

#### 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

Please find Online Worship at: www.gracechurchcalgary.com



The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris
Interim Moderator

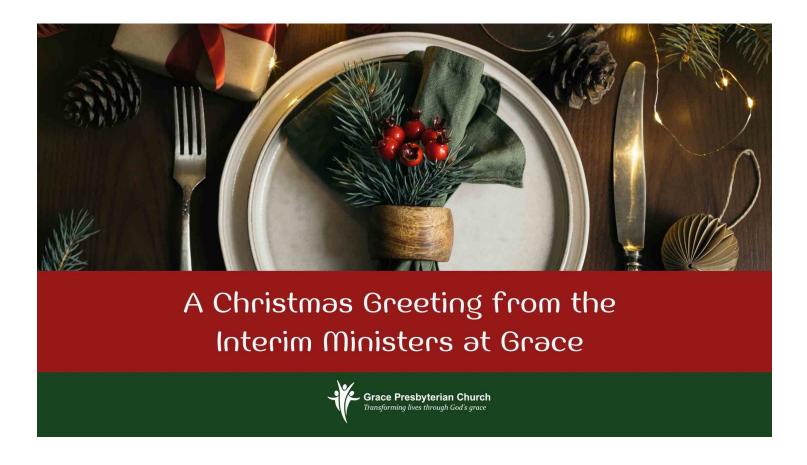
The Rev. Jake Van Pernis (parental leave) Assoc. Minister, Engagement & Service

The Rev. Wendy Adams
Interim Minister

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins Interim Minister

Matt Kallio Music Coordinator





"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: Prelude on Rorate Caeli

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Jeanne Demmessieux

Robert Lau

**Welcome and Announcements** 

Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet

**Introit** Advent Introits

James Grzadzinski

**Advent Wreath Liturgy** 

Adauny, Abuk and Aluat

**Hymn** 119 Hope is a star, verse 4

\*

## **Call to Worship**

People of God: rejoice!

We leap for joy at the sound of your greeting! We rejoice, for God is in our midst.

In the name of God, all people are welcome in this place.

We exult with all our hearts; we sing aloud and shout with delight.

Our souls will magnify the Divine,

for God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly. The Almighty has done great things for us.

God will gather the outcast and change shame into praise. God will bring us home.

Hymn 122 Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel vv. 1, 5, 7

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**Prayer of Adoration** 

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins

#### **Rite of Reconciliation**

# **Prayer of Confession**

God of mystery and mercy, You came to offer us love, but we confess we can be stubborn and selfish in the ways we live. You came to reconcile all people, but we often nurse grudges and resist repairing relationships.

Forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be, through Jesus Christ who reaches out to us from the manger and the cross. Amen

# **Words of Forgiveness**

#### The Peace

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

### **Pageant**

**Narration: The Rev. Wendy Adams** 

# Stay Awhile Children's Program written by Kara Eidson

Reader 1: Ngath	
Hymn 149 Away in a manger verse 1	†
Reader 2: Nya	
<b>Hymn 150</b> Jesus our brother, kind and good	†
Reader 3: Doch	
Hymn 146 Angels from the realms of glory verse 1	†
Reader 4: Alexis	
<b>Hymn 136</b> The first nowell verse 1	†
Reader 5: Stephen	
<b>Hymn 154</b> Silent night verse 1	†
Reader 6: Giyth	
<b>Hymn 159</b> O Come, all ye faithful verse 1	†
<b>Hymn 153</b> Joy to the world	†

#### **Reflection: Christmas Gifts**

## **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours.

## 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**

Anthem: O Come, Emmanuel Elaine Hagenberg

Offertory Response Hymn 145 In the bleak mid-winter v.4

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

**Prayer for Our Offering** 

**Carol Evans** 

Hymn 133 Go, tell it on the mountain

K

**Benediction** 

**Choral Amen 780 Amen** 

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Postlude Von Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (From Heaven above to earth I come)

J.S. Bach

To the glory of God the flowers in the sanctuary today are given in honour of long-time members Ted and Lola Rozsa by their daughter Mary Lil.

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<sup>†</sup> Public Domain

# <u>Life and Work at Grace Church</u> www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/

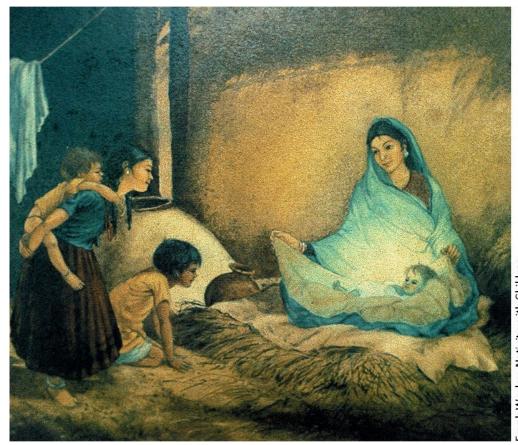


## **Worship Services**

- ♦ Sundays at 10:30 am in-person.
- Livestreamed to watch anytime at <u>www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/</u>
- 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 Candlelight Service 7:00 pm

The Revs. Wendy and Geoffrey



Frank Wesley, Nativity with Children
Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. Nativity with Children, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbill
Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://digilib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pi?Rc=59186 [retrieved
December 19, 2023]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main\_page.htm.

# December 31 Christmas 1: Don't be a stranger The Rev. Wendy Adams

### Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped with today's Children's Pageant: Anne Mohtadi our Church School Coordinator, to all our Youth, Kids and Church School teachers, to our show runners JoAnn and Greg Retzer, and to Ephraim Porter who created the cue cards. Thanks also to Cindy Stephenson our Volunteer Coordinator who assists all year to make sure our programs run smoothly, and to the Choir and musicians for their assistance with the Christmas carols.

### **Grace Events**

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/events/

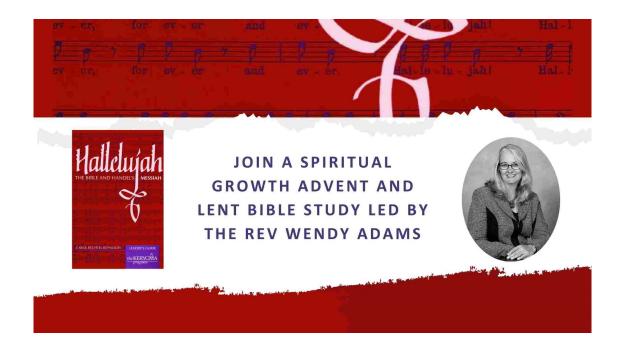


#### **God's Grace in Scripture**

God's Grace in Scripture will resume meeting on January 10 at 9:30 am and continue on a 6-week on, 2-3 week off rotation through the spring, with lay leaders facilitating discussion. Please drop in anytime.

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

"Hallelujah, the Bible and Handel's Messiah" Bible Study, led by The Rev. Wendy Adams In-Person at Grace Presbyterian Church and online through Zoom, will resume Thursday, January 11, 2024, 10:00 am to noon.



# **Grace Presbyterian Church**

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