

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6



Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

December 7, 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

## Sunday Service – December 7, 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 Second Advent Candle – The Candle of Repentance

Our scripture passage for “The Candle of Repentance”, is taken from Matthew 3:1-12.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’

### LIGHT THE FIRST AND SECOND PURPLE CANDLES

Within this passage we see John the Baptist bursting on the scene and preaching a message of repentance. Repentance is a renewing of heart and mind that turns us back to God and God’s ways. It is not a one-time occurrence. Repentance is a way of life always walking in the ways of the Lord, loving and serving our neighbor; living the life of JOY and FREEDOM that repentance brings!

## Prayer –

Let us pray: O God, as we continue through this Advent Season, give us endurance, encouragement, joy, and peace. Move us to repentance, change our hearts with your eternal Word, and dwell with us forever. For we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

We will now sing verse 2 of hymn #88, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:

*O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in its ways to go.  
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 15:4-13**

p.1766

4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise

to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed 9 and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;  
I will sing the praises of your name.”

10 Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

11 And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;  
let all the peoples extol him.”

12 And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,  
one who will arise to rule over the nations;  
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

**Gospel Reading – Matthew 3:1-12**

p.1499

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

4 John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

## Sermon

### 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 #82 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

### Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

*"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us* by Nicolai

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Special Congregational Meeting Next Sunday:** Next Sunday, following the service, the congregation will be meeting to vote on a candidate for the position of pastor. A letter from Thomas Monnier, our PNC Chair, is in the bulletin (and was also emailed to everyone) with a bit more information.

**SCRIP:** We are selling SCRIP this 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 this Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 if you'd like to join in the fun.

**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

**Madge Zion - December 11**

## 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

# Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

85

This text works best when used incrementally during the four weeks of Advent. It underscores the “waiting” theme of the season and concludes appropriately with reference to Matthew 25:1–13. The tune name meaning “deep in the forest” comes from the opening of a Yiddish love song.

TEXT: Wayne L. Wold, 1984

MUSIC: Yiddish folk song; arr. Wayne L. Wold, 1984

*Text and Music Arr. © 1984 Fortress Press (admin. Augsburg Fortress)*

TIF IN VELDELE

10.7.9.6

## 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.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

# 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

## 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.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744  
 MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL  
 8.7.8.7.D  
 (alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)