



A Voice Crying In The Wilderness

Vision

Transforming lives through God's grace

Mission

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we grow disciples of Jesus Christ to love our neighbours and effect social change.

Minister

The Rev. Dr. M. Jean Morris
Associate Minister, Pastoral Care

Presbytery Representative

The Rev. Mark Tremblay
minister@knoxcalgary.ca

Musicians

Susan Woodward, Music Director
Donna Holoboff, Organist



Today flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Agnes & Clarence Richards from daughters Barbara Henson and Broda Stuart.

Order of Worship

* *Please stand as you are able.*

(There is information in the bulletin about Sunday School and Nursery for newcomers)

Prelude	Siciliano	J. S. Bach
	My Heart Ever Faithful	J. S. Bach

Announcements *the Rev. Murdo Marple*

*Entry of the Bible *Sonia Bertolissi*

Choral Introit O Come, Emmanuel D. Besig/N. Price

*Call to Worship

***HYMN #110 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Lighting of the Advent Candle *Gerard Halpin and Alma Fourie*

Prayer of Adoration and Confession and The 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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Grace's Sunday School presents " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas"
Another "One Rehearsal Christmas Play" written by Kendra Smiley

Carols:

Away in a Manger

Hymn 147, Angels We Have Heard on High (first verse, with choir and congregation)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Silent Night

Hymn 153, Joy to the World (first verse, with choir and congregation)

Joy to the World! The Lord is come: let earth receive its King;

Let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Thank you again to our beloved children, committed leaders, volunteers, and caring congregation for your support!

Prayer for Illumination

God of grace, how beautiful are your words of life. Help us to still our busy minds so that we will hear your word to us. Help us to make a space within ourselves to receive your wisdom, your mercy, and your plans for us. Amen.

Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11 (page 626, Old Testament)

Responsive Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a (page 210, New Testament)

Mark 1:1-8 (page 30, New Testament) *the Rev. Ryan Andersen*

Sermon **A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS**

***HYMN #126 On Jordan's Bank**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – Orders are due today for those who wish to order Christmas poinsettias for Grace’s home-bound! Forms are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary. Poinsettias will be delivered next week following the morning worship.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 – Grace has been partnering with the Connaught Elementary School as part of our outreach and building community within the Beltline. Connaught is hosting a “Winter Celebration” for the children and their families and Grace has been invited to participate by staffing the Hot Chocolate station. The Engagement & Service Committee hopes there will be several Grace volunteers happy to be good neighbours and help with the setup (5:00 pm), service (5:30 to 7:30 pm) and/or clean-up (7:30 to 8:00 pm). Please contact Cindy Stephenson, Coordinator of Volunteers, cindys@gracecalgary.org, if you are able to support this outreach.

GIFT CARDS DONATIONS ON DECEMBER 17 – On Sunday, December 17, gift cards for food (for example: Safeway, Sobeys, Calgary Co-op, Walmart) may be donated. These cards will be provided to the pastoral staff to distribute throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity as we live our vision of transforming lives through God’s grace. Please place gift cards on the offering plates on December 17 at both morning and evening services.

A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – Thank you for your faithfulness and generous spirit in supporting the work of Grace Church over the past year. With your support, we have accomplished much – even amid significant changes at Grace. The year has not been without challenges, and while your giving has remained steady, expenditures resulting from the changes have exceeded our predictions. As we near the end of 2017, we wanted you to know that we are concerned about our cash position and we ask that you give prayerful consideration with respect to our present financial challenge.

2017 TAX PLANNING – As you consider your final donations for 2017, please remember we must receive your donation by December 31 if you wish to have the amount count towards your 2017 offerings. If you send a donation by mail, it must be postmarked December 31 or earlier. Any contributions received after December 31 are only eligible for a 2018 tax receipt.

To Visitors with Children

We are thankful for the presence of infants and children in our sanctuary, though if you wish, we do offer programming for kids during the service.

Nursery - Care is available for children age 3 and younger; an usher can lead you to the Nursery at any time.

Sunday School and Christmas Pageants - One more pageant to go! After this morning's presentation, all children Ages 4 through Grade 6 are welcome to come downstairs for a time of music, a snack, and rehearsals for next week's third and final pageant for the year, "The Good News Flash." All are invited to participate!

Activities focusing on John the Baptist and making changes to prepare for the coming of Jesus will also be available for the children this morning.

Interested in learning more about our children's programs or teaching teams? Contact Joanne Kellough at joannek@gracecalgary.org.

Youth Group - All youth in Grades 7 to 12 are invited for fellowship and conversation. We meet near the piano and will head downstairs to Youth Group Room following today's pageant. For more information, please contact Roberto DeSandoli, Young Adult Ministry Coordinator at robertod@gracecalgary.org or 403.244.5861.

SELF SERVICE COFFEE VOLUNTEER REQUEST – We continue to request volunteers to assist after the morning service with setup of the self-service coffee stations. We are looking for two or three people to help each Sunday. **If you can help, please sign the list** posted in the Family Room. Thank you! Complete instructions for setting up the coffee stations can be found in the kitchen

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, December 17

Morning Worship, 10:30 am

Preaching: the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris

Evening Grace, 7:00 pm – 7:50 pm

in the Sanctuary

Christmas Program with Special Music by Choir and Bells

Preaching: the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris and Roberto DeSandoli

Reception to follow in the Family Room

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services

10:30 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Choir and Guest Instrumentalists

Preaching: the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris

4:30 pm

A Service for Families with Young Children

8:00 pm

Lessons and Carols

With Choir and Guest Instrumentalists

Preaching: the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris

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