

So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will  
come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Matthew 24:44



Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

November 30, 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

## Sunday Service – November 30, 2025

How can we pray for you? Let us know in the Zoom/Facebook Chat!

We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in **\*BOLD\*** with us from your homes!

10:15 – Zoom Meeting Starts ~ ~ ~ 10:20 – Facebook Live Stream Starts

10:30 – Live Prelude Starts

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* by Prichard

### Welcome

### Call to Worship –

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

**For in God’s house we shall find hope and healing.**

In God’s house we shall find forgiveness and friendship.

**May peace be within the walls of this house of God.**

Come, let us go to the house of the Lord.

**Come, let us sing our praises to God who loves and redeems us!**

### Lighting of the First Advent Candle – The Candle of Restoration

This year the lighting of the Advent Candles will reflect the “Four R’s” in our Christian life. They are Restoration, Repentance, Resurrection and Rejoicing. Our scripture passage for the lighting of the Candle of Restoration is taken from Isaiah 2:1-5. Listen now to the word of God.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the

light of the Lord!

## **Lighting the Candle of Restoration**

“Rock the Block”, “Windy City Rehab”, “Rehab Addict” and “Restored by the Fords”, are all shows on HGTV which deal with home restoration. Every show features a home that is broken down and in need of serious repair. After weeks of hard work which sometimes include taking a home down to the bare studs, it soon becomes magically restored to its previous glory. In some instances, the house is in better shape than when it was first built!

In our passage from Isaiah, we see where God will bring restoration to a broken world. Swords and spears will now become pruning hooks. Nations will no longer go to war against nations. A new world order will come into being and God’s promise to his people will never be broken.

Advent is a time when we focus our attention on God’s work in this broken world. It is a time of waiting in silence, a time of looking for the salvation that God has promised, and a time of knowing that God can not only take our old life and restore it, but more importantly make our life entirely new due to our relationship in Christ Jesus his Son, our Savior.

### **Prayer:**

Let us pray. Dear God, the prophets of old had a vision of the restoration of the whole human family. They saw in the birth of the coming one, the establishment of the justice that makes it possible for all people to thrive, to reach their God-given potential, to experience the healing and joy that God intends for all creation. O Lord, help us to embrace the restoration and healing God has promised to us. Amen.

We will now sing verse 1 of hymn #88, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:

**O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.**

## **Opening Hymn #85 “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”**

### **Call to Confession –**

It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God’s mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing. Let us come to the Lord our God as we share in the Prayer of Confession.

### **Prayer of Confession –**

**God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes we don’t know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who wronged us. We lounge about in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment of faith. We care for ourselves but not for others. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us, help us to repent, and make us whole we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen. Let us now silently confess our sins before God.**

*Time for silent confession*

### **Assurance of Pardon –**

God hears our prayers and responds. For we have a God who wills the best for us in all circumstances and works with us to overcome the unbearable. Therefore, let us turn away from the darkness and onto the Light – the light of Christ our Lord.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen!**

## **Song of Assurance #581 “Gloria Patri”**

### **Passing the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you!**

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

## Children's Message

## Time for Music & Meditation

## Prayer for Illumination

Let us Pray: O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Epistle Reading – Romans 13:11-14 p.1765

11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

## Choir Anthem #663 “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun”

## Gospel Reading – Matthew 24:36-44

p.1539

36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and

the other left.

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Sermon

Ready or Not – Here I Come

### Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Hymn of Response #106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

### Prayers of the People and 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.

### Call to Offering

As we have been fed, we are sent to feed others. Whatever their need, we know the source of food to nourish them. God supplies the resources we have to give. Therefore, let us participate in God's redeeming activity through our offerings. Let us offer up our tithes, our offerings, our very selves to God's service.

**Offertory**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* by Helmore

**Doxology #606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

**Prayer of Dedication –**

Let us pray. Loving God, we place our faith in you, we place our confidence in the Spirit's power, and we place our hope in the ongoing work of Christ's church. Use our gifts to expand your peace, grace & justice throughout the world. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Decorating the Tree**

**Closing Hymn #276 “Sing a New Song unto the Lord”**

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us* by Nicolai

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Angel Tree Tags:** If you took a tag for our Angel Tree family, please return your gifts and tags by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Turkey Drive Thank You:**

Thank you to all who donated cans, boxes of food, and the cash donations for the East Wayne Street Center turkey meal. The cash donations from the congregation totaled \$585 plus the MOE team donated \$115 from Special Mission Fund to make the total of \$700.

East Wayne Street Center is very appreciative of all the help we can give them.

Thanks again,

**SCRIP:** We are selling SCRIP next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. These make excellent stocking stuffers. To purchase SCRIP see John Current.

**Annual Wellspring Christmas Meal:** We will be serving a meal at Wellspring Interfaith Social Services on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, and need volunteers and desserts! The event runs from 12:15 to no later than 2:00 PM. We will have food from Lucille's Barbecue, our choir, led by Tom, will sing some Christmas songs, and then we will play Bingo for prizes. Find Todd German for more info.

**Grace's 3rd Annual White Elephant Christmas Party:** Following the service on December 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating our 3<sup>rd</sup> White Elephant Christmas Party. America is the theme. Anything about America, its' colors or its' symbols is great. Recycle something you already have or if new, less than \$8.00. There will be gifts for the children. Sliders and drinks will be provided. Bring a snack or dessert to share. All members, visitors and friends are invited.

### Birthdays

Katie Lochry – December 3

### Anniversaries

## **ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS**

To connect to our worship services on Zoom, follow these instructions to watch or listen. You can connect at 10:15 for fellowship; the service starts at 10:30.

### **Option 1: Automatically Join the Meeting**

Follow the link in the email sent every week. This is by far the easiest way to connect to the live video.

### **Option 2: Manually Join the Meeting**

You can download Zoom from <https://www.zoom.us>.

After you have installed the program/app, click on “Join” and enter this information:

**Meeting ID:** 9712063468      **Password:** 030414

### **Option 3: Call in to Listen (Audio Only)**

On Sunday Morning, you can call to listen to the service. After you call, it will ask you to enter the Meeting ID and Password Below:

**Phone Number:** (301) 715-8592 **Meeting ID:** 9712063468      **Password:** 030414

## 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great *O Antiphons* may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: *O Wisdom* (2)  
Dec. 18: *O Lord of might* (3)  
Dec. 19: *O Root of Jesse* (4)

Dec. 20: *O Key of David* (5)  
Dec. 21: *O Dayspring* (6)  
Dec. 22: *O Desire of Nations* (7)

Dec. 23: *O Emmanuel* (1)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite  
MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988  
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL  
LM with refrain

10

## Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

# Prepare the Way, O Zion 106

1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.  
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folksong that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;  
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930  
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

# Sing a New Song unto the Lord 276

(Psalm 98)

Refrain

Sing a new song unto the Lord; let your song be  
sung from mountain's high. Sing a new song  
unto the Lord, sing-ing hal - le - lu - jah!

1 Shout with glad - ness! Dance for joy! O come be -  
2 Rise, O chil - dren, from your sleep; your Sav - ior  
3 Glad my soul for I have seen the glo - ry

fore the Lord. And play for God on  
now has come. He has turned your  
of the Lord. The trum - pet sounds; the

glad tam - bou-rines, and let your trum - pet sound.  
sor - row to joy, and filled your soul with song.  
dead shall be raised. I know my Sav - ior lives.

This loose paraphrase effectively conveys the joyful tone of Psalm 98, largely by incorporating allusions to many other Scriptures, such as Psalm 149:3, Romans 13:11, Psalm 16:9, 1 Corinthians 15:52, and Job 19:25. These familiar echoes help to give the text depth and breadth.

TEXT and MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte, 1972, alt.  
Text and Music © 1972, 2008 Daniel L. Schutte (Published by OCP)

SING A NEW SONG  
Irregular