



Raphael Soyer, *Annunciation*, 1980, oil on linen, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of the Sara Roby Foundation, 1986.6.98

In the Mood for Miracles

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



Grace Presbyterian Church
Calgary, Alberta

*Today flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and
in loving memory of Ted and Lola Rozsa by the Rozsa family.*

Order of Worship

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude	Christmas Carols <i>String Quartet - Diane Valentine, violin; Jeff Plotnick, violin; Theresa Plotnick, viola; Danise Ferguson, cello</i>	
Organ Prelude	In Dulci Jubilo Shepherd's Pipe Carol	D. Wood D. Wood
Announcements		<i>Jean Morris</i>
*Entry of the Bible		<i>Sunny Leem</i>
*Choral Introit	Angels We Have Heard on High	French Carol arr. R. Shaw/A. Parker
*Call to Worship		
*HYMN 159 - Oh Come, All Ye Faithful		
*Lighting of the Advent Candle		<i>Melanie and Jean Funnell</i>
Prayer of Adoration and Confession		<i>Roberto DeSandoli</i>
Assurance of Pardon		
*HYMN 149 - Away In a Manger		
Conversation with Young Christians		

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 Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Holy and Merciful God, maker of all; blessed are you for all the wonders of creation. All your works, from the heights of the heavens, to the depths of the sea and land, echo the music of your praise. You gave us breath and speech, melody and harmony, to join all living things to sing your praise: *(singing ...)*

**Let heaven and nature sing, let heaven and nature sing,
Let heaven, let heaven and nature sing.**

God of heaven and earth, God with us on the streets where we live, God with us in the infant Jesus, you came to be with us to show us the way to peace, to reconciliation, to healing. Born into a world of conflict, Jesus showed us how to seek justice, love kindness, and care for the vulnerable. As we gather around this table laid for us in Jesus' name, we give you thanks for all the meals we have shared over the years, and for those we will share in the year to come.

Thank you for our companions. Thank you for all the goodness we taste in the gifts of the earth. Thank you for the many ways you feed us. We remember all your children who do not have enough and we pledge ourselves to share what we have more generously: *(singing ...)*

**With wonders of his love, with wonders of his love,
With wonders, wonders of his love.**

In this time of silence, O God, we offer all the concerns that burden our hearts and ask you to help us carry them for a while: [*Silence*]

God of mystery and manger, come again to feed us at this table, so that we may taste your presence in our lives. Let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these gifts of bread and wine. As we taste the bread and sip the wine may we know that Jesus Christ, your love made flesh, shares our flesh. Open our eyes to see him in each other, that together we may: *(singing ...)*

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours now and forever. As Christ taught us we now pray:

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.

Communion of the People

Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come forward by the centre aisles beginning with the front row, receive bread, dip it in the chalice, partake and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the cup in the center of each plate. All who would humbly put their trust in Christ, whatever their church or denomination, are invited to participate.

Post Communion Prayer

***Hymn 168 - See Amid the Winter's Snow**

*Benediction and Choral Amen

Postlude All Glory Be to God on High

arr. M. Burkhardt

Following Worship

- Please speak to Jean Morris if you wish to have private prayer.
- Refreshments will be served in the Family Room. All are welcome to be part of this time of fellowship.

Welcome to Grace Church

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 – All children age 4 through Grade 6 are invited to join us! After the Conversation with Young Christians, the children go downstairs to their classroom. This morning, all the children will be gathered for connection and learning together. The children will delight in Mary's faithfulness as they wait with her for this special child!

For more information about our children's programs and teaching teams, please contact Joanne at joannek@gracecalgary.org or 403.244.5861.

This morning we welcome our guest musicians and thank them for their musical contribution to the service.

Office staff will be on vacation from December 25 to January 2. Phone messages will be checked regularly and maintenance staff will be at the church from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

2018 Offering Envelopes are available in the Family Room following today's worship service. If you require custom envelopes, please contact Cindi Banman in the church office at cindib@gracecalgary.org or 403.244.5861.

Ushers Needed - Ushers welcome worshippers, direct newcomers around the building, receive and count the offering, read the offertory prayers, and help with emergencies. Please let Cindy Stephenson, Coordinator of Volunteers (cindys@gracecalgary.org), know if you might be able to serve in one or more of these ways.

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.

Sunday School Helpers Needed - The Grace family delights in the presence of the children and is thankful for our vibrant Sunday School. Helpers are needed to assist our dedicated teachers by being present to help the children with class activities, and to escort children to the washrooms. No lesson planning is required. Please let Cindy Stephenson, Coordinator of Volunteers, cindys@gracecalgary.org, know if you can serve once per month.

Bible Study - Beginning on January 10, 2018, Grace is offering a weekly, lectionary-based Bible study called *Community Feast: Supper and Scripture*. The Lectionary is a book of scripture readings appointed to be read at a church service. Grace uses lectionary readings both for its worship services and for its Sunday School lessons. The study will use the same lectionary texts but two weeks advanced (so January 10 would cover January 24 readings). ***Community Feast: Supper and Scripture*** will run on **Wednesday evenings from January 10 to February 14**. The study will commence at **6:00 pm with a light meal provided, and conclude by 7:30 pm**. Please advise the church office at 403.244.5861 or office@gracecalgary.org if you plan to attend.

Grace Church is seeking a Nursery Caregiver Supervisor to ensure loving care for children through to age 3 on Sunday mornings. This is a paid position and interested candidates should contact Cindy Stephenson at cindys@gracecalgary.org.

New Members Class – Saturday, January 28, 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. If you are interested in becoming a member of Grace Presbyterian Church or would like to learn some more about our ministry, you are welcome to attend. Please call the church office to register at 403.244.5861.

The Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, January 4 at 7:30 pm. There is no rehearsal on Thursday, December 28. All singers welcome!

2017 Annual Report Content - We're getting ready to pull together the 2017 Annual Report. The theme of the report will be *Onward and Outward* and will focus on how changes over the past year have been preparing us to live Grace's new mission and vision. After the holidays, I will be in touch about specifics of the report.

– Tyler Williams

The Friendship Club (formerly the Couples Club) will meet for lunch on Friday, January 10 at 11:30 am in the Lounge. Singles and couples are welcome to join. Money is collected to cover the lunch.

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, December 24 **Christmas Eve Services**

4:30 pm

A Service for Families with Young Children
*A fun and informal service; a space for kids and kids-at-heart,
who just can't contain their excitement!*

8:00 pm

Lessons and Carols, Chancel Choir, Strings, and Brass
Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris

Sunday, December 31

10:30 am

Preaching: Roberto DeSandoli
Young Adult Ministry Coordinator

Phone: 403-244-5861

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Twitter/Facebook: [@calgarygrace](https://www.facebook.com/calgarygrace)