story of the Annunciation, Mary’s visit to Elizabeth, and Mary’s response in the Magnificat. The author, Jeannette M. Lindholm (b. 1961) wrote this about it:

The hymn emphasizes God’s love, compassion, and grace made known in incarnation – God’s becoming human, Mary’s bearing the Christ, Elizabeth’s embodying God’s compassion in her affirmation of Gabriel’s words to Mary, and our living out our own call to embody God’s compassion and healing.

“Savior of the Nations, Come” – arr. Hugo Distler

This hymn is one of the longest-running hymns in the church. It has been attributed to Ambrose of Milan (340-397) who wrote it in Latin as “Veni, Redemptor gentium”. He is called the “father of church song” or at least of Latin hymnody, not because he was the first to write hymns but because his hymns were the first ones the church found worth keeping. Martin Luther (1483-1546) was among those who translated it into German, probably for Advent in 1523. Luther’s translation begins, “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland”. Luther can be viewed for German hymnody as what Ambrose was for Latin.



Scan to *Simply Give*

This QR code connects you to the mobile version of Grace’s online giving page to give you a quick and easy way to access our webpage without having to type out a long web address. Through this link, you can create a one-time or on-going donation and to specify where you want your gift to be applied. The *Simply Giving*® Program (endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union) is an automated stewardship program that helps members give generously. Scan to *Simply Give* today.

Financial Update: If you would like a copy of the full monthly Treasurer’s report as presented to Council, please reach out to the Treasurer, Melissa Hodek, at melissa.hodek@gmail.com and it will be emailed to you.

Nov. 2020	Estimated Giving	Collected	Excess/ (Deficit)
MTD	\$ 36,667	\$ 45,169	\$ 8,502
YTD	\$403,337	\$ 406,165	\$ 2,828

Weekly Worship Attendance

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13: 8:15 am: 57, 11:00 am: 73, Total: 130

You Will Establish Your Faithfulness

Find the 28 bold words from Psalm 89:1-5 (ESV).

X W B C S L O V E Y Z F C C S
G O H G S L S B F L V T H W H
T N A N E V O C X B D O O O S
O D L T N Y Z R S M S R L N B
F E E E L S E O D E N Y O N U
F R S L U Z U S N S R I G W I
S S I D F D D Q T S T V M S L
P W A R H H S T E A D F A S T
R B R K T C I J R R B V K N A
I I P U I N L E E G P L E C T
N U O G A J N V S E N O I N F
G M N P F E E H E A V E N S O
R I U S G R E N O R H T U B H
S W B N O V A K N O W N M P V
Q W Y F D I V A D M R E G G S

I will **sing** of the **steadfast love** of the **LORD**, **forever**; with my **mouth** I will **make known** your **faithfulness** to all **generations**. For I said, “Steadfast love will be **built** up forever; in the **heavens** you will **establish** your faithfulness.” You have said, “I have made a **covenant** with my **chosen one**; I have **sworn** to **David** my **servant**: ‘I will establish your **offspring** forever, and build your **throne** for all generations.’” *Selah* Let the heavens **praise** your **wonders**, O LORD, your faithfulness in the **assembly** of the **holy ones**!

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Serving Today

PRESIDER/PREACHER	Pastor Nicholas Hopman
ASSISTING MINISTER	Molly King, Commissioned Lay Minister
CANTOR	Larry Schaller
ORGANIST	Linda Hoch
SACRISTAN	Fred Pfanz
LECTOR	8:15 Aaron Singleton 11:00 Chris Troutman
ALTAR GUILD	Jodie Arreguin, Lois Bernhardt, Dorotha Fuhrman, Verna Kreachbaum, Amy Quinn, Linda Reasoner
USHERS	8:15 Steve Miller, Vanessa Stewart, Sue Miller 11:00 Joe Moleno, Merl Breen, Dick Jones, Aaron Bally, Brice Graves
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Chris Banks, Dan George, Paul Grant, Eric Bush



This Week at Grace: December 20-27, 2020

Dec. 20 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

PASTOR NICHOLAS HOPMAN

- 8:15 am Worship Service
- 9:30 am TBD: Christmas Program Practice (Sanctuary)
- 9:45 am Adult Learning (Rose Garden 2 & 3 and Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 4:00 pm Youth Christmas Program: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Sanctuary)
Registration Required

MON

- TUES. 12:00 pm Staff Meeting
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

- WED. 10:00 am Art & Environment Set-up (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

THURS **CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 4:00 pm Worship Service: Registration Required (Sanctuary) and
Facebook Live
- 6:30 pm Worship Service: Registration Required (Sanctuary) and
Facebook Live
- 9:00 pm Worship Service: Registration Required

FRI. **CHRISTMAS DAY**

-OFFICE CLOSED-

- 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

- SAT 9:30 am AA Meeting (Online Meeting)
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Online Meeting)

Dec. 27 **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

PASTOR NICHOLAS HOPMAN

- 8:15 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Adult Learning (Rose Garden 2 & 3 and Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00 am Worship Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”. Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Koln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Music: French processional, 15th cent. Text, Tune, Arrangement: Public Domain.

“Savior of the Nations, Come”. Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version. Music: J. Walter, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524. Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress, OneLicense. Music: Public Domain.

“Hymn Prelude on the Tune “Veni Emmanuel” -arr. William R. Ward, from *Consoliers – Practical and Distinctive Pieces for the Church Organist (October – December (Vol. 5, No. 4))*, World Library Publications, ©1974

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” – arr. Wilbur Held, from *Four Advent Hymn Preludes (Set 2)* by Wilbur Held, MorningStar Music Publishers, ©1998

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” – arr. Anne Krentz Organ, from *Woven Together, Vol. 2*, by Anne Krentz Organ, Augsburg Fortress, ©2005

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” – arr. J. Bert Carlson, from *Blessed Assurance: A Piano Collection* by J. Bert Carson, Augsburg Fortress, ©1998

“Unexpected and Mysterious” – arr. Nancy M. Raabe, from *Grace and Peace, vol. 6: Songs of Heaven*, by Nancy M. Raabe, Augsburg Fortress, ©2013

“Savior of the Nations, Come/ NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND” – arr. Hugo Distler, from *Augsburg Organ Library: Advent*, Augsburg Organ Library, ©2000



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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm, Fri 9am-Noon

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has been serving the Westerville community for more than 108 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity, and Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also supports Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and provides weekly meeting space for Boy Scout Troop 007 and four AA groups.

Vision Statement: We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.