

EXPLORING THE REIGN OF CHRIST

November 26, 2023
10:30 am



Metsys, Quentin, 1465 or 1466-1530. Cristo Salvador Mundi, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. www.diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/link.pl?RC=57365

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.

Values

Belonging, Community, Compassion, Engagement, and Service

The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris
Interim Moderator

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis (parental leave)
Assoc. Minister, Engagement & Service

The Rev. Wendy Adams
Interim Minister

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins
Interim Minister

Matt Kallio
Music Coordinator

Please find Online Worship at:
www.gracechurchcalgary.com



 **Grace Presbyterian Church**
Transforming lives through God's grace

Rite of Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

Lord, forgive us. Have mercy upon us and give us the spark in our hearts to commit to your kingdom's vision.

Empower us to build a stronger and more genuine faith with hearts that embrace you. We praise you for all blessings, received and those yet to come, for you are our Great Provider, the true source of life.

Words of Forgiveness

The Peace

May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Anthem **Above All Praise and Majesty**

Felix Mendelssohn

Time with Young Christians

Prayer for Understanding

Chisom Okongwu

Scriptures **Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17**

Psalm 100 (Responsive, Sing Refrain I)

1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28

Mark 11: 9-10

Matthew 25: 31-36

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Dan Van Leeuwen

Sermon Exploring the Reign of Christ The Revs. Wendy & Geoffrey

Feedback from Congregation

Hymn # 474 The love of God comes close †

Prayers of the People 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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music Offertory on the tune Kremser Charles E. Peery

Offertory Response Hymn #298 Glory be to God the Father v.1 †

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the spirit, God almighty, Three-in-One!
Glory, glory, glory, glory, while eternal ages run.

Prayer for Our Offering Gord Smith

Hymn # 275 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun †

Benediction

Choral Amen # 780 Amen †

Postlude Postlude on Darwell's 148 Ernest A. Dicks

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Life and Work at Grace Church

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/



Worship Services

- ◇ Sundays at 10:30 am in-person.
- ◇ Livestreamed to watch anytime at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/
- ◇ Fellowship in the Family Room immediately following Worship each Sunday.
- ◇ The South Sudanese community meets Sundays at 12:30 pm in the Chapel.
- ◇ The Anyuak community meets Sundays at 3:00 pm in the Chapel.

Please be reminded that we are offering a beginner's handbell workshop today led by Wayne Hubbard. Enjoy fellowship and the Quilters' sale after worship then join us in the sanctuary at 12:30 pm. All are welcome, no experience is needed.

We thank the Grace Handbell choir for lending us their talents in worship today.

December 3 Advent 1: Invite (Communion) The Rev. Wendy Adams
Special Music: Grace Camerata

December 10 Advent 2: Plan The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins
(Sacrament of Baptism)

Music Notes

Today is Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday before we move into the season of Advent. In honour of this, we have chosen some great music. Darwell's 148, better known as "Rejoice the Lord is King" reflects this theme particularly well.

John Darwell, the writer of this hymn, was born in the village of Haughton in Staffordshire, England and educated at Manchester Grammar School and Brasenose College, Oxford (which he entered at the age of 14). Graduating in 1756 Darwell became curate and later vicar of St Matthew's Parish in Walsall, in the West Midlands. In 1766 he married his second wife Mary Whateley, a published poet who ran a printing press and also wrote hymns. He died on December 18, 1789 at Walsall and was buried at the Bath Street Burial Grounds.

Darwall is best known for his setting of Psalm 148, known as DARWALL'S 148th, which is most often sung to the words "Rejoice the Lord is King" (from Charles Wesley's *Moral and Sacred Poems* of 1744) and to "Ye holy angels bright" (from Richard Baxter's *Poetical Fragments* of 1681). It was first sung at the inauguration of a new organ in 1773.

Grace Updates

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/updates/



Thank You

We give thanks for the generosity of volunteers such as Cathy Caldwell and Jean Clelland who gave of their time last week to help in the Church Office with congregational mail-outs. Every gift of time and talent in the service of God brings blessings.

Flowers in the Sanctuary during Advent

Please be in touch with the office at 403 244-5861 or office@gracecalgary.org if you, your family or group, would like to place a Christmas floral arrangement behind the communion table to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 17.



Volunteer Opportunities

Advent is fast approaching so plans are underway for making the sanctuary even more beautiful as part of our anticipation of Christmas. Volunteers are welcomed to help hang the garland and decorate the trees on the afternoon of Thursday, November 30. Come join in the fellowship.

English Language Learner Program Coordinator

Grace has had an English Language Learner (ELL) program operating for more than 10 years – it has touched the lives of hundreds of individuals practicing their conversational English in a safe, supportive environment. Currently, classes are offered Monday mornings through the school year. The program is running very smoothly, with dedicated and capable class teachers in place. The Coordinator role is about supporting these volunteer class leaders with the resources they need, trouble-shooting and visioning how to make this program even better.

Please contact the Coordinator of Volunteers, Cindy Stephenson, at volunteers@gracecalgary.org to learn about the many opportunities to serve at Grace.

Poinsettias for Advent

Help Grace Remember 60 Congregants this Advent!

The Pastoral Care and Connection Committee has identified 60 congregants who are homebound or newly facing a Christmas without loved ones. Many of our homebound friends have shared just how much it means to them to be remembered with a poinsettia at Advent time, and to receive a plant that is perfectly sized and manageable in their home. Please help Grace to convey its caring and support through a lovely poinsettia by purchasing a plant by December 1 and sharing whose honour or memory the plant is in.

Poinsettias will be delivered by volunteers starting December 8.

Learn more, purchase a plant, and share the dedication by clicking the button below.

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/2023/10/26/advent-poinsettias/.

If you are able to help deliver some of these much appreciated plants, please be in touch with Cindy Stephenson at volunteers@gracecalgary.org.



RESET Christmas Gift Bags

Donations of bath, beauty and hygiene items to make gift bags for 35 young women would be greatly appreciated. Please set them in the Donation Bin in the entry way to the Family Room until Sunday, December 10.

To learn more about the work RESET is doing to support safe exit from human exploitation and trafficking visit www.resetcalgary.ca.



Thank you for your generosity.

Elder Nominations

As part of our ongoing leadership development at Grace, every two years we recruit new Elders to serve the congregation. Election to the eldership is the call of God, through the congregation, for service in Christ's Church. Since the eldership is a spiritual office concerned with the rule and pastoral oversight of the congregation, only suitable people should be considered. They should be committed Christians, in regular attendance at public worship, persons of sound judgment and upright character, and either knowledgeable or prepared to learn of the government of the church. The right of electing elders is vested in the professing members of the congregation. (*Book of Forms* 132.)

This is how members of Grace can participate in the process of choosing new Ruling Elders (this process follows the guidelines set out in The Presbyterian Church in Canada's *Book of Forms*):

- Pray for potential new Elders.
- Exercise discernment about nominating a member of Grace to this office.
- Find another member to submit a nomination of a potential new Elder. New Elders must be nominated by two members of the congregation.
- How do you do this?
 - Complete the form on-line @ www.gracechurchcalgary.com/2023/10/24/nominate-or-become-an-elder/ or
 - Fill in the form below and forward it to The Rev. Wendy Adams.
- Nominations will be accepted until Monday, December 4, 2023.



Once the nomination period has ended, Rev. Wendy will interview the nominees to gauge their interest moving forward. The nominees will then meet with the Ad Hoc Nomination Committee to explore their sense of calling.

The list of those who feel called will be reviewed by the current Session Elders and then will be voted on by members at a congregational meeting in April of 2024.

Subsequent to their election, there will be a service of ordination.

If you have any questions about this process, you may speak with Rev. Wendy or your Elder.

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Name of Nominee: _____

Name of First Nominator: _____

Name of Second Nominator: _____

Session Highlights

At its regular meeting on November 13, the Session:

- reflected on the Spirit's letters to the angels of the seven churches described in Revelation, imagining how we might describe the characteristics of the angel of the church at Grace
- continued its review of Susan Beaumont's book *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*, focusing on Chapter 3, which encourages leaders to tend the soul of the organization, eliminating the false divide between organizational leadership and spiritual leadership
- gave thanks for the community connection through Trunk N Treat, the beauty of the Remembrance Day concert, and the music in the Church School and prayed for healing for members facing serious diagnoses
- discussed reports of the exit interviews of the Rev. Christian Persaud and the Rev. Maren McLean Persaud. Some of the recommended follow-ups are already being actioned while a small group will identify other potential learnings and recommendations for the Session's consideration
- requested the Rev. Wendy Adams to recommend modifications to the position description for the Support Services Director, with Alan Facey, and to recommend the associated staffing structure
- discussed the year-to-date 2023 financial results and the latest draft of the 2024 budget with the Treasurer. Adjustments to reduce the size of the deficit will be incorporated in the version that is presented to the congregation for consideration on December 10
- was updated on discussions with RESET Society who have advised that Grace House no longer meets their needs. The congregation will be asked to approve the sale of Grace House at the upcoming congregational meeting
- received updated Terms of Reference for the Committees, reflecting the recent adjustments to the Strategic Plan. These Terms of Reference documents will be considered at a future meeting. A \$2000 contract was approved to develop a workable model for leadership development at Grace, before establishing a Leadership Development Committee.
- approved the Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Land, Facilities and Assets Committee. This Committee is to review all current land holdings, facilities reports and financial investments/assets from which the Session will develop strategies aligning with the mission, vision and values
- received reports from the standing Committees, plus the Search and Ad Hoc Elder Election Committees, the Interim Ministers, the Interim Moderator, Support Services Director, Communications Specialist and Co-Ordinator of Volunteers.

Session Highlights cont'd

- decided against proceeding with a proposal to share Grace's building with Our Saviour Anglican Church
- recognized the large number of initiatives underway and gave thanks for the faithful work of so many, and
- closed with prayer and benediction.

Photo Submissions for Photo Directory

Until the end of November, anyone who was unable to come to the church to have their photo taken for the new directory is welcome to submit a photo for inclusion in the photo directory. High resolution digital photos are preferable. The photo must be accompanied by a fully completed and witnessed consent form which can be obtained by calling the church office at 403 244-5861. (Note: The name of everyone who appears in the photo must be listed on the consent form and each adult (age 18 years and older) who appears in the photo must sign the form. One form per family. Please list the names of everyone who appears in the photo from left to right.) For any photo taken by a professional photographer, please include a letter of permission from the photographer for Grace Presbyterian Church and Artistic Impressions to use the photograph. These photos and consents can be emailed to the church office at office@gracecalgary.org with the subject line Photo directory – Family Surname.

Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



God's Grace in Scripture, Wednesday mornings until December 13

God's Grace in Scripture is offered in the Lounge from 9:30 to 10:30 am, followed by a fellowship time. Drop in any week.

Grieving in God's Grace, Wednesday mornings until December 13

Grieving in God's Grace, is held in the Family Room from 10:45 am to 12:15 pm followed by a fellowship time. All are welcome.

"Hallelujah, the Bible and Handel's Messiah" Bible Study

Led by The Rev. Wendy Adams In-Person at Grace Presbyterian Church and online via Zoom, Thursdays in November, 10:00 am to noon. Part 2 resumes in January.

Registration is ongoing at

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/event/hallelujah-the-bible-and-handels-messiah-2/



Grace in Community

Mission Moment



Cyclone Freddy—one of the most powerful storms ever recorded in the southern hemisphere—made landfall in Malawi in March 2023. Thousands in Malawi were left homeless, and with severe crop losses, over 345,000 people were affected by the heavy rains, floods and landslides. Through its partners, PWS&D responded to this devastating disaster by providing maize flour and soya to enable families to meet their immediate food requirements. Additionally, because of critical food insecurity due to droughts and floods in the area, PWS&D implemented a three-month food assistance project for 2,500 households. This project provided food assistance in the form of cash transfers, as well as seeds to produce high-value crops.

To learn more, please visit www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/

Grace Presbyterian Church

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[YouTube](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

Email: office@gracecalgary.org

Twitter/Facebook: @calgarygrace



Grace Advent Calendar

Welcome and Hospitality

Worship Services

Sunday Worship Services

- Sundays at 10:30 am (In-person and livestreamed)

Advent 1, December 3 - Invite (with Communion)

Advent 2, December 10 - Plan

Advent 3, December 17 - Prepare

Advent 4, December 24 - Welcome (with Pageant)

Christmas 1, December 31 - Don't be a Stranger

Special Christmas Eve Service - Stay Awhile

- Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm (In-person and livestreamed)

Events

- Sunday December 3 After Worship: Messy Church Lunch for Families of Grace Kids and Youth
- Sunday, December 10, Noon-2:00pm: Congregational Meeting & Lunch
- Sunday, December 17, 7:00pm: *All is Calm, All is Bright* Choral Christmas Concert

Learn more at
www.GraceChurchCalgary.com



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