

Grace Presbyterian Church

December 15, 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.**



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 Outreach Team

Giver of Life, we inhabit a world that often seeks to steal our joy.

Rejoicing is a courageous embodiment, a tender defiance.

Reveling in the goodness of God stands against the current:

a quiet rebellion against forces that thrive on fear.

To find beauty amid complexity is a bold act,

And gratitude is a balm that brings healing to our souls.

You, O God, are our hope, our peace and our joy,

the quiet strength in our deepest longing.

*Hymn #363 "Rejoice, the Lord is King!"

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

The coming of our Lord is near,

And we wait for God's redeeming presence,

**Draw close, Savior of all creation,
Our hearts ache for justice,
our minds long for holiness,
our spirits seek for unity.**

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

Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah 3:14-20

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Luke 3:7-18

SERMON

*Hymn #96 "ON Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

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.**

We Are Sent

*Hymn #82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*Charge and Benediction

Can you be a voice crying in the wilderness?
Will you proclaim that God is active in the world?

Maybe?

The time is near, of the crowning of the year.

**We sing with angels,
setting the roadways and the buildings humming**

As people who are being changed,

we go into a world that is being changed.

Are you ready to share the Good News

Advent

that God will free the people from whatever binds us.

Glory be to God!

Emmanuel, who walks with us, sings with us, and
struggles with us, each and every day.

Amen

~ posted by Rev Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings.
<http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

*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

