

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
128 East Baltimore Street
Greencastle, PA 17225
(717) 597-2983



Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka
Choir Director: Patty Stepler
Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson
Ministers: All Those Present

Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021

Scripture Lessons

*Jeremiah 33:14-16 * 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 * Luke 21:25-36*

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Video
Advent Worship 2: Hope
-by The Skit Guys

Welcome to Grace Church where we are God's people.

**United through Jesus Christ on a journey to grow, to share our faith
and serve others in the Greencastle area and the world.**

PRELUDE MUSIC

Voluntary on "Veni Emmanuel"
-plainsong/Sewell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Emmanuel! God with us!
Incarnate one! Embodied one!

Crying one! Bleeding one!
At-table one! Loving one!

Hand-in-the-wounds one!
Signs-in-the-moon one!

Hear our plea!
Come! Be here now.
We want to worship You!

*PRAISE SONG

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
#132



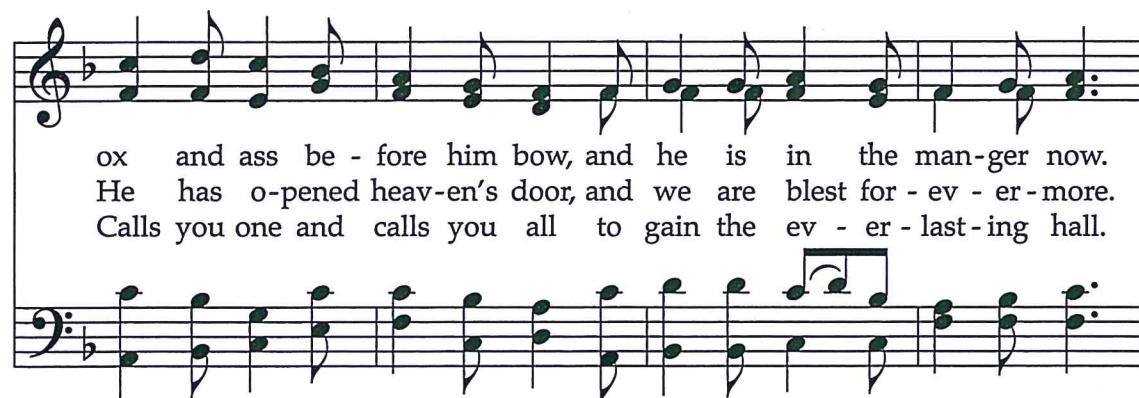
132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God of wholeness,
Let us not be put to shame.
Some of us live *with* shame everyday
In our bodies
In our hearts
In our self-images, self-esteem, and self-regard.
Have mercy.**

**Others of us have afflicted *others* with shame
By our racism
By our ableism
By our sexism.
Have mercy.**

**You instruct both sinners and the upright in your ways,
overeign one.
Teach us to be freed from our failures...
and to learn not to afflict others again.**

(A Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The God of unlimited compassion
will strengthen our hearts in holiness
that we may be blameless and whole...
at the coming of our brother Jesus in Glory.
Thanks be to God!

WE LIGHT THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

One: The prophet Isaiah shared a word with the weary world, a vision of the day when God will bring our conflicts to an end. God's house will be on top of the highest mountain, and people from all over will come to it.

All: God will judge all countries and settle our arguments.

One: Weapons will be turned into tools for growth.

All: Wars will come to an end.

One: As we wait faithfully for God's time, we light the candle of Hope.

All: Our hope is in God, who will bring all nations together.

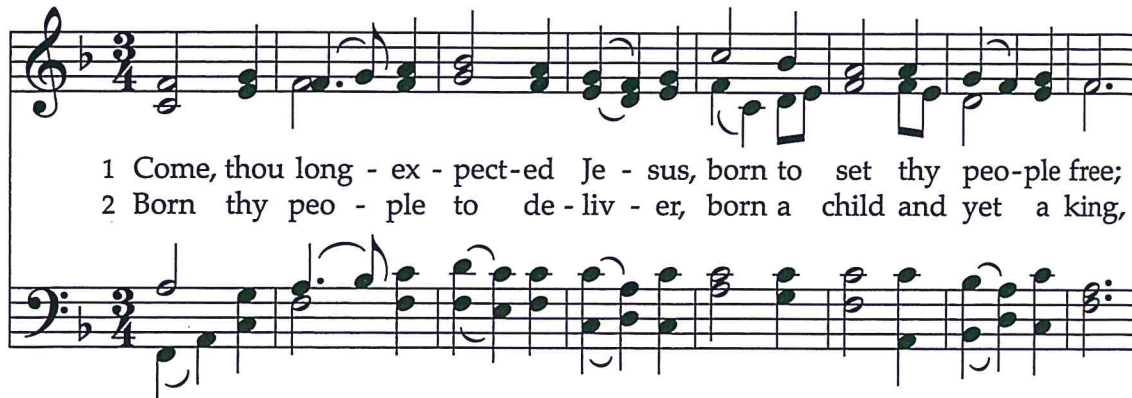
***PRAISE SONG**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#82




Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS

SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 33:14-16

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."

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God
because of you?

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face
and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.
And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all,
just as we abound in love for you.

And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

CHOIR ANTHEM

An Advent Alleluia -by Wagner



WE ASK GOD TO OPEN THE BIBLE TO US

WE READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations
confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world,
for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory.

Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves
you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

So also, when you see these things taking place,
you know that the kingdom of God is near.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and
earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and
the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap.

For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will
take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

This is the Word of God for the People of God!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts
As we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen.**

WE GIVE BACK TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

The earth distresses. Nations are confused.
The power structures we've grown accustomed to are being shaken.
But we will not be shaken.
We will look up to the God of Mercy...
and live as God's children.
Let us give of what we have accordingly.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

What Child Is This? -English melody/Lovelace

***WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Lord, it is true that the day of our redemption draws
nearer and nearer.
We offer these gifts as a taste of the just world to come.
Bless them and use them to Your purposes.
Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

***BENEDICTION**

**Emmanuel! God with us!
Incarnate one! Embodied one!
Send us forth with peace and confidence to seek You and find You:
in the signs of the Heavens,
in the turbulence of our lives,
in our souls...in Surprising Hope.**

**God be with you till we meet again.
Amen.**

***PRAISE SONG**

Once in Royal David's City #140



Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Huron Carol -French Canadian melody/Fedak



Signs-in-the-Moon One: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent C was written by Stephanie Dorsey, chaplain resident at York Hospital in York, PA. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.



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Contributions received week of 11/21:

Regular Offering: \$660 Loose Change Offering: \$60 Roof Fund: \$100 Organ Fund: \$300

Sunday Worship Attendance for 11/21: In-House 34 Facebook Viewers: 3



Pastor Emeritus
The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, 1967-1995



GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GraceChurchGreencastle/

Church Announcements for Week of November 28, 2021

Greeters/Ushers: Ed & Gladys Doyle

Reader: Lu Miller

Advent Candle Lighter: Carolyn Shoemaker

Advent Reader: Marg Stouffer

We continue to keep some safety measures in place for your health. Wearing a face mask will be at your own discretion. We encourage those not vaccinated to wear a mask and distance appropriately. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available at church entrances. We are passing the offering trays, and on communion Sunday's we are passing the element trays.

Live streaming of the services will continue to be available on our Facebook page for those who would prefer to watch from the comfort of your home. If you are unable to view our live streaming and would like access to a recording of the service, please contact Elaine at the office and we will provide a copy of the bulletin, Pastor Mark's sermon, and a recording.

Thank You – We thank everyone who volunteered their time last Sunday after service to help decorate our church for the Christmas Season!

Volunteers are needed for next Sunday, December 5. We need an additional **Greeter/Usher**, **Advent Candle Lighter** and **Advent Reader**. Please see the sign-up sheets on the table in the vestibule to be part of this advent celebration!

Communion Servers are needed for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** on December 24. Please see the sign-up sheets located on the table in the front vestibule if you would like to be part of this celebration!

Volunteers for Greeters/Ushers are still needed to fill some open spots in December. Please see the sign-up sheets on the table in the vestibule.

Christmas Poinsettias – We thank everyone who placed a poinsettia order. They will be displayed in the sanctuary for dedication or honor of your loved ones during our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24. You will be able to pick-up your poinsettias after our Christmas Eve service or call church office at 717-597-2983 to make other arrangements.

Volunteers are needed to help run the camera during service for live streaming our worship on Facebook. It's easy to learn! Please see Steve Miller for further details!

Chancel Choir – Please note the change of date for our choir rehearsal this week. Practice will be held on Thursday, December 2, at 7:15pm in the sanctuary. Contact Patty Stepler for any further questions.

Congregational Group Email – Don't miss out on any church updates! Contact church office if you are not currently on our email list so we can add You today.

GUCC Website: Please look us up on the web to see the history of our church! You can download our weekly worship programs and our bi-monthly newsletters from our website.

Grace United Church of Christ Facebook: Please like our Facebook page to keep updated on our church activities and connect with others in the community. You can join us here, at 10am on Sundays to watch the live streaming of our worship service. Please comment or say hello on our live stream so we know you are watching with us.

Grace's Free Closet needs volunteers! Help is needed to sort, tag, greet and help monitor and clean the downstairs room. The Closet is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am till 12:30pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the front vestibule if you can offer any free time. Grace's Closet thanks everyone for their generous donations. We are not accepting clothing donations at this time, but will welcome any Christmas décor donations. Our downstairs room has been converted to a seasonal room for holiday items. Please stop by and shop with us! Contact Nancy Myers if you have further questions.

We have a few **Upper Room** daily devotional brochures still available. They are located on the front table in the vestibule and by the elevator area for anyone who would like a free copy.

Emergency Box - Our emergency box has been placed in the back of the sanctuary. We encourage anyone to voluntarily enter any health information on the notebook provided inside this box which would only be used in case of an emergency. Any questions, please contact Lorna Thomas or Jan Shafer.

Newsletter - A few extra copies of our Nov/Dec issue of **Grace Notes** are still available on the table in the vestibule and by the elevator area.

Our **Angel Tree** is located in the middle hallway (around the corner from the elevator area). Please help a child in our Greencastle community by taking an angel off the tree and purchasing gifts from the suggestions listed on the back of the angel. When you remove an angel from the tree, please write your name next to the number on the list provided, as this helps us keep track of who has the angels. Once your shopping is done, return your wrapped gifts under the tree or drop them off at the church office. Be sure to attach your angel to the wrapped gifts when you drop them off. The angel gifts need to be returned by December 12. Please contact Nancy Myers or call church office if you have any questions.

Food Bank Donations – We are collecting items to support the Food Bank again this year. Items can include canned goods, boxed goods, paper products and personal care items. Baskets will be provided in the vestibule and near the elevator area. We are collecting items during today's service and on December 5 and 12, or you can drop off at church office during the week.

Activities & Fundraising Committee will be meeting on Monday, December 6, at 7pm, in the social hall. Please come out and join us! We need your help to support our ministries and outreach programs!

Heritage Christmas will be held on December 3 & 10, from 5:30-8:30pm. We will have a booth on the square for Heritage Christmas on both those evenings. The Guild will be passing out candy canes. Our booth will also have information about our church and flyers with information about our Cantata Service being held on December 19, and our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24.

First Saturday Free Community Meal will be held on December 4, from 11 to 1pm, take-out only. Menu includes: hot turkey or hot roast beef sandwich, peas, dessert choice of cookie or brownie and bottled water. If you need a meal delivered, please contact Chet Nye or call the church office.

Worship & Spiritual Life Committee will be meeting on December 12, 9am, in the social hall. Contact Cathy Keefer for any further information.

Consistory & Committee Reports for November will be due soon. Please start gathering your information to submit to church office.

Prayer Chain – If you are not on our prayer chain, and would like to receive our automated phone messages for prayer needs, please contact church office so we can add you to the list. If anyone would like to request prayers for family or friends, please call us and we will send out the prayer need. You can also express joys, concerns and celebrations.

Christmas Cantata will be held on Sunday, December 19, at 10am. Please bring your family and friends to enjoy the special music our Chancel Choir will be performing.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service celebrating the birth of Christ the Lord will be held on December 24, at 7pm, in the sanctuary. Everyone welcome to join us!

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, December 5, 10am:

Greeters/Ushers: Lorna Thomas & TBA

Reader: Patty Stepler

Communion Servers: Lorna Thomas & Lu Miller

Advent Candle Lighter: TBA

Advent Reader: TBA

