



# Songs of Advent

**SOUL SONGS**

**DECEMBER 22, 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 **Magnificat Fugue**

J. Pachelbel

### **A Carol Jubilee**

Arr: Sharon Rogers

*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

### **Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet**

*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.*

### 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.  
Now be comforted, now be comforted, hear me,  
my people: quickly, quickly comes your salvation:  
why do you give way to sorrowing,  
Has your grieving ended your sadness?  
Your Savior comes, do not be fearful, for it is I,  
your Lord and your mighty Ruler, Sion's Holy One  
and your Redeemer.

### Advent Call to Worship and Lighting the Candle of Love

### **Elaine and Ken Moody**

Refer to insert

### Prayer of Adoration

### **Jake Van Pernis**

### Hymn **125 People, look east**

Blue Hymnal

## Rite of Reconciliation

*Please be seated*

### Invitation

#### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence  
we confess our sins and the sins of this world.  
Although we have found love in Christ,  
we are a people divided against ourselves  
and against one another.  
We can be filled with pride,  
looking with disdain on the lowly.  
We abuse your good gifts  
of imagination and freedom, intellect and reason,  
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.  
Lord have mercy upon us.  
Heal us, forgive us and set us free  
to serve you in the world  
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

#### Assurance of Pardon

#### The Peace

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

### Anthem

#### Midwinter Song

Arr: Susan Labarr

Snow-flakes with softest breath descend upon the downy earth;  
in deep December do commend a long remember'd birth.  
In purest white a blanket falls to swaddle leaf and limb,  
while all the world in amber halls lift up a cheerful hymn.

As on the eve of song glad tidings fill the air,  
thus offer folk in happy throng their carol strains so fair.  
While snow is falling, snow on snow, across the starlit land,  
new winds of hope their echoes blow of ancient heav'nly band.

Since sacred love should hope all things today, as on that night,  
let mortal hearts rejoicing bring a spark of gladsome light.  
For all who strive to live in love alight with faith anew,  
and lift our eyes to sun above amid the dawning dew.

## Time with Young Christians

*Children and Youth remain in worship today*

Chris Joiner

## Prayer for Understanding

Ben Stephenson

## Scripture Readings Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg 818

## 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 love past love's conceiving:  
Christ will come again.

## Luke 1: 39-55

Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 49

## Sermon *Songs of Soul and Promise*

## Hymn My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout<sup>OL</sup>

arr: Ray Cooner

Glory to God Hymnal, Hymn 100

*Please stand in body or spirit*

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west, shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?**

## Refrain

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
for the world is about to turn.**

**Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.**

**Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn.**

*Refrain*

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.**

**Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.**

**The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn.**

*Refrain*

**Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:**

**God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.**

**This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around.**

*Refrain*

## **Prayers of the People**

### **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

Okwayi Obang

### Offertory Magnificat

Taizé/Jacques Berthier

Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

My soul sings praises to the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful of his humble servant; henceforth all generations will  
call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me; holy is his name.

His mercy stretches from age to age upon those who revere him.

He has put forth his arm in strength scattering the proud-hearted.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly

He has filled the hungry with good things, he has sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has helped his servant Israel ever remembering his love,

the love he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever.

Sing out, my soul, my heart rejoices in the Lord!

### 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.**

### Prayer of Dedication

**Hymn 131 Tomorrow Christ is coming**

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 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Thomas Keesecker

*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.*

Grace thanks the Grace Handbells Choir for their contribution to music during worship today.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are placed to the glory of God 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](#)

### **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.

### **Blue Christmas Service**

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 p.m. in the Chapel.



## Christmas Eve Worship Services

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

(Doors will open 1 hour prior to the beginning of 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 p.m. 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 for this service.

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

## Christmas and Epiphany - Growing in Favour

Jesus is from the very beginning with God and the very Word of God. Yet, Jesus was human as we are, experiencing growth and familial relations common to us all. These experiences show a picture of Jesus not often explored and leads up to his baptism in the waters of the Jordan River. We will explore the mystery and wonder these stories evoke as we explore what it means to grow in favour in Christ.

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
January 5	Growing in Favour: <i>Moving into the World</i> Jeremiah 31:7-14 John 1:1-18	The Rev. Dr. Chris Joiner

## Ministers Away

Rev. Chris will be away from Thursday, December 26 through Thursday, January 2.



## Grace Updates

### **Piano in the Sanctuary**

Please notice the beautiful sound of the Steinway piano that is in Grace's sanctuary over this Christmas season. Having this piano at Grace is an unexpected benefit of a concert held in Grace's Sanctuary recently.

### **NAMETAGS are here**

Please stop by Grace's Alcove and pick up your nametag. If you expected that there would be one for you, or would like to order one now, please email the Church Office at [office@gracecalgary.org](mailto:office@gracecalgary.org)

### **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 willingness of volunteers to share in the leadership of worship each Sunday. This lay participation in worship is a reminder of the priesthood of all believers, where each of us "may proclaim the excellence of [God], who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light". Having fellow believers communicate announcements, light the Christ candle, lead the Call to Worship, pray, read Scripture, gather and present our offerings, all to God's glory is a true gift to Grace.

## Grace Events

### Grace at a Glance

December 22	Grace's Church School on Break, All Ages Worship Together 7:00 p.m. Evening Grace: Blue Christmas Service
December 24	4:00 p.m. All Ages Worship 7:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols (Nursery Care will be available) 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 7	Grace Handbells Choir rehearsals for Winter / Spring begin
January 8	Wednesday Lectionary Bible Study Winter start-up
January 9	Grace Chancel Choir rehearsals for Winter / Spring begin Book Study <i>Practicing</i> begins
January 14	Grace Bethany meeting
January 19	<i>Living Our Faith</i> course
January 25	Grace Quilters

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

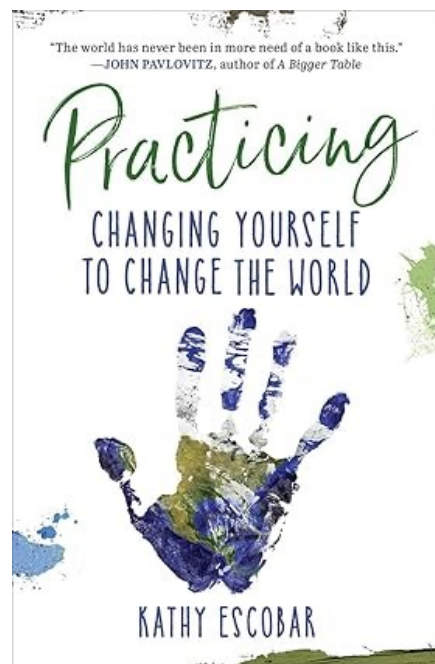
Grace is offering a year-long book study on *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World* by Kathy Escobar, beginning in January and going until December 2025, meeting once a month, with a break in July.

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.

Conversations about the practice each chapter introduces and exchanging reflections on 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 to 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 (Thursdays):**

**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.

## 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