

Grace Presbyterian Church

December 1, 2024

9:30 am

Welcome and Vision Statement

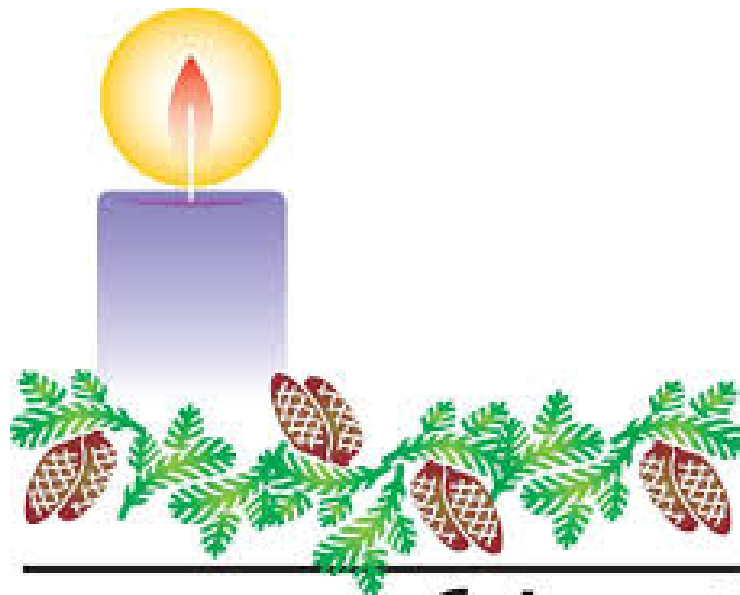
We are an open and affirming congregation.

**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,
race, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,
beliefs,**

**and those who are cognitively
and or physically challenged.**

**Our vision is to be a community
of love and purpose,**

**each one engaged in ministry,
seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship,
and embodying God's love for the world.**



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Prayer Candles

Before Worship, you may offer a prayer and light a candle at the communion table.

We Gather

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship: Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Mental Health Team

“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord, when

I will fulfill the promise

I made to the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.

In those days and at that time

**I will cause a righteous Branch
to spring up for David,**

and he shall execute justice and righteousness
in the land.

**In those days Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will live in safety.**

And this is the name by which it will be called:

The Lord is our righteousness.” (Jeremiah 33:14-16).

*Opening Hymn #88 “O Come, O Come, Emanuel”

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait in joyful expectation,

Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,
Shed your light on all that is filled with darkness.
**The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait with hope filled hearts,
Draw close, God's beloved son,
Teach us the wonder of your all-embracing love.
Amen.**

~ written by Christine Sine, and posted on **Godspace**

Reading from the First Letter to Thessalonians 3:6-13

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Luke 21:25-36

SERMON

*Hymn #314 "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is **to Know, Love, and Serve God**

Offertory Invitation *Musical Meditation*

Prayer of Dedication

(Many thanks to all who contribute to the mission and ministry of our church in offering plates during worship and by electronic giving throughout the month).

Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)
Lord, in your mercy/with thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of The Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

**We thank you, God,
for breaking into our world
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.
We thank you, God,
for this meal of thanksgiving
and the stories of love, grace,
and hope that proclaims your goodness. Amen.**

We Are Sent

*Hymn # 684 "Faith Begins By Letting Go"

*Charge and Benediction

As another advent journey begins.

We live in hopeful anticipation of our Savior's coming again.

It is a journey that requires waiting; time for both sabbath and service.

It is a journey that invites us to ponder and wonder.

It is a journey in search of a newborn, a king, a savior.

A journey we make together with hope and thanksgiving!

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

And also with you

(We invite you to offer a sign of peace to those around you and as you gather for fellowship. We remind you to ask what folks feel comfortable with...a verbal greeting, a handshake or fist bump, etc. Do not assume.)

POSTLUDE

***Indicates, please stand in body or spirit.**

All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594