

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church December 5, 2021

" A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus"

HOLY COMMUNION (Based on ELW Setting Three) Congregational responses are in bold print

Welcome to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church! There are four key parts to our Worship Service: we GATHER

before our God to prepare to worship, and bring ourselves and all that we are before God. Then we hear the **WORD** of God; we share the four Bible Readings with at least one billion other Christians around the world each Sunday! And we hear that word proclaimed through the Sermon, confess our faith in the God whose Grace we hear about in the Word, and offer our prayers to God, for the sake of the Church, the World, and each other in our needs and joys. We then share in the **MEAL** of Holy Communion, offering ourselves and what we have to God, and then discovering God's love and forgiveness as we receive Christ's Body and Blood through the bread and wine. Finally we are **SENT**, the shortest but perhaps most important part of worship, because it is THEN that we live out our Faith and what we believe about God's Grace and Love, and how it makes <u>us</u> a blessing in this world as we share it.

During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in **bold type**. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to **stand**, please do so <u>as you are able</u>. As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, + one God who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

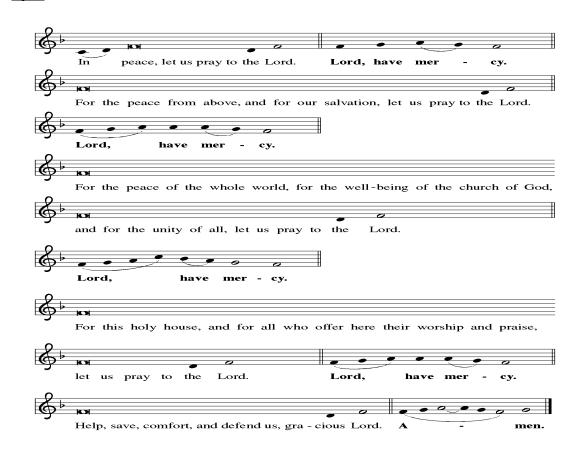
God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, + your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. Amen.

Prelude

Greeting

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

<u>Kyrie</u>



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of breath, You promised new life to your people in exile by breathing into a valley full of dry bones. Breathe new life into us, so that we might live passionately for you. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Second Sunday of Advent

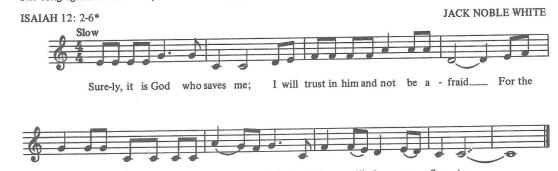
We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen**

Candle Lighting

Two candles are lit as we sing:

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

The congregation is asked to join the choir singing this refrain after each verse is sung:



Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

I will put my spirit within you and you shall live. For I have spoken and I will act; You shall know that I am the LORD.

Refrain

Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

A reading from Ezekiel:

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

Continued

16

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

The congregation stands to welcome the gospel.



Gospel: John 11:25-27

The holy gospel according to St. John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

<u>Sermon</u>

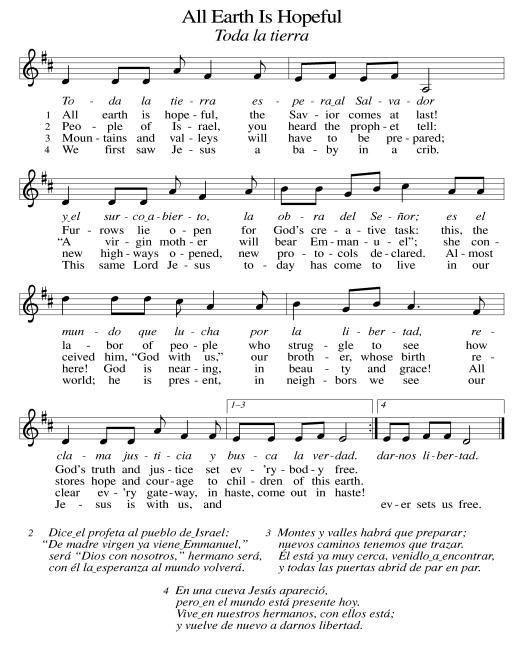
Pastor Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: "All Earth Is Hopeful"

#266, Page 9

The congregation is seated.



Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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Apostle's Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Peace

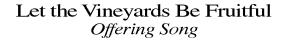
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

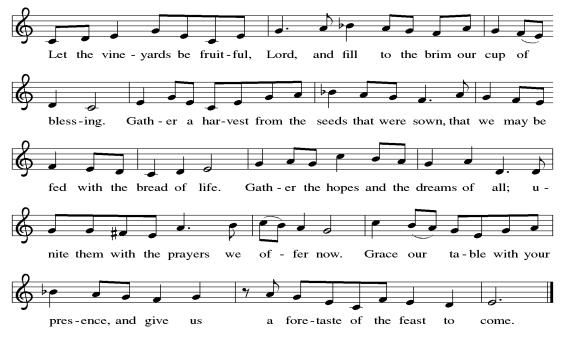
The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The congregation is seated.

Meal

Offertory Response





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

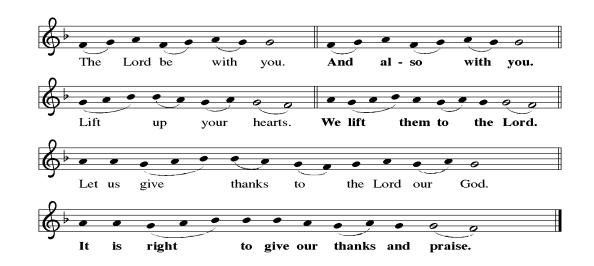
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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

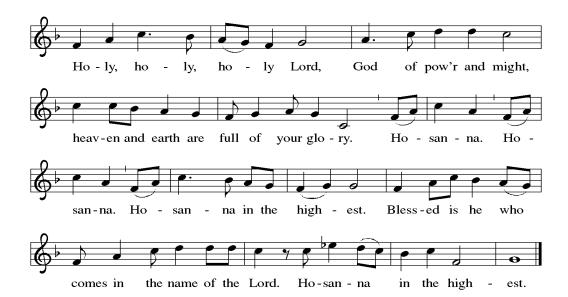
Great Thanksgiving



Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs and angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Thanksgiving at the Table

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 is 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 in remembrance of me.

Continued

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Thanks be to God!

The Holy Communion

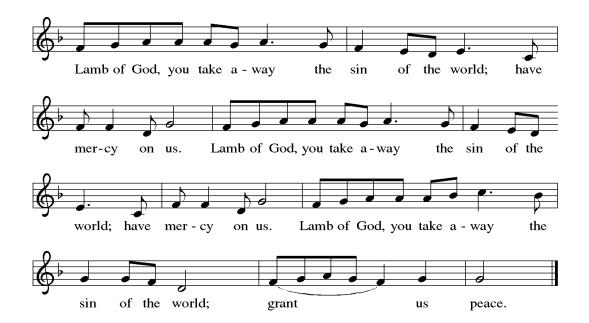
The congregation may be seated.

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

Communion Distribution: One communion team will serve the left side of the nave; another team will serve those on the right. You are invited to come to the altar by the center aisle; take an empty individual glass (or filled grape juice glass) available at the railing, and proceed to the railing, filling in from the center out toward the side aisle. As you receive the bread and wine, you may respond as follows:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.



The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

Sending

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament from this gathering to those who are absent. The presiding minister may say this or a similar prayer of sending.

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and Sacrament to our sisters and brothers. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Blessing

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus + for whom we wait. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death"

#452, Page 18, Verse 1, 2, 4, 5

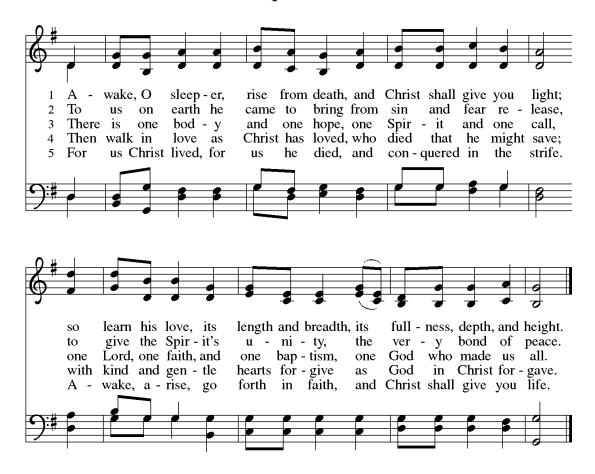
Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near. Thanks be to God.

<u>Postlude</u>

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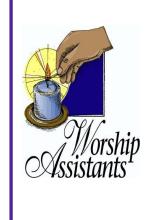
Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829 Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today



Altar Flowers:	Ingrid Sevigny
Altar Guild:	Jean Morgan
Assisting Minister:	Kathy Bump
Communion Assistant:	Jerry Kite
Council Person of the Week:	Jean Morgan
Covid Monitor:	Carolyn Hite
Offering Stewards:	Pat Brady
	David Proctor
Ushers:	Ron Almarode
	Lee Lynch



The Chancel Flowers today are given to the glory of God





Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance. Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks, in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing Need for Prayer" list.

 Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

 Berenice Archambeault
 Tom Blosser
 Beth Brady

 Stephen Van Stee
 Stephen Van Stee
 Beth Brady

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for 4 weeks*) Stanley Bednarczyk, Uncle of Jean Franklin Redd Fitzgerald, Friend of Donna Gum Emily Girard, Daughter of Rick and Kathy Bump Darren Graf, Son of Woody and Irma Graf Dana Haney, Friend of Kathy Johnson Hilary Hoffman, Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow Gary Lee Kimber, Cousin of Kathryn Johnson Patricia Wasielewski, Sister of Pat Brady Dave and Diana Whitling, Friend of the Mike and Cindy Trauscht

> Joys and Celebrations (Remain on List for 4 weeks*) Linda Meyer, Healing Well

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Please advise of status changes)Liz Ann BinnsFred BrowerMarie BrownNancy FitzgeraldSandra R. HoyPhyllis KiteBob KnemollerGlenn and Flossie MyersJanet ParmerBarb Susen

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Please advise of status changes)Janice Collins, Friend of GraceNancy Delaney, Dave Delaney's WifeKyle Getler, Member RelativeRegan Grant, Friend of Richard and Kathy BumpSandy Higgs, Friend of David and Nancy SchwiesowGeorge Toop, Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow

Members/Friends Grieving

Family of Liz Erskine Leichliter, Friend of Sharon Lynch
 Family of Bobby Hull, Member of Grace
 Family of Louis Pingel, Cousin of Paul Pingel
 Family of David Shields, Grace Member
 Family of Kathleen Snead, Friend of Berenice Archambeault
 Family of Chip Stratton, Friend of Linda Meyer
 Family of Valerie Weiss, Friend of Many Grace Members

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Throughout the YearJane BlosserHolly CarperSandy JohnsonGloria NelsonPat GiesenAlexandra Spellman

The Needs of the World

Health Crises– epidemic of drug overdoses and continuing mental health concerns

Our neighbors at Sherando United Methodist Church (fire destroyed the worship space)

Our Veterans who have served with selflessness

Victims of Waukesha, Wisconsin parade

The continued epidemic of gun violence in schools (Michigan) and the workplace

The Church

Pray for (at least) five others from Grace this week - three who you know, or whose needs you are aware of, and two that you are less familiar with (pray for their daily walk of faith, and their blessing)

Pray for God's plan for Grace—our life together and witness and service to the community

Reverend Phyllis Diamond, newly installed at Pleasant View Lutheran, Staunton (11/13/21)

Our Neighbors

Our neighbors near Berkeley Glenn



Advent Vespers In Person on Wednesday Evenings – We join with our sister congregations in the area under the theme: <u>Holy</u> <u>Darkness</u>. While *darkness* can often have a negative connotation, as the absence of light, or as an opposition to goodness, God's Word often points to the Glory of God being found in the darkness. Think of Nicodemus visiting with Jesus and hearing Jesus tell how God so loved the World...or of Christmas <u>Eve</u> and the shepherds discovering in the night sky the Good News of Jesus' birth. We ponder the presence of God in the darkness of our worship at our area Lutheran Churches Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 p.m.:

December 8th Bethlehem's Advent Service will be held at Grace – *Darkness is Beautiful* – Masking is required. Grace offers this worship service live via Grace's YouTube channel, or by telephone via Zoom (audio).

<u>December 15th</u> at St. James, Fishersville – *Darkness Holds Promise* – Masking is optional at St. James if you are vaccinated. There is no virtual option of attendance.

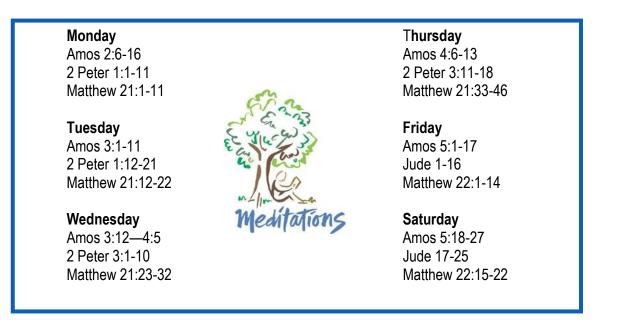
December 22nd at Grace – *Darkness Holds God* – Masking is required. Grace offers its worship Live via Grace's YouTube channel, or by telephone via Zoom (audio).

Come into the *darkness* of early night Wednesdays to make time for the Glory of God this Advent season!



Sign-Up for Christmas Eve Worship Today! - Grace will offer three services on Christmas Eve, December 24th. Because of lingering concerns of the Coronavirus we are *limiting attendance* at each service to <u>80 persons sitting in the congregation</u> (not including soloists, musicians, etc.). Find the Sign-Up Sheet in the Narthex at Grace or cell Nanov of the Object of Sign-Up Sheet in the you **SIGN-UP** for one of the following services, all held in the main worship space at Grace:

- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve We will "create the manger scene," with * lessons read by families, carols sung joyfully, special music, Holy Communion, and Silent Night sung by Candlelight.
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve We will "create the manger scene," with * lessons read by families, carols sung joyfully, special music, Holy Communion, and Silent Night sung by Candlelight.
- 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve A traditional Christmas Eve liturgy of Holy Communion, filled with carols, special music, Holy Communion and Silent Night sung by Candlelight.





Welcome to Worship! We gather in praise, we hear a living Word from our God, and God nourishes us at the Table so we can go forth as Ambassadors, as Salt and Light, wherever we are! Please remember the following as we continue to worship together in a transitional time with concerns from Covid, and *bearing with one another* with care and Christian friendship:

- We continue to mask during worship
- Fellowship is a blessing of our time together! Since the narthex area is tight because of additional tables and equipment necessary during this pandemic time, remember social distancing, and take good conversations outside.
- Smart phones are a marvel of our time! As is the Word and Grace of God as we worship together! Please check your phone before worship and mute, silence or turn your phone off before the service begins.



Holy Communion at Grace—Beginning today, we are returning to a more "active" form of Holy Communion approved by our Worship Resumption (Covid) sub-committee and endorsed by Grace Council: We will receive Holy Communion at the altar in the following way:

- Ushers will invite communicants by row to come down the center aisle, safely distanced.
- The Communicant will receive the bread (the body of Christ) from the Pastor, who will be masked.
- The Communicant will then go down the communion railing and pick up a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice from the trays, and hear the pronouncement of "the blood of Christ" from the (masked) worship assistant located on the other side of the communion rail.
- The Communicant will then put their glass in another tray located further down the aisle, and return to their seat via the side aisle.
- Those unable to come forward will have Communion brought to them by the Pastor and communion assistant.

In addition to participating more fully in Holy Communion, this will reduce the plastic waste from the use of chalices—or more recently, the bags and containers—used in Holy Communion.

Holy Communion Chalices remain available from the Church Office - Call the Church Office in order to pick up Communion Chalices for Sunday worship if you are watching via You Tube or Zoom.





Thank all of you who participated in the **Giving Tree** project this year and for giving so many a much happier Christmas.

Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus! Thanks to Jack Eckstrom, Jerry Kite, Lee Lynch, Rick Bump, and Ron Myers for assembling the Advent Wreath in Grace's front yard as a witness to the community. Once again we are grateful to Liz Ann Binns and family for the greenery for the wreath from their property on Afton Mountain.

Thanks to Caroline Biggers, Gwen Kite, Holly Carper, Karen Walck and Susan Smith for their help in preparing breakfast for Afghan

BREAKFAST BREAKFAST For People in Neeed

Fellowship

Refugees on Saturday, November 20th. On very short notice, Caroline and crew helped to give Massanetta Springs staff a weekend off from 24/7 care of Refugees! **Disciple's Kitchen Christmas Gifts**—Thank you for your donations of shampoo and deodorant that Grace collected for the Disciple's

of shampoo and deodorant that Grace collected for the Disciple's Kitchen program to use as part of their Christmas gift bags. We were able to provide items for 45 men and 14 women.

"Coffee Fellowship After Worship via Zoom" is still available!! Ron Almarode hosts a fellowship time via Zoom immediately following worship. It's a great opportunity to engage in casual fellowship, as well as being kept up to date about the concerns and needs for prayer by Grace members and friends. We will be sending this link weekly with the other links to Worship and other activities available via Zoom.



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food banks. We have made <u>twenty-one</u> deliveries thus far, ten to Main Street United Methodist, and eleven to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. Last week, **126 pounds of food** went to Calvary United Methodist. **Overall, we have given well over a TON of food**! If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



DAY OF WEEK	DATE	TIME	MEETING	
TODAY— SUNDAY	12/05	10:00 a.m. 10:50 a.m.	Second Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Paul Pingel Presiding and Preaching Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	
Wednesday	12/08	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Backpacks (Stage in Fellowship Hall) Advent Vespers @ Grace	
Thursday	12/09	8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Grace Walkers (Meet in Parking Lot) Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) Discussion with Christ Tabernacle	
Sunday	12/12	10:00 a.m. 10:50 a.m.	Third Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Paul Pingel Presiding and PreachingCoffee Fellowship via Zoom	



<u>Members of Grace</u> <u>Congregational Council</u>

Robin Crowder, President Jerry Kite, Vice-President Bob Barrette Fred Biggers, Kathy Bump Kim Hull, Jean Morgan Nancy Schwiesow, Andrew Sell Amy Warren Ron Almarode, Treasurer Vivian Proctor, Secretary Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary



Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor—Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music—Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary—Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (Lunch 11:30—12:30) Monday-Thursday; 8:00 a.m.—Noon - Friday

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