

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

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024 8:30am

Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa
Pastor Stephanie Wood † Pastor Kirsten Lee

Welcome! We are so happy you have joined us!

Congregational response in bold.

Prelude

Mary Did You Know? arr. Melody Bober

Announcements

Call to Worship

Heart & Voice Choir *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Gathering

We wait for the world to change.

We wait for the oppressed to be set free.

We wait for the hungry to be filled.

We wait for Emmanuel, God with us.

In our waiting, may our songs grant us courage.

May our songs grant us hope.

May we sing of God's loving-kindness,

Until we see your promises realized, and a light from heaven will shine on us.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.** God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway ELW 264

1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Advent Candle Lighting

During these weeks of waiting and expecting, where people live in fear of the unknown, **We pray for peace.**

Where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the world, **We pray for clarity.**

Most of all, when the world longs for you, **We pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy.**

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior. **Amen.**

Your light shines in the midst of the darkness. With the lighting of this candle may you alight our love of neighbor and community. *(The fourth candle is lit.)*

Advent Hymn

Wait for the Lord ELW 262



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and Music ©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

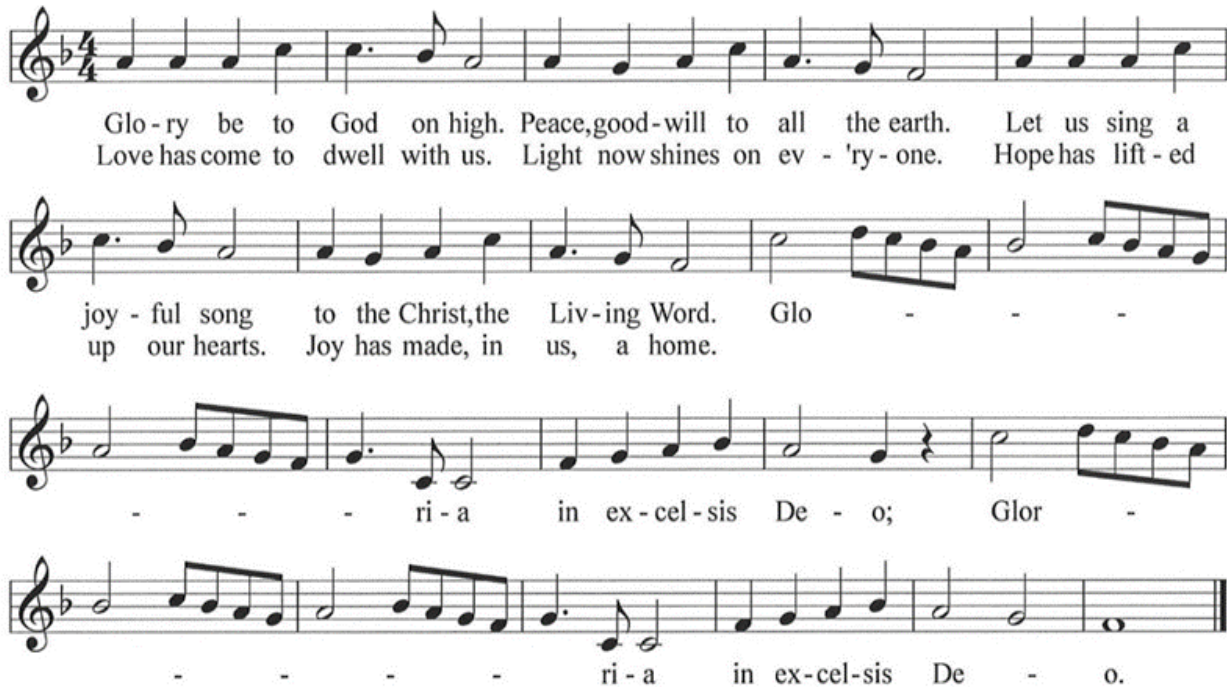
Children's Message

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

Hymn of Praise



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

Let us pray. O God,

We live in the in-between. Praising you for the ways you have been faithful, the verses of your goodness never-ending. While waiting for the final verse to be sung, for Jesus to come again, grant us patience and songs of hope for this time in between. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Heart & Voice Choir Anthem

Prepare the Royal Highway Hal H. Hopson

Gospel Acclamation

Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 289

Refrain

Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Gospel | Luke 2:22-27

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord" and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law.

Blessed Assurance *(refrain)*



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Scripture Song | Luke 2:28-35

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word,

for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."**

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

Blessed Assurance *(refrain)*



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Come Now, O Prince of Peace ELW 247

- 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
- 4 Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Text: Geon-yong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope; Text © Geonyong Lee.

Prayers of the People

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Call to Offering

For the wondrous ways this offering will breathe hope into our community and for the ways it will help us live out God's mission, let these gifts strengthen our call to carry out God's justice and mercy.

Offering Hymn *To the tune of "On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry"*

Your Blessings Are Immeasurable..... setting by David Eck

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

Let us pray. God our provider,

by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Anointing with Oil for Healing and Wholeness

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

Loving God...

Your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all. Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain. Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair.

Siblings in Christ, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

Compassionate God...

The strength of those who suffer, bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or spiritual distress.

All-knowing God...

Source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care.

Loving God...

Our creator and redeemer, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends, and caregivers of those who suffer.

God of great and abundant mercy...

With your presence sustain all for whom we pray. Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May the peace of God accompany your waiting, the light of † Christ warm your hearts, and the joy of the Spirit fill you with hope. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

People, Look East ELW 248

- 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.

- 4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

Sending

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

People, Look East Jason Krug

Interested in Joining Grace? Please contact the church office 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.

Sparkhouse Magazines Children's Sparkhouse Magazines are available in the Narthex. We encourage families to take home a copy and enjoy the pictures and stories about ways we live as children of God.

Do You Receive the Weekly Update Email? 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 Annie in the church office.

Junior Bible Study is on Winter Break and will resume January 5.

Serving in Worship

Director of Outreach & Youth Minister Pastor Kirsten Lee
Assisting Minister Paul Lewellan
Healing Assistants Chuck Lehman, Colleen Levsen, Deb Gustafson, Janice Gibbs
Acolyte/Crucifer Matt Levsen
Greeters Cindy Lee, Vicki Liebe
Ushers Rod Levsen Sr, Rod Levsen Jr
Sound System Russ Finkler
Prayers Connie Lannan
Altar Guild Gloria Lange
Heart & Voice Choir Director Sally Meier
Organist Susan Senn
Pianist Kathi Parrish
Worship Tech & Praise Band Leader Vey Rodriguez
Coffee/Cookies/Snacks Cindy Lee, Vicki Liebe

Grace Lutheran Church

1140 East High Street, Davenport, IA 52803
563-322-0769 | office@gracewelcomesyou.org

YouTube: Grace Lutheran Davenport

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou

From sundaysandseasons.com all rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23188. NRSV, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under OneLicense copyright A-711016. All rights reserved. CCLI Copyright license 359372. CCLI Streaming license 20503478.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22

8:30am Healing Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee Hour
10:30am Healing Worship

Monday, December 23

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

Tuesday, December 24

12:00pm Office Closes at Noon
5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 25

Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Office Closed
Pastor Kirsten Vacation

Friday, December 27

Pastor Kirsten Vacation

Saturday, December 28

Pastor Kirsten Vacation

Sunday, December 29

Pastor Kirsten Vacation
9:30am Christmas Hymn-Sing
10:30am Coffee Hour

Monday, December 30

Pastor Kirsten Vacation
10:30am Staff Meeting
4:30pm Centering Prayer on Zoom

Tuesday, December 31

Pastor Kirsten Vacation
10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH

Wednesday, January 1

Pastor Kirsten Vacation
Office Closed

Thursday, January 2

Pastor Kirsten Vacation
7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Friday, January 3

Annual Reports Due

Saturday, January 4

11:30am Staff Luncheon

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)

Your offerings support and nurture ministries at Grace along with support for local and global organizations. Online giving is available at bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline.

Looking Ahead

- **December 24 Office Closes at Noon**
- **December 24** Christmas Eve Worship 5pm & 7pm
- **December 25-26 Office Closed Christmas**
- **December 29** Hymn Sing Joint Worship 9:30am
- **January 1 New Years Day, Office Closed**
- **January 5** Junior Bible Study resumes
- **January 8** THE STORY morning Bible study resumes
- **January 11** Seeking the Sacred Retreat
- **January 12** Kids Winter Party
- **January 16** ImpactLife Blood Drive
- **January 26** Joint Worship 9:30am and Annual Meeting
- **February 2** IFF Brunch & Mimosas (details in January newsletter)
- **February 6** THE STORY evening Bible study resumes

Scan for our digital
Weekly Update



Christmas at Grace 2024

Grace Lutheran Church | 1140 E High St | Davenport, IA

Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, December 24
5:00pm (Family Friendly)
7:00pm* (Traditional)

Christmas Hymn-Sing
Sunday, December 29
9:30am* Joint Worship

*Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel:
Grace Lutheran Davenport

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child, and the angels declare the good and joyful news for everyone. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

On the first Sunday of Christmas we return to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

Need a Last-Minute Gift?

We have chocolate bars, hot cocoa mix, coffee, tea, and more available for purchase in the narthex! For more information about Fair Trade products and/or to purchase any of their products for yourself go to shop.equalexchange.coop.



Children's Winter Party! | January 12

Sunday, January 12 | 11:30am-2:00pm

Kids! Come enjoy some winter fun as we celebrate God's love for us in the new year. Parents! You get some time to yourself. To register, talk with Pastor Kirsten or complete an online form at bit.ly/KidsJan12Party, or scan this QR code.



Grace Lutheran Church

1140 E High St | Davenport IA 52803

563-322-0769

www.gracewelcomesyou.org

office@gracewelcomesyou.org

ADMIN STAFF

Pastor Stephanie Wood

pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org

Pastor Kirsten Lee

Director of Outreach & Youth Ministry

pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org

Annie Nau, Office Administrator

office@gracewelcomesyou.org

Jason Halkias, Custodian

custodian@gracewelcomesyou.org

Claudia Wood, Treasurer

treasurer@gracewelcomesyou.org

Vey Rodriguez, Worship Tech & Praise Band Leader

worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org

COUNCIL

Deb Kirby

President

Personnel Committee Chairperson

Cindy Lee

Vice President

Outreach & Welcome Committee

Memorial Committee

Grief Support Group Coordinator

Paul Lewellan

Secretary

Social Ministry

Claudia Wood

Treasurer

Finance Committee

Jim Bayles

Property Committee

Jackie Cain

Outreach & Welcome Ministry

Janice Gibbs

Children, Youth, & Family

Deb Gustafson

Finance Committee

Laura Toland

Worship & Music Ministry

Seeking the Sacred

Finding Holy Ground Near and Far

Saturday, January 11 | 9am-Noon

@ Grace Lutheran Church | 1140 E High St, Davenport, IA

What is it about the crossroads of travel and spirituality that calls us? Do we have to travel far or even travel at all to discover sacred sites and gain insight from them? And how can these experiences enhance our spiritual journeys?

Join us at "Seeking the sacred: Finding holy ground near and far," a free retreat featuring Lori Erickson, an Iowa City-based author of several books that highlight the intersection of travel and spirituality.



Register online at bit.ly/SeekingSacred or call 563-322-0769



Scan to Register

Social Ministry Christmas Tree

The Grace Social Ministry Team is collecting hats and gloves (all sizes) for our local elementary schools. These items can be new or very gently used, should be unwrapped, and can be placed on or under the tree in the narthex - we will be collecting through Epiphany. Thank you for helping with this important ministry!

Grief Support Group | Next Mtg January 15

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

End-of-Year Giving

All year-end offerings (including RMD's) need to be received in the office by **Monday, December 30**, to be counted for 2024. Thank you for your continued support of our missions!

Annual Reports

Annual Reports are due to the office no later than Friday, January 3, to have time to prepare for distribution on January 12 (two weeks before the annual meeting). Please email office@gracewelcomesyou.org with any questions.

THE STORY Bible Study

The morning class is on hiatus for December and will resume January 8
The evening class will meet again February 6

Men's Lunch | Noon Wednesdays

Men's Lunch will not meet on Christmas Day or January 1.

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wed at Noon at Grace. You can bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a restaurant. Contact Dennis Boehme at 563-320-2661 or boehmed@aol.com to be added to the email list.

Centering Prayer | Mondays 4:30pm

Mondays 4:30pm via Zoom In the Christian tradition, Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God. It is the opening of mind and heart—our whole being to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions. Cheryl Kritsch facilitates the group which meets via Zoom every Monday (except holidays) at 4:30pm (link emailed in the Weekly Update). Please contact Cheryl with any questions at 563-343-0135.

Christmas Services & Office Hours



Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

Office Closes at Noon
5:00pm Family Friendly
7:00pm Traditional

Office Closed

Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25
& Thursday, December 26

Christmas Hymn-Sing

Sunday, December 29

9:30am Joint Worship

Office Closed

New Year's Day Wednesday, January 1

