



# Songs of Advent

**SAVING SONGS**

**DECEMBER 15, 2024 10:30 AM**

**WORSHIP ONLINE:**

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

## **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



**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 live, work, play, and worship on the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai Nations) the Tsuut'ina Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Otipemisiwak Metis Government of the Metis Nation within Alberta Districts 5 and 6.

### **Prelude “Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland - Fantasia misteriosa pro tempore Adventus”**

Felix Brauer

*(Mysterious Fantasia for the Advent Season:  
Now, Saviour of the Nations Come)*

*Worship begins with the Prelude. We invite you to centre yourself as you listen and acknowledge the Spirit gathering you into this community of worship.*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Jim Campbell**

*Welcome to all who are guests with us. If comfortable doing so, please let us know you are here by filling out the card located in the pew and placing it in the offering plate when passed.*

### **Blessing of gift bag for RESET**

**Jake Van Pernis**

### **Introit Rorate Caeli**

Plainchant/arr: J. Michael Thompson

*Please stand in body or spirit*

Rorate Caeli desuper,  
et nubes pluant justum.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.  
Lord, now turn to us and see your chosen people's  
affliction and send down him who is to come,  
the One promised, Lamb, sovereign of the nations,  
From the rock in the desert to the mount of your  
daughter Sion: that he may bring pardon,  
taking the yoke of our long slav'ry.

### **Advent Call to Worship and Lighting the Candle of Joy**

**Doch, Giyth and Ngath**

Refer to insert



## Prayer of Adoration

**Hymn 126 On Jordan's bank**

Blue Hymnal

## Rite of Reconciliation

*Please be seated*

### Invitation

### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,  
you call us to bear fruit worthy of repentance.  
We confess our lives often bear other fruits:  
the fruits of selfishness rather than sharing,  
the fruits of fear rather than faith,  
the fruits of complacency rather than commitment.  
You and you alone, God of compassion,  
can heal us of our sin  
and produce in us the righteous fruit that brings life.  
Forgive us and help us turn again to you,  
and guide us to discover what is honourable, just,  
and pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

### The Peace

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

## **Anthem Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland**

arr: Robert Farrell

*(Saviour of the Nations Come)*

Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.  
From the Father forth he came, and returns unto the same,  
Captive leading death and hell. High the song of triumph swell.  
You, the Father's only Son, have o'er sin the vict'ry won.  
Boundless shall your kingdom be; when shall we its glories see?

Dew from heaven, gently come; bring our barren land to bloom.  
Melt our mountains, blessed rain; let proud hills be level plain.  
Long desired of ages past, show yourself to us at last;  
And from sins captivity call us back and set us free.  
Brightly does your manger shine; glorious is its light divine.  
Let not sin o'er cloud this light; ever be our faith this bright.

## **Time with Young Christians**

**Chris Joiner**

*Children age 4 through Grade 6 are invited to Church School following this time.*

## **Prayer for Understanding**

**Dan Philips**

## **Scripture Readings Isaiah 12:2-6**

Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg 841

## **Cantor Verse View the Present Through the Promise**<sup>OL</sup> Arr: Roy Hopp

View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.  
Trust despite the deeping darkness, Christ will come again.  
Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing  
in the joy past joy's conceiving: Christ will come again.

## **Luke 3: 7-18**

New Testament, pg. 50

## **Sermon *A Song of Saving***

## **Hymn 120 Lo! Christ comes with clouds**

Blue Hymnal

*Please stand in body or spirit*

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

*Please be seated*

**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 Share Our Offerings

Estel Latchman

## Offertory “Wachet Auf”

*(Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying)*

Paul Manz Op. 5 #7

## Prayer of Dedication

## Response to Sharing Our Offerings

*Please stand in body or spirit*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above ye heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## Hymn 153 Joy to the world

Blue Hymnal

## Benediction

## Sending Hymn Wait for the Lord

Taizé /Jacques Berthier

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near**

**Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!**

*Please be seated*

## Postlude Chorale Prelude: Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland

J.S. Bach

*(Saviour of the Nations Come)*

*The end of the Postlude marks the end of our service. We invite you to join in a time of fellowship in the Family Room, located across the hall from the Sanctuary.*

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are placed to the glory of God from Elisabeth Cressman.

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## Life and Work at Grace Church

### **Worship Services**

- ◇ Sundays, 10:30 a.m. in-person and online; fellowship follows in Family Room
- ◇ Worship can be watched anytime at [www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/)
- ◇ The South Sudanese community will meet in Grace's Chapel today at 12:30 p.m.
- ◇ The Anyuak community will meet in Grace's Chapel today at 3:00 p.m.

### **Advent Worship *Songs of Advent: Prophecy and Praise***

In the season of Advent Grace continues to explore the theme *Songs of Advent, Prophecy and Praise* where the Revised Common Lectionary through the texts, invites an exploration of the words of the prophets of the Old / Hebrew Testament and the praise offered by different people the good news shared in the Gospels.

The fourth and final Sunday of Advent is December 22 and the theme to be explored is *A Song of the Soul* where the text leads us to the prophetic words from Micah sharing the one of peace will come from Bethlehem and the song Mary sings "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

December 22	Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-55 Sermon: <i>A Song of the Soul</i> 7:00 p.m. Evening Grace Blue Christmas Service	The Rev. Dr. Chris Joiner    The Rev. Jake Van Pernis
December 29	Growing in Favour: <i>The Adolescent Years</i> Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-27, Luke 2:41-52	The Rev. Jake Van Pernis

## Grace Updates

### **Advent & Christmas Books Available from Grace's Ruby Walker Library**

Advent and Christmas books are currently on display in both the Adult and Children's sections of Grace's Ruby Walker Library, located in Grace's Family Room. You are encouraged to sign these books out and take them home to enjoy. Please return the books to the blue box on the library desk within two to three weeks.

### **Help Decorate the Christmas Tree in Grace's Chapel**

As part of remembering the holiday season elicits many feelings and memories, the congregation and community of Grace are invited to bring an ornament to hang on the tree that will be in Grace's Chapel. This ornament can symbolize a loved one you are remembering or serve as a personal reflection of this season. You can place your ornament on the tree anytime until December 22.

During Grace's Blue Christmas Service on the evening of Sunday, December 22, a special moment will be incorporated where these ornaments will be taken off the tree. This act will be a meaningful part of the service, symbolizing love and memories that are held dear.

### **Office Hours during and after Christmas as well as at New Year' Eve and New Year's Day.**

Monday, December 23 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24 - 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY - Closed - Merry Christmas!

Boxing Day - Closed

Friday, December 27 - 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday, December 30 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 31 - 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

New Year's Day - Closed - Happy New Year!

Thursday and Friday, January 2 and 3 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Grace Gives Thanks

Grace gives thanks for the many volunteers who showed compassion and gave of their time to deliver sixty poinsettias, along with Christmas blessings from Grace on Sunday, December 8, to congregants who have been homebound or are facing loss this year. One recipient called the office and said "I would like to send a thank you note but cannot write anymore so am calling to say, 'Thank you very much for this lovely poinsettia Grace has sent me. I wish everyone at Grace a merry Christmas!' "

## Music Notes

The repeated tune for Advent 3 is "Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland" translated into English as "Now Saviour of the Nations Come. The music is a stately and majestic theme, and is in a minor key. This tune is a perennial favourite and has been used by composers throughout the centuries. Prior to the Reformation "Now Saviour of the Nations Come" was the Latin Advent hymn *Veni redemptor gentium* (Come, Redeemer of the Nations) and was attributed to Ambrose of Milan. Martin Luther translated this Advent hymn helping it be known today. The prelude, anthem and postlude are all works based off of this ancient Advent melody.

## Grace Kids & Youth

All Grace Kids and Youth have been invited to Grace's Christmas Party following worship today, until 1:30 p.m. The party will include a pizza lunch, games, and crafts.

Youth in Grades 7-12 are invited to bring a wrapped gift (something from home or new to you that cost less than \$5) for a White Elephant Gift Exchange as a part of the Grace Kids and Youth Christmas Party. Potential gifts could be a coffee mug from a thrift store or home that doesn't get used, a can of vegetables, a candy bar or two - be creative and have fun in picking out a White Elephant gift. Please know extra gifts will be available if you have been unable to bring a gift.

## Grace Events

### **Grace at a Glance**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 15 | Grace Kids and Youth Christmas Party<br><i>All is Calm, All is Bright</i> Concert   |
| December 22 | Grace's Church School on Break, All Ages Worship Together<br>7:00 p.m. Evening Grace: Blue Christmas Service                            |
| December 24 | 4:00 p.m. All Ages Worship<br>7:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols (Nursery Care will be available)<br>10:00 p.m. Communion & Candlelight Service |
| December 25 | Grace closed - Merry Christmas!   |
| December 26 | Grace closed - Merry Christmas!   |
| December 29 | Grace's Church School on Break, All Ages Worship Together   |



January 1	Grace Closed—Happy New Year!
January 5	Winter / Spring term of Grace’s Church School begins
January 8	Wednesday Lectionary Bible Study winter start-up
January 9	Grace Chancel Choir rehearsals for Winter / Spring begin
January 14	Grace Bethany meeting
January 19	<i>Living Our Faith</i> course
January 25	Grace Quilters

### **RESET Society Gift Bags**

Each year Grace volunteers prepare gift bags for women following the RESET (Rapid Exit from Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking) program. Thirty plus gift bags have been made and will be donated to RESET prior to Christmas. Thank you for your generosity and support.



### **Grace is Building a Diaper Tree Forest**

Grace's Engagement and Service Committee is excited to announce a special initiative this holiday season! Diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6) will be collected to build a Diaper Tree Forest on December 15. These diapers will be shared with local community partners, including Connaught School and the Calgary Food Bank, to support families with young children.

How To Help:

Diaper Drop-off Date: Sunday, December 15

Drop-off Location: By the Christmas Tree in Grace’s Family Room.

Diaper donations will make a significant difference in the lives of many families this holiday season. Thanks for the support and kindness.

### **2025 Book Study- *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change The World***

Grace will be offering a year-long book study on *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World* by Kathy Escobar, beginning in January 2025 and going until December 2025, meeting once a month, with a break in July.

Rev. Jake will help to lead the study along with book study members. The structure of the study will be:

- Gathering around a shared simple meal starting at 5:45 p.m.

- Conversation about the practice each chapter introduces and shared reflections on living into previous chapter’s practice starting at 6:15 p.m.

- Each session of the *Practicing* study will conclude at 7:30 p.m.

The invitation of this study is to deepen your understanding of the ten transformational practices outlined by Kathy Escobar, as well as have the opportunity to engage in and share about practicing these ten practices with an engaged community of fellow readers sharing support and encouragement.

Here's an overview and description of *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World*, by Kathy Escobar:

In *Practicing*, Pastor Kathy Escobar inspires and challenges readers with practical encouragement to live their faith through real action using ten transformational practices, including listening more, including the marginalized, advocating for justice, and mourning with those who grieve. By putting our hearts, hands, and feet behind our good intentions, we can transform our groups, our communities, and our world.

Escobar, a pastor and spiritual director, provides insights and exercises to help readers integrate these practices into their daily lives, fostering personal and communal transformation. Her writing is extremely interactive, relational, and practical.

### **The *Practicing* Book Study Schedule:**

**January 9, 2025:** Introduction & sharing interests and hopes for *Practicing* Study

**February 13, 2025:** The Practice of Healing

**March 13, 2025:** The Practice of Listening

**April 10, 2025:** The Practice of Loving

**May 8, 2025:** The Practice of Including

**June 12, 2025:** The Practice of Equalizing

**August 14, 2025:** The Practice of Advocating

**September 11, 2025:** The Practice of Mourning

**October 9, 2025:** The Practice of Failing

**November 13, 2025:** The Practice of Resting

**December 4, 2025:** The Practice of Celebrating & Conclusion of *Practicing* Study

Copies of *Practicing* are available at your favourite retailer of books and copies will be made available through Grace's office.

Looking forward to this transformational study in 2025.

## **Blue Christmas Service – December 22, 2024**

While the holiday season is joyous for many, it can be challenging for those experiencing grief, loss, or hardship. Recognizing this, Grace Presbyterian Church invites you to our Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 22, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the chapel.



## **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

Grace enters into the season of Christmas on December 24, Christmas Eve, with three different services:

4:00 p.m. is a participatory All Ages Christmas Eve Worship where the Grace Notes Children's Choir will help with music leadership and excitement and energy are welcome!



At 7:00 p.m. Grace will share a service of Lessons and Carols, where readings from scripture are matched with the carols of Christmas. At 6:40 our music ministry team, choir and guest musicians will play a festive mini program of carols to celebrate this special service so please come early and listen.

There will be Nursery Care for children 1-3 years old will be available for this service.

At 10:00 p.m. the service will include sharing communion and the sharing time of candlelight where we reflect on the growing light of Christ in the world.



## Grace Leadership and Staff

### Session Elders

Nancy Connors  
Mark Durieux  
Clark Hanna  
Janet Hyde  
Mary Jardine  
Joanne Kellough  
Anne Mohtadi  
Jiebieni Nyajwok  
Okwayi Obang  
Shirley Philips (Clerk)  
Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet  
Cindy Stephenson  
Matthew Vyse  
Len Wolstenholme

### Service Elders

Jim Campbell  
Fran Cormack  
Bill Cruickshanks  
Marlene Doherty  
Bob Ermter  
Carol Evans  
Margot Kellough  
Richard Kim  
Bonnie Noyce Faust  
Iain Robertson  
Les Wilson

### Treasurer

Rob McDonald

### Staff

The Rev. Dr. Chris Joiner - *Lead Minister*  
The Rev. Jake Van Pernis - *Associate Minister*  
Matt Kallio - *Music Director*  
Alan Facey - *Support Services Director*  
Cindy Stephenson - *Coordinator of Volunteers*  
Rob McDonald - *Accountant*  
Dana Seiffert - *Admin Support*  
Brenda Robertson - *Admin Support*  
Andrew Manuel - *Communications Specialist*  
Craig Murphy - *Facilities*  
Ngath Diok - *Facilities*  
Teri Telfer - *Facilities*  
Nathan Kelly - *Facilities*  
Pavel Thomson - *Facilities*  
Jim Hatridge - *Facilities*

### Deacons

Nancy Connors - *Hospital and Health Care*  
Elizabeth Cressman - *Bereavement Care*  
Margot Kellough - *Homebound Care*  
Jennifer Williams - *Welcome and Hospitality*

### Committee Conveners

David Turner – Financial Management  
Barbara Henson – Gratitude & Giving  
Darlene & Mike Jones – Engagement & Service  
Margot Kellough – Pastoral Care & Connection  
Laurie Livingstone – Governance  
Lorna McNeill – Spiritual Growth  
Robin Telfer – Land & Facilities  
Clark Hanna – Minister Resource & Presbytery Relations