

Following Jesus' teachings, Grace seeks to educate, lead, and partner with all people through discipleship to worship, service, and faith celebration.

# Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022 8:30am

Grace Lutheran Church † Davenport, Iowa  
Pastor Stephanie Wood

**Welcome! We are so happy you have joined us!**

Please complete an attendance card – located in the pews or at the usher's table.

## Prelude

*Hark the Glad Sound* ..... Setting by Kevin Hildebrand

## Announcements

## Call to Worship

Heart & Voice Choir *Wait and You Shall See*

## Call to Confession

P: Fear can be a good thing. It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway. It can alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best.

However, fear can also be harmful. For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make sinful choices in our lives—choices such as building walls or tearing others down. (*Silence for Reflection.*)

Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. As we confess, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, “Do not be afraid.” Let us pray:

## Prayer of Confession

P: Patient God,

C: you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid” on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With hope we pray. Amen.

## Words of Forgiveness

P: Family of faith, even when we forget God’s words, God does not forget us. Even when we lose our way, God does not lose us. Even when we fall short or make mistakes, God forgives and holds onto us. We are known, forgiven, and loved. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

*Blessed Be the God of Israel* ..... ELW 250

## Advent Candle Lighting

A: Over a hundred people from the ages of two to eighty years old were asked the question, “What are you afraid of?” From the voices of different generations, hear some of their answers:

C: Not being enough. Not making enough of a difference.

- A: Falling down. That we will forget we belong to each other.
- C: **Climate change. The possibility of my child being in lock-down at school.**
- A: Not having someone to take care of me. Not having someone who knows my stories.
- C: **My mental health slipping. Ending up alone.**
- A: Stopping short of following God all the way.
- C: **Today we light the candle of peace because we so desperately need God's peace in the midst of all we fear.**
- A: May this light be a reminder that Christ is coming. God was with generations before, God is with us today, and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way. **Amen.** *The second Advent candle is lit.*

## Advent Hymn

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (verses 1-2) ..... ELW 257

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Kyrie

*To the tune of "O Come All Ye Faithful"*

1. *For peace in the world,  
for the health of the church,  
for this holy house  
and the unity of all  
for all who worship  
and praise God today,  
let us pray to the lord.  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison  
on our world today*

2. *For the lost and the hurt,  
for the hungry and the poor,  
that we may respond with your  
love throughout the world,  
that we may live out  
truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the lord.  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison  
on our world today*

3. *For peace in our heart,  
for peace in our homes,  
for friends and family,  
for life and for love,  
for our work and our play,  
for your spirit to guide us,  
let us pray to the lord.  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison  
on our world today*

## Gloria

Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a  
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed  
joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -  
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.  
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -  
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Holy God,

C: whether it's through angels or music, friendships or sermons, study, or nature—when you speak, we long to hear it. In a world as chaotic and broken as ours, we could use your words of hope and healing. With gratitude we pray. Amen.

## Heart & Voice Choir Anthem

*Is Your Heart Prepared for a King*.....Robert Lau

## Children's Message

*Whirl Story Bible "Announcing a Baby" p. 174*

## First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (Assisting Minister)**

A: Give the king your justice, O God,

C: and your righteousness to the king's son;

A: that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

C: that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

A: Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

C: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

A: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

C: In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

A: Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

C: And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.

## Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

### *The angel greets Mary*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

# Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace* ..... ELW 247

## Affirmation of Faith

P: Let us pray. We believe in a God

C: who knows our fears. We believe in a God who says, “Be not afraid.” We believe in a God who kicks off her shoes and wades into the muck of our lives with us. We believe in a God who stitches herself to our heels and invites us to dance. We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the night sky so that we can find our way home, and who sends us friends with open doors, so we can find our way to love. We believe in a God who finds us in our fear and does not leave us alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

A: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray.

C: Amen.

## Peace

A: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.



## Call to Offering

A: We believe in the God of justice and righteousness, and God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community. Let us now share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and with neighbors.

## Offertory Hymn

*Your Blessings Are Immeasurable*..... setting by David Eck  
*To the tune of "On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry"*



The musical notation is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/4 time signature. The lyrics are as follows:

Your bless - ings are im - mea - sura-ble. Our homes are warm, our  
praise you, God, for love, for life, for sav - ing us\_\_\_ from  
bel - lies full. We of - fer now our - selves to you. God,  
dark - est night. Now send us forth so we may tell the  
use us an - y way you choose. We  
good news of E - man - u - el.

## Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Gracious God,

C: we're grateful for your invitation to move and give faithfully and abundantly. We ask that you would extend your blessings over these gifts we now offer so that they can be multiplied in service to you and the missions of this congregation. May it be so! Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.  
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## Communion Hymn

*O Lamb of God* ..... setting by David Eck  
*To the tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give\_ us your  
peace. Pre-pare us to re- ceive\_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-  
joice! Re- joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra- el.

## Invitation to Communion

*All are welcome to the table. Please come forward, and you will receive communion in the front of the church. If you prefer juice for communion, it will be clear, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.*

## Communion Music

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.....arr. by Steven Nelson and Marshall McDonald  
Scott Sund, cello; Susan Senn, piano

## Prayer After Communion

P: Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us, and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Blessing

P: As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved. From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, we are not alone. The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, “Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon.” May it be so.

C: **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*..... ELW 256

# Sending

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God!

# Postlude

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*.....setting by Kevin Hildebrand

## Interested in Joining Grace?

Please contact the church office [office@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:office@gracewelcomesyou.org), for information about joining Grace Lutheran Church. All are welcome and we would be overjoyed to have you engaged in the worship, ministries, and congregational life at Grace.

## Junior Bible Study – Following the Children’s Sermon



Following the children’s sermon, kids are invited to meet the adult leader at the sanctuary door to walk to Pat Bell Hall for a Bible Story and Activities. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Please contact Chryss Hartman at 563-320-0603 if you are available to help. **Today: Christmas Program Rehearsal**

## Worship Boxes

Worship Boxes are available in the narthex for families with children attending worship. The boxes contain interactive materials that encourage children to participate in worship using the symbols in the bulletins. Please use and return to the table as you leave.

## Do You Receive the Weekly Update?

Every Thursday we email out the Weekly Update with current announcements, links, birthdays, anniversaries, Synod/ELCA updates, and more. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact the church office.



Grace Lutheran Church  
1140 East High Street  
Davenport, IA 52803  
563-322-0769

[gracewelcomesyou.org](http://gracewelcomesyou.org)  
[office@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:office@gracewelcomesyou.org)

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## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 4

#### Food Pantry Collection

8:30am Worship & Livestream  
9:30am Adult Education  
10:30am Worship  
**11:45am Children's Advent Event**

### Monday, December 5

10:30am Staff Meeting  
4:30pm Centering Prayer

### Tuesday, December 6

11:00am Grace Visitors Meet  
11:15am Serve Safer Lunches  
11:45am Member Text Study - PBH  
6:00pm Personnel Committee Mtg  
6:30pm Property Committee Mtg  
6:30pm Theology on Tap\*

### Wednesday, December 7

10:00am Searcher's Bible Study\*  
5:30pm Grief Support Group  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 8

### Friday, December 9

### Saturday, December 10

### Sunday, December 11

8:30am Worship & Livestream  
9:30am Adult Education  
10:30am Worship

\*These events and programs are at (or hosted by) St. Mark Lutheran Church  
2363 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Davenport, 52802  
563-322-5318 [lwilley@stmarkcares.org](mailto:lwilley@stmarkcares.org)

## You Can Watch Us Online and Follow us on Facebook!

YouTube: [Grace Lutheran Davenport](https://www.youtube.com/GraceLutheranDavenport) Facebook: [facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou](https://www.facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou)

## Looking Ahead

- **December 4** Children's Advent Event
- **December 17** Page Turners
- **December 18** ONE joint worship at 9:30am/Children's Christmas Program; Candles & Carols
- **December 21** Blue Christmas/Longest Night Worship
- **December 24** Christmas Eve Worship at 5pm & 7pm
- **December 25** Christmas Day - no services
- **December 30** Grace serving at Hope at the Brick House
- **January 1** ONE joint worship at 9:30am
- **January 8** Annual Reports Due
- **January 29** ONE joint worship at 9:30am followed by the Annual Meeting

Scan for our digital  
Weekly Update



## Advent Devotionals

Sanctified Art has a daily devotional with commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, original hymns, and journaling prompts as they explore the Advent theme, From Generation to Generation. Advent devotionals are available on the table in the narthex. If you are unable to pick one up at church, please contact the church office for on-demand printing, and we'll make sure to have one ready for you for pick-up at the office or to be mailed out.

## Candles & Carols

**Sunday, December 18 | 6:30pm**



Led by our own Heart & Soul Choir, join us for a beautiful service where we give praise to the God of hope, worship the Lord of light, give thanks to the God of peace, and rejoice in the Lord of our salvation. Choir members: remaining rehearsals are Wednesdays December 7 & 14, 7pm. Please contact Sally Meier at 309-292-0281 with questions, or just show up. We will have a part for you!

## Fair Trade Coffee



Orders for **CASES** of Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolate, snacks, etc. can be placed with the church office through **December 11 (in time for Christmas delivery)**.

Copies of the [catalog](#) of items and order forms are available in the narthex - items must be ordered by the case, and the prices listed are for the case. Most items come in cases of six, but check the item details to be sure. A few individual items are available for purchase from our current supply. Equal Exchange products make wonderful Christmas gifts by supporting independent farmers from around the world. **Don't need a whole case? Ask friends or family to share!**

## Advent Social Ministries Collection

We are collecting items for our local homeless shelters -single men, women and families, victims of domestic violence, as well as donations for our brothers and sisters of [ILUGUA](#). Fill our boxes in the narthex (or give a donation), and we will deliver after Christmas.

### We are collecting:

- [New in the package](#) socks and underwear (all genders and sizes)
- Mittens, hats, and scarves
- Deodorant, soap, and shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Donations for ILUGUA (make checks to Grace, memo: ILUGUA or cash in an enveloped marked ILUGUA)

(over →)

# GRACE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**Stephanie Wood, Pastor**  
pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org

**Dr. Becky Wiese, Deacon**  
rlawmd@yahoo.com

**Annie Nau, Office Administrator**  
office@gracewelcomesyou.org

**Jake Bayles, Custodian**  
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**Claudia Wood, Treasurer**  
treasurer@gracewelcomesyou.org

**Andrew Savely, Worship Tech**  
worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org

## COUNCIL

**Ken Krumwiede**  
President, Grace Visitors, When & How  
Committee, Partnering in Ministry

**Kevin Miller**  
Vice President, Partnering in Ministry,  
Children, Youth, & Family

**Deb Kirby**  
Secretary, Personnel Committee,  
Partnering in Ministry

**Claudia Wood**  
Treasurer, Finance Committee,  
Partnering in Ministry

**Bill McCullough**  
Finance Committee,  
When & How Committee

**Mark Jepson**  
Finance Committee, Worship Task Force,  
Blood Drive Coordinator

**Janice Gibbs**  
Children, Youth, & Family

**Cindy Lee**  
Outreach & Welcome, Memorial

**Ann Lorentzen**  
Outreach & Welcome

**Jim Bayles**  
Property

## Adult Education Between Services

Bring your refreshments and join us between services in Pat Bell Hall.

- **December 4 & 11** Advent Series "From Generation to Generation"
- **December 18-January 1** No Adult Education

## Grief Support Group - December 7

The Grace Grief Support Group meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month 5:30pm in Pat Bell Hall. Masks are optional. Please join us! Anyone is welcome at anytime, and please be assured our conversations will be kept in confidence. **Questions? Contact Cindy Lee 563-370-5386.**

## Kids Christmas Program - December 18

**We are getting excited about the Junior Bible Study Christmas Program on December 18!** The practices will be on December 4 and 11, during Junior Bible Study session. There will be a party after the program for everyone in the fellowship hall. Please let us know if you're interested in having your children participate by calling the church office at 563-322-0769.

## Safer Lunches

**We are serving lunches December 6.** The Safer Foundation offers classes for at-risk youth to assist the teens in completing their education and to work on job skills, and Grace helps to serve lunches. We meet at JB Young building on Main Street at 11:15am. Please contact Hollie Swain with any questions.

## Centering Prayer Mondays 4:30pm via Zoom

In the Christian tradition, Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God. Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift. Cheryl Kritsch facilitates the Centering Prayer Group which meets via ZOOM every Monday (except holidays) at 4:30pm (link emailed in the Weekly Update). Occasionally, we will meet in person. Please contact Cheryl to verify if the group is meeting in-person on that Monday at 563-343-0135.

## Annual Reports Due January 8

January will be here before we know it, and it's time to start thinking end-of-year projects! **Annual reports will be due to the office by January 8 (firm deadline).** Early reports are wonderful and can be sent at anytime between now and January 8. Emailing your report to the church office is preferred, however you are welcome to submit it in whichever way is most convenient for you.

## Theology on Tap

**Tuesdays in Advent, Nov 29-Dec 20, 6:30pm @ St. Mark**

**Video Series: Because of Bethlehem** by Max Lucado

The study explores how the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing and come into our world. Facilitated by St. Mark member Beth Claeys. If you plan on attending, please call St. Mark at 563-322-5318 to register.

## Searcher's Bible Study

Our bible study meets weekly at St. Mark in the Conference Room/Library on Wednesdays at 10:00am. All are welcome to attend and jump in at anytime.

## St. Mark Food Pantry

Our food pantry is open Tuesday - Thursday, 10:00am to 2:00pm. Volunteer positions are always open for various duties. For more information on volunteering, please call Rick Flynn at 563-370-1939.

