

# ADVENT 3, PREPARE: MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY

Reception of New Members

December 17, 2023



## **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](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com)



## 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 peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Metis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

**Prelude: O Come, O Come Emmanuel** Traditional plainchant/arr: Hart Morris  
**Christmas Chimings** Traditional Carols/arr: Dan R. Edwards  
**(Grace Handbell Choir)**

### Welcome and Announcements

**Mary Jardine**

### Introit Advent Introits

James Grzadzinski

### Advent Wreath Liturgy

**Brenda, Tara and Eden**

**Hymn #119** Hope is a star, verse 3

\*

### Call to Worship

The spirit of God has prepared us by baptizing us with the Holy Spirit,  
**so we will continue to bring the gospel.**

We have been anointed to share the good news,  
**to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners,  
and to comfort all who mourn.**

For God loves justice. So we will prepare the way of the Lord.  
**We will witness to the light!**

**Hymn # 110** Come, thou long-expected Jesus

†

### Prayer of Adoration

**The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins**

## Rite of Reconciliation

### Prayer of Confession

Generous God,

We confess that our concerns are narrow, focused mostly on our own lives.

Opportunities to say thanks or to offer encouragement slip by.

Anxiety turns us inward, and anger can make us lash out.

Forgive us for neglecting the joy at the heart of the Advent season.

Turn our hearts back to you, and inspire us with your love come to redeem us in Jesus Christ.

### Words of Forgiveness

#### The Peace

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

And also with you.

**Anthem** God of the Watching One

Lee Dengler

### Time with young worshippers

**Hymn # 114** Emmanuel, Emmanuel

\*

**Prayer for Understanding**

Grant Stephenson

### Scripture

Jeremiah 61:1-4; 8-11

Psalms 126 (Refrain I)

John 1:6-8; 19-28

**Sermon** Prepare: Make Straight the Way

The Rev. Wendy Adams

**Hymn #113** Comfort, comfort you my people

†

## Reception of New Members David Turner and Ephraim Porter

David Turner and Ephraim Porter

Do you desire, in dependence on the Holy Spirit, to mature as a Christian in the church, to seek the guidance of Christ as you listen for his Word, to celebrate his death and life at the table he provides, and to engage in his mission to the world?

*I do.*

**#539 The Apostles' Creed**

### Shared Congregational Affirmation

God of grace, you call us to a common ministry in the name of Jesus. We praise you for working in the lives of David and Ephraim to bring them to this moment of affirmation and the acceptance of the rights and responsibilities of life in your church. Together, may we give witness to your wonderful deeds and mighty acts. Together, may we uphold justice and work for peace. Strengthen us by your Spirit to fulfil the vows that unite us in common faith and purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Response:** Come to us, Christ Jesus;

And bring us joy

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** My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord Magnificat—Michael Praetorius

**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

Barb Voynovich

**Hymn # 115 Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

†

## Benediction

**Choral Amen # 780 Amen**

†

**Postlude "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"**

Robert Lau

*Flowers are shared in the sanctuary by Carol Evans to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. J. Keith Evans.*

### Music Notes:

Welcome to the third Sunday in Advent! Today's music follows our ongoing theme of Advent melodies starting with a beautifully contemplative arrangement "O Come O Come Emmanuel" performed by Grace's Handbell Choir. After this, they will give us a little foretaste of Christmas with "Christmas Chummings". See how many tunes you can recognize in this fun piece.

On the third Sunday in Advent, it is appropriate to sing the song of Mary, the Magnificat ("My Soul doth Magnify the Lord"). The Magnificat is one of the eight most ancient Christian hymns, and the canticle is most frequently recited within the Liturgy of the Hours. In Western Christianity, the Magnificat is most often sung or recited during the main evening prayer service, Vespers in the Catholic and Lutheran churches, and Evening prayer (or Evensong) in Anglicanism. In Eastern Christianity, the Magnificat is always sung at Matins. The Magnificat may also be sung during worship services, especially in the Advent season during which these verses are traditionally read. Today's setting is adapted by the Reformation-era composer Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

### Permissions/Licensing

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† Public Domain



## Life and Work at Grace Church

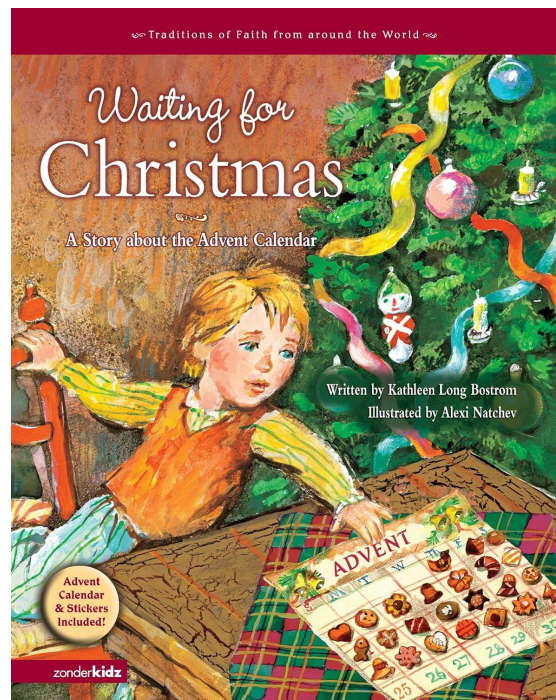
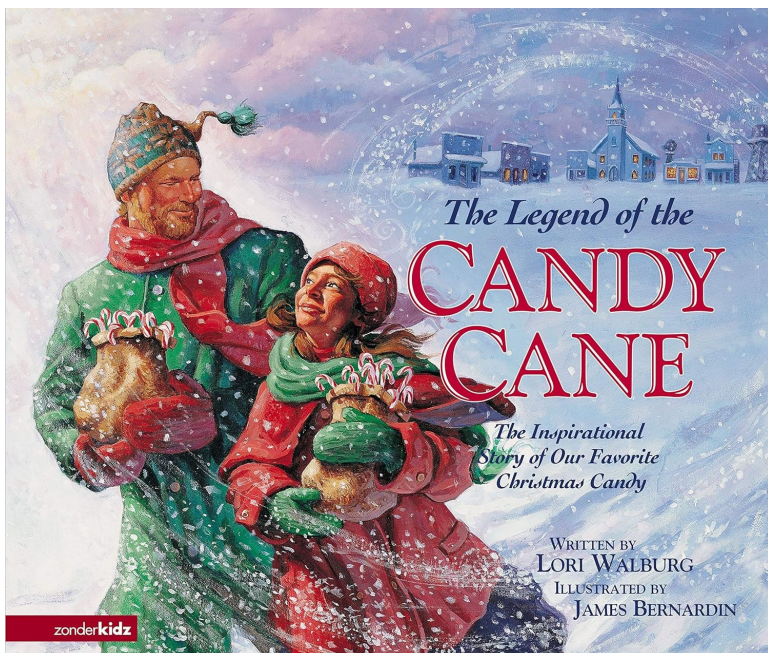
[www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/)



### Worship Services

- ◇ Sundays at 10:30 am in-person.
- ◇ Livestreamed to watch anytime at [www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/](http://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.

December 24	Advent 4: Christmas Pageant	The Revs. Wendy and Geoffrey
December 24	Candlelight Service 7:00 pm	The Revs. Wendy and Geoffrey
December 31	Christmas 1: Don't be a stranger	The Rev. Wendy Adams



### Dr. Ruby Walker Library: Children's Section

Parents, please bring your children to the Children's Library section in the Family Room following Sunday School December 17 to choose from the many Christmas books available to sign out, take home and enjoy. A library volunteer will be present to lend assistance.

There are of course, Christmas books in the adult area as well.

## Grace Updates

[www.gracechurchcalgary.com/updates/](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/updates/)



## Thank You

Over 60 poinsettias, along with our Christmas wishes, have been delivered to congregants who have been homebound or facing loss this year. Thank you to the many volunteers who made this happen.

We give thanks to donors and for the gift of time and talent of Nancy Connors, Clark Hanna, Mary Jardine, Carol Latter, Lesley Lee, Anne Mohtadi, Judith Podewils, Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet and Richard Wilson, who assisted the Alex in the preparation and service of a Christmas luncheon to their clients. We are grateful for the hospitality that they modeled.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Session Committee Members

There are currently opportunities for service and impact in a number of session committees. These committees oversee the ministries and projects at Grace, and are served by members and adherents, not just elders. Typically, they meet once per month, by Zoom or in person.

### Church School Leaders

As we prepare the schedule for Church School classes for January through June, it would be wonderful to include your name as one of the leaders. Please consider if you can give one Sunday per month to help Grace fulfill the vows we all make at each baptism.

### English Language Learner Program Co-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 Co-Coordinators support these volunteer class leaders with the resources they need, troubleshooting and visioning how to make this program even better.

Please contact the Coordinator of Volunteers, Cindy Stephenson, at [volunteers@gracecalgary.org](mailto:volunteers@gracecalgary.org) to learn about the many opportunities to serve at Grace.



# THIS EVENING

## All is Calm, All is Bright Concert



*Grace Presbyterian Church presents*

**ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT**

**CHORAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 7PM  
(DOORS OPEN 6:30PM)

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1009 15 AVE SW

A FEAST FOR THE EARS FEATURING MULTIPLE CHURCH  
CHOIRS WITH 100+ SINGERS



Grace Presbyterian Church  
Transforming Lives Through Christ's Love

Get Tickets: [www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/)



Tickets are 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.

Donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted at the door for the Calgary Food Bank.

### Grace Presbyterian Church

1009 15 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0S5

Phone: 403-244-5861

Email: [office@gracecalgary.org](mailto:office@gracecalgary.org)

Website: [www.gracechurchcalgary.com](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com)

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