

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS**

**December 24, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**



Frank Wesley, Nativity with Children  
Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. Nativity with Children, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/link.pl?RC=59186> [retrieved December 19, 2023]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, [http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main\\_page.htm](http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm).

**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)



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



## A Christmas Greeting from the Interim Ministers at Grace



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

*“A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.”*

At Christmas we remember the coming of Christ into our world as the fulfilment of the promise of the Messiah. Throughout the year we recall Christ's life and try to walk in his footsteps. The interim ministers at Grace wish to thank every one of the people who make up the Grace Community. We are thankful for the staff and elders who do large things overseeing operations and our facilities, for the committee members and participants who take care of details throughout the year and for the volunteers who show up, ready to jump in and get things done. We are also thankful for those who are just joining us, perhaps for the first time. God continues to work in us and through us; we encourage you to explore with us the ways that God may even now be at work in you, bringing you closer to God's loving embrace and call to change the world for the better.

Now, as we reach the close of the year, we can look back and see how very much we have accomplished. Through prayer and discernment we have tried to be inspired by the Holy Spirit; through study and community we have grown as disciples of Jesus Christ. Through your gifts and offerings, our ministry takes many forms as we love our neighbours through the work of mission, education, outreach, engagement, and pastoral care.

May God bless you this Christmas and throughout the coming year,  
The Revs. Wendy Adams and Geoffrey Simmins

# 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 of carols

**Processional Hymn 159 O come, all ye faithful** †

**Welcome and Opening Prayer** **The Rev. Wendy Adams**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath Liturgy** **Fran, Robin and Mark Tomlinson**

**Hymn 141 Good Christians, all rejoice** †

## Responsive Prayer

God, creator of all things, we know that Jesus was in the beginning with you.  
We have waited in darkness,  
**but now a light shines, and the darkness will not overcome it.**

We will testify to the light,  
**because we have seen a great light.**

A child of many names has been born for us:  
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Parent.**

And now we celebrate the birth of Christ, ringing in endless peace, justice, and righteousness.

**God, your mighty zeal has done these things, and we will not be afraid.**

**Prayer of Adoration** **The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins**

## Rite of Reconciliation

### Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth,  
In Christ you offer us the gift of yourself,  
but we are attracted to presents under the tree.  
You came to us in flesh and blood,  
but we fail to see you in the humans right beside us.  
You shine in the world,  
but we dwell on the darkness in the daily news.  
Forgive us.  
Renew our hope and our trust in you  
as you reach out to us from the manger.  
Amen.

### Words of Forgiveness

#### The Peace

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

## The Story of Christmas

Narration: Revs. Wendy and Geoffrey

<b>Hymn 166</b> Once in Royal David's City	†
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7	<b>Ben Matthews</b>
Scripture: Luke 2:1-7	<b>Iain Robertson</b>
<b>Hymn 154</b> Silent Night	†
<b>Hymn 168</b> See amid the winter's snow	†
Scripture: Luke 2:8-20	<b>Kerri Kroeker</b>
<b>Hymn 139</b> Hark! the herald angels sing	†
Scripture: John 1:1-14	<b>Richard Wilson</b>





**Notes:**

## **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)

Twitter/Facebook: @calgarygrace

[YouTube](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)