

Second Sunday of Christmas

Liturgical Setting: The St. James Christmas Service

January 4, 2026
10:30 am

Grace Lutheran Church
Wenatchee, WA



Welcome to Grace!

The stained-glass windows in our church display a beautiful collection of glass pieces, each one unique and important. The same is true for all of God's children. As people of Grace Lutheran Church, our diversity makes us stronger and more resilient.

We strive to welcome all. We want to be a church where all are safe, all are welcome. Believers, non-believers, doubters, seekers, and questioners: You are welcome here. Old and young. Able or disabled. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities: You are welcome here. Rich and poor. Black, brown, and white: You are welcome here. Jeans and a t-shirt or a suit and tie. Addiction and mental health concerns: You are welcome here.

You are welcomed and valued here, because we are all pieces of stained glass, broken and beautiful in our own way.

As a church, we resolve to open our hearts, our minds, and our doors. We seek to reconcile ourselves to one another and to God, the master artist.

Holy Communion: We celebrate the grace of God with Holy Communion each Sunday. All are welcome!

If you are worshipping with children: Children are welcome and encouraged to join us in worship! We have a few options, especially for our young worshipers. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers. Quiet toys are located just outside the back door of the sanctuary for young children and caregivers. Most Sundays we have nursery staff available to help watch the children in that space. You are also welcome to use the quiet area under the balcony, beside the stained-glass window.

Our Mission Statement: "To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission."

Grace Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

+++ GATHERING +++

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND KIDS' TALK

PRELUDE

The Friendly Beasts
Ukulele Ensemble, soloists, children of Grace

Traditional English

Please stand as you are able.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, $\text{\textt{T}}$ one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**
**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**
**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**
**We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.**
**Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**
Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.
 ✕ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.
 Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

ELW #514, *O Word of God Incarnate*
Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.



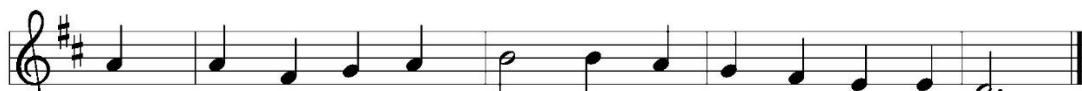
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

GREETING

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

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy up-on us. God the
Lord, the Savior gave us, Je-sus Christ is born to save us; Lord, have
mer - cy up-on us. Lord, have mer - cy up-on us.

SONG OF PRAISE

ELW #289, *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

+++ WORD +++

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷Thus says the Lord:

 Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
 and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
 proclaim, give praise, and say,
 “Save, O Lord, your people,
 the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
 and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
 those with child and those in labor together;
 a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
 and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
 in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
 and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
 and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him
 and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob
 and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
 and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
 and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
 and they shall never languish again.

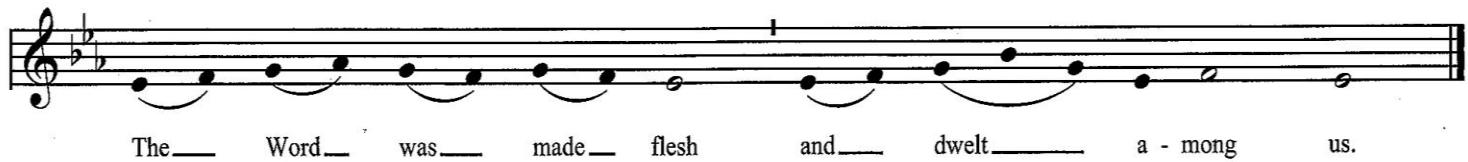
¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 147

*The cantor introduces the refrain; all repeat it.
The cantor sings verses. All sing the refrain as indicated.*



The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you. God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat. God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly. Refrain

God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes. God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold? The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow. God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel. The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah! Refrain

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

A reading from Ephesians.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #510, *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to

heav'n de-scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,

faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the

we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear - you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

RESPONSE All sing.

ELW #510, *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*, stanza 3

Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

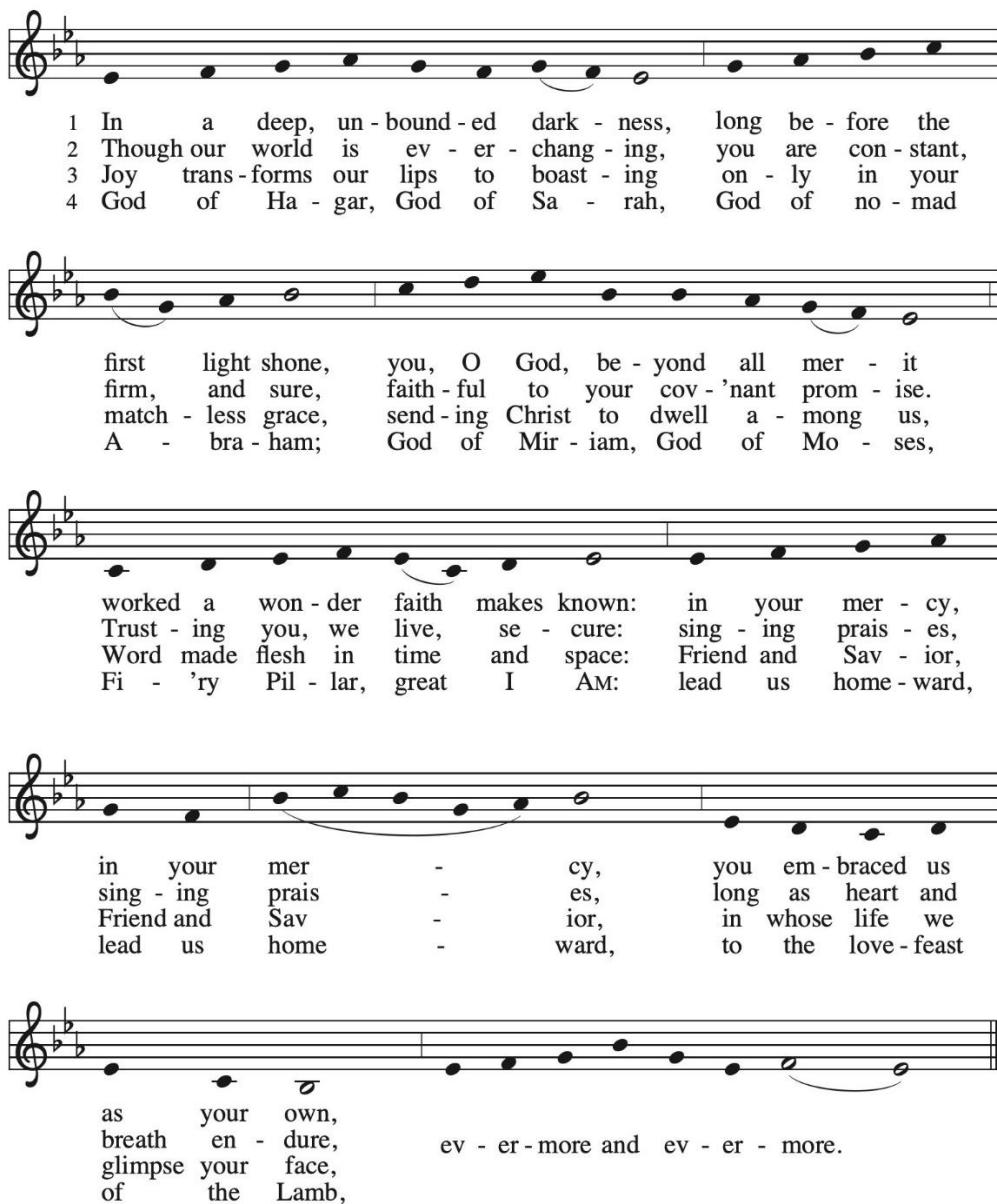
Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness



1 In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the
2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant,
3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your
4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad

first light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it
firm, and sure, faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise.
match - less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us,
A - bra - ham; God of Mir - iam, God of Mo - ses,

worked a won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy,
Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es,
Word made flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior,
Fi - 'ry Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward,

in your mer - cy, you em - braced us
sing - ing prais - es, long as heart and
Friend and Sav - ior, in whose life we
lead us home - ward, to the love - feast

as your own, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
breath en - dure, glimpse your face,
glimpse your face,
of the Lamb,

Text: Anonymous, China; tr. Francis P. Jones, 1890-1975; adapt. Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

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APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our Christian 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

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+++ MEAL +++

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

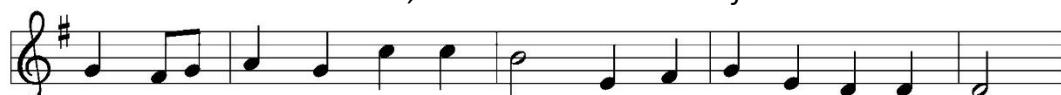
OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING*The Coventry Carol*
Ukulele Ensemble, assembly

Traditional English

After the introduction, all sing the first stanza and hum the following two.

Lullay, thou little tiny child, by, by, lully, lullay, lullay, thou little tiny child, by, by, lully, lullay.

OFFERING HYMNELW #302, *As with Gladness Men of Old*

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of glory,
great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,
God of pow'r and_ might, ____ heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he, is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. ____ Ho - san - na in the
high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God... ...in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION SONG



O Lamb of God, O Holy Child, who takes the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the son of Mary. This, this is your body giv'n, Your precious blood, the gift of heav'n. Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the son of Mary.

MUSICAL OFFERING*I Saw Three Ships/Winds Through the Olive Trees*
Ukulele Ensemble**DISTRIBUTION SONG***ELW #300, The First Noel*
Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and



Refrain
 night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.
Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.

Amen.

+++ SENDING +++

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please be seated.

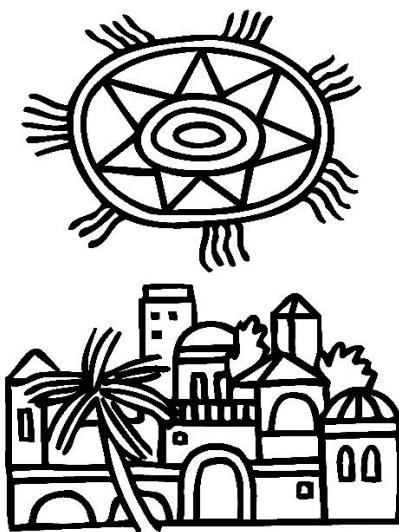
MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.



SENDING SONG

ELW #253, *He Came Down*

1 He came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light;
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light;
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Noel: *Vous qui desirez sans fin*

Jean-François Dandrieu

Serving in Today's Worship

Presiding Minister:	Rev. James Aalgaard
Pastoral Intern:	Laura Olsen
Soloists:	Kate Gregg, Phil Gregg, Kristi Lee
Altar Guild:	Denise Miller
Tech:	Marlena La Paz
Greeters:	Hollie & Erik Olson

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A note regarding livestreaming at Grace: With your participation in our worship services, we assume you have granted us permission to include you in our videos. If you have a concern about being included, please let the staff know, and we will help find a solution that meets your needs.

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