

**ADVENT 4, CHRISTMAS GIFTS
PAGEANT SUNDAY**

**December 24, 2023
10:30 a.m.**



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



A Christmas Greeting from the Interim Ministers at 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: Prelude on Rorate Caeli

Jeanne Demmessieux

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

†

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

Hymn 150 Jesus our brother, kind and good

†

Reader 3: Doch

Hymn 146 Angels from the realms of glory verse 1

†

Reader 4: Alexis

Hymn 136 The first nowell verse 1

†

Reader 5: Stephen

Hymn 154 Silent night verse 1

†

Reader 6: Giyth

Hymn 159 O Come, all ye faithful verse 1

†

Hymn 153 Joy to the world

†

Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the rest of the service.

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

*

Benediction

Choral Amen 780 Amen

†

**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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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.

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 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.

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 Presbyterian Church

1009 15 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0S5

Phone: 403-244-5861

Email: office@gracecalgary.org

Website: www.gracechurchcalgary.com

Twitter/Facebook: @calgarygrace

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