

ADVENT 1, INVITING HOPE INTO OUR LIFE
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

December 3, 2023
10:30 am



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

Order of Worship

Land acknowledgement

In a spirit of respect and truth we honour and acknowledge that we worship on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Stoney Nakoda Nations (Bears paw, Chiniki, and Wesley), the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

Prelude **Gottes Sohn ist Kommen**

(God's Son is Coming)

Johannes Walther

(1684—1748)

Welcome and Announcements

Marlene Doherty

Introit **Advent Introits**

James Grzadzinski

Advent Wreath Liturgy

Rob, Sonia and Stephen

Hymn 119 **Hope is a star, verse 1**

Call to Worship

Our world is filled with fear, foreboding, and desolation.

And yet we are invited to lift up our heads.

Signs appear all around us, whispering to give up on hope.

And yet we are invited to come and see.

Many places, outside and within, have been laid waste.

And yet we are invited, for redemption draws near.

We have wandered far and wide, long for peace.

And yet we are always invited to come home.

Come, you are invited! Let us worship God together.

Hymn **# 129 Prepare the way, O Zion**

*

Prayer of Adoration

The Rev. Wendy Adams

"The light radiates through the darkness and no amount of darkness can extinguish it."

As light-seekers we come, O God, and we rejoice in Your light;

May our adoration open a window, that Your light may flood through.

As hope-seekers we come, O God, and we celebrate Your gift of hope;

Capture us as we worship, and make us prisoners of hope.

As Christ-followers we come, O God, and we open ourselves to Christ's life;

Change us as we encounter Your glory, that we may carry Your light into the world.

Into this place of worship we bring the hopes and needs of all ...

We praise You for the light that shatters the darkness, the hope that rises from the ashes, the life that returns from the grave and we pray that they may fill the earth, as dawn fills the sky. Amen.

Rite of Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, O Lord, when we seek to keep you to ourselves and shut others from your influence. Forgive us, O Christ, when our own weakness leads us astray or when we take advantage of the weakness of others. Forgive us, O Spirit, when we deny your friendship and withhold your compassion from others.

Heal us, restore and empower us, O God, we pray for the sake of your kingdom which has broken into our world. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

The Peace

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

And also with you.

Anthem How Long the Prophets Cried

James E. Clemens (b. 1966)

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the table

Hymn # 565 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

†

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us be glad and praise the Lord with shouts of joy, for His light has come, and His glory has risen upon us.

Glorious and merciful God, we praise You and we thank You, that You did not leave us in darkness, You did not abandon us to our sin, You did not reject us when we faltered; But, You led us out from the darkness and into Your marvelous light.

**We thank You, we praise You and we glorify You;
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counsellor, King of Compassion.**

...

Let us hear again the story of this hopeful meal: When Jesus knew the time for His death had come, and the darkness was gathering around Him, He shared His final meal with His friends.

Taking the bread, He gave thanks. Then He broke it and gave to His disciples saying: "This is my body broken for you. Do this, whenever you eat it, to remember Me."

*As the bread is broken the people say: **We thank You, Jesus, for the broken bread.***

After supper, He took the cup and gave thanks. Then He gave it to His disciples saying: "This cup is my blood, bringing a new covenant and forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember Me."

*As the cup is lifted up, the people say: **We thank You, Jesus, for the cup of wine.***

...

**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.**

Grace Updates

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/updates/



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Graceful Seniors Lunch on Thursday, November 23. Approximately 25 people from ages 1 to 97 took part, enjoying fellowship over shepherd's pie and angel food cake. Stay tuned for the next lunch opportunity in 2024. Details to come.

During worship on most Sundays, Sheldon Huang and Angel Lee volunteer to gather and present our offerings. They express their gratitude for God's goodness in this act of service. We are grateful for the joy they share with us each time.

Grace Quilters thank everyone for supporting their Christmas Sale. They appreciate the many purchases that will allow the group to purchase fabrics, batting and machine tuning to continue their joyful outreach mission.

Volunteer Opportunities

Poinsettia Deliverers

60 poinsettia plants will arrive at Grace on Friday, December 8. Please help to bring our good wishes to congregants who can't come to in-person worship or who are facing new loss in their lives this Christmas, by delivering plants over the following few days.

Christmas Luncheon for Clients of the Alex

With a full complement of health, housing, and community programs, The Alex is a hub of supports and outreach services for people who are experiencing poverty, trauma, social isolation, and/or health challenges including addiction. On December 14, the Alex will host a Christmas luncheon here at Grace. Grace volunteers are invited to help welcome Alex guests and to prepare and serve the meal. This is a meaningful opportunity for Grace to connect further with our community, sharing hospitality as followers of Christ.

Session Committee Members

Ministries, programs and projects at Grace are overseen by committees of Session. These committees are served by members and adherents, not just elders, of the congregation who have interest in the ministry of a particular committee and are able to meet typically once per month, by Zoom or in-person. There is a regular rotation of membership and there are currently opportunities for service and impact in a number of these committees.

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 practising 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.

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.



Connaught School Mitten Tree

Grace's Beltline neighbour, Connaught Elementary School, is in need of winter mittens for kids. There is a mitten tree in the Family Room with a collection bin below it.

Please donate mittens and gloves sizes 6X -12.

Donations will be accepted up to and including Sunday, December 17.

Thank you to everyone for helping support families in our neighbourhood.



Grace Events

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/



Congregational Meeting, December 10



A Congregational Meeting is called for Sunday, December 10 from Noon—2:00 pm, following a luncheon in the gym. The purpose of the meeting is to provide Session updates, consider the 2024 budget and the sale of the Grace House. Please register on-line by Tuesday, December 5 (the food order will then be placed).

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

Hallelujah Bible Study, Part 2 resumes Thursday, January 11, 2024, led by The Rev. Wendy Adams. In-Person at Grace Presbyterian Church and online through Zoom.



All is Calm, All is Bright Concert

Get Tickets: [Get tickets online here through Eventbrite](#). (Tickets also available at the door through cash, credit card or debit). Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for students (plus processing fees). Kids 12 and under are free. Ticket sales cover concert expenses and then go towards the Calgary Food Bank.

Grace Presbyterian Church

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[YouTube](#)

[Instagram](#)

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Grace in Community

Mission Moment



Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

As Palestine and Israel are mired in violence and suffering, PWS&D is prepared to respond to the humanitarian needs. The ongoing hostilities have created a humanitarian crisis, with homes, schools, medical facilities and crucial infrastructure having been extensively damaged or destroyed. The conflict has led to a significant mass displacement—1.4 million out of Gaza’s 2.2 million residents are currently displaced. The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) stands in solidarity with all the people of the region, who are enduring the devastating consequences of continued violence and strife. With the church leaders in the area, the PCC condemns all acts that target civilians, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or faith.

PWS&D supports peacebuilding efforts in Israel/Palestine through KAIROS’ Women of Courage program. PWS&D’s humanitarian response will assist with shelter, food, livelihoods, emergency health, psychosocial and mental health support, as well as cash assistance to allow people to purchase the goods they require.

Inspired by God’s promise of abundant life, Presbyterian World Service & Development envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world. To learn more, please visit www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/



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
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