

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,
All and grant us your salvation.
Leader Listen to what the Lord our God says:
He promises peace to his people,
who are his beloved saints.
All The Lord will indeed give what is good.
Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.
Leader May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us
in this time of Advent worship.
All May we see God’s face and so know peace.
Come, Lord Jesus, come! — based on Ps. 85:7-13 (NIV)

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS / WORDS: Ps. 24, MUSIC: G. WEISEL

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!
2. A helper just, He comes to thee;
his chariot is humility;
his kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter, kindness in distress!
3. O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes,
to whom this King in triumph comes!
4. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart!
The Word made flesh descends to dwell
with joy for you who His mercies tell.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a
symbol of God’s unending love and faithfulness. Its light reminds us
of the hope we have in his salvation in Jesus Christ, the light of the
world.
The prophet Isaiah said, “The Lord himself will give you a sign: the
virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him
Emmanuel.” And the angel Gabriel said to Mary, “Greetings you who
are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”
All We rejoice that we too have found favor with God. God’s mercy
extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.
—based on Is. 7:14; Lk 1:28, NIV

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION / WORDS. F. FRANZEN; ARR. REINDEER TRIBE

1. Prepare the way, O Zion
Your Christ is drawing near
Let every hill and valley
A level way appear
Greet One who comes in glory
Foretold in sacred story
Oh blest is Christ that came
In God’s most holy name
2. He brings God’s rule, O Zion
He comes from heaven above
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love
Lift high your praise resounding
For grace and joy abounding
Oh, blest is Christ that came
In God’s most holy name

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS / C. WESLEY; ARR. B. COLEMAN

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus
born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
2. Born Thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Merciful God, always with us, always coming:
We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God.
Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem
and find the good news of a child born for us.
Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. **Amen.**
Silence is kept together

SONG OF ASSURANCE

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH BE SILENT / G. MOULTRIE

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of Lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.
4. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

WORDS OF COMFORT & ASSURANCE

Leader Fear not! Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are
pardoned. The penalty is paid by the One who has come and is com-
ing again! —based on Is. 40:1-2
All Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
Together And also with you!
* Children ages 2 to 5th grade are invited to participate in our children’s program during the
sermon; children return for Communion. Our nursery, located behind the check-in table, is
available for children ages 0-23 months (drop off only). A wiggle area for toddlers 2+ and their
parents/guardians is available in the lounge next to the double glass doors leading to the back
patio.

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

*During the offertory, we consider all that we have and all that God may be asking
us to give. Please take this time to ask God how you might give of your financial gifts,
personal time and even vocational calling. There are different ways to give. You may
mail your offering to our office address: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA
91101; or give via our website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5 (ESV)

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
² It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
³ and 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 the law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE

Ben Ewen

“The Kingdom of Hope”
Sermon Series: Waiting with Isaiah

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Jesus, our shepherd, come to your church as Lord and judge. We
pray for unity and wisdom for ourselves and those you’ve given to
lead us. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a
longing for your kingdom. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader Come to your world as king of the nations. We pray that you would
empower goodness and restrain evil; turn our weapons of war into
plowshares. Let the leaders of our world remember that they will
stand in silence before you. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader Come to the suffering as savior and comforter. We lift up to you our
needs and longings, as well as those of our families, friends, and
neighbors. Break into our lives where we struggle with sickness and
distress, and set us free to love you and our neighbors. In silence,
we lift the names of those in need. (*silence*) For this, O Lord, we
pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy
of your kingdom on earth as in heaven. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer and renew our hope as we wait for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION

GUIDELINES: The sacrament of Communion is also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist.
It is the family meal for those who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for
salvation. The invitation is from Jesus Christ alone, not from this church or any minister. If you
are baptized and can call yourself a Christian, come to the table.
DIRECTIONS: When instructed, please come forward to receive Communion. Receive the
bread and juice from the servers. Participate as you feel comfortable.
CHILDREN: Children who are baptized, can profess faith in Jesus Christ in an age appropri-
ate manner, and have talked to a pastor or an elder may participate in communion.

COMMUNION PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

For those searching: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Give me not only understanding, but also an experience of your love and presence. Amen.

For faith and belief: Lord Jesus, I am weak and sinful, but you call me beloved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death and offering forgiveness and renewal. I hear you calling, and so I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Amen.

For those struggling with sin: Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, to ask for help, and to follow you faithfully in life. Amen.

SONGS OF RESPONSE & CELEBRATION

COME, O REDEEMER OF THE EARTH / WORDS: ST. AMBROSE

1. Come, O Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest Thy virgin birth.
Let every age in wonder fall: such birth
befits the God of all.

2. Begotten of no human will
but of the Spirit, Thou art still.
The Word of God in flesh arrayed, the
promised fruit to man displayed.
3. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness breathe a newer light
Where endless faith shall shine
serene and twilight never intervene.

4. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore, and
Holy Ghost, for evermore.

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
Grace to you and peace from God our Father

And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

- Leader

Be on guard! Be alert! The Lord is coming! And may Christ the
Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from
before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes
in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
- All

Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ADVENT	Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation; it’s the season the church anticipates the coming of Christ. We look forward to and prepare for the celebration of his birth in the little town of Bethlehem many years ago. We also look forward to and prepare for his future and final coming to judge the world and mend all things. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting. The color of the season is purple, which is associated with repentance and preparation.
CHRISTMAS	
EPIPHANY	
LENT	
EASTER	
PENTECOST	
ORDINARY TIME	

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **11/27:** Last day to contribute to College Student Care Packages
- **12/3:** Women’s Christmas Cookie Swap
- **12/4:** Family Advent Event @ 9AM
- **12/10:** Door of Hope Christmas Festival
- **12/11:** Prayer Service for the Grieving @ 12PM
- **12/18:** All Church Family Advent Service @ 10AM
- **12/24:** Christmas Eve Service @ 4PM
- **12/25 & 1/1:** No Sunday Services; Services resume 1/8

Scan the QR code below for more details, other announcements and contact information!



GRACE PASADENA’S VISION STATEMENT

Grace Pasadena exists to **Experience** & **Extend** the life-giving grace of God

- **As** we grow in the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- **In** every sphere of life
- **For** our neighborhoods, city and the world

GRACE PASADENA’S CORE VALUES

God-Centered Worship – We seek to be transformed in worship as we experience the wonder of God and respond appropriately

Gospel-Driven Identity – We seek a personal experience of the gospel that both humbles us, and assures us that we are more deeply valued and loved by God than we can possibly imagine

Outward-Facing Community – We seek the betterment of our city as we extend God’s grace by loving our neighbors as ourselves

Kingdom-Minded Movement – We seek to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by creating community and global partnerships that can reach and serve those in need

GIVING & BUDGET

	<u>JAN-DEC ‘21</u>	<u>JAN-OCT</u>	<u>NOV ‘22¹</u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	488,889	374,490	31,109
BUDGETED GIVING _____	468,000	384,000	39,000
DIFFERENCE _____	+20,889	-9,510	-7,891

¹as of 11/25/2022; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors

YEAREND GIVING NOTE

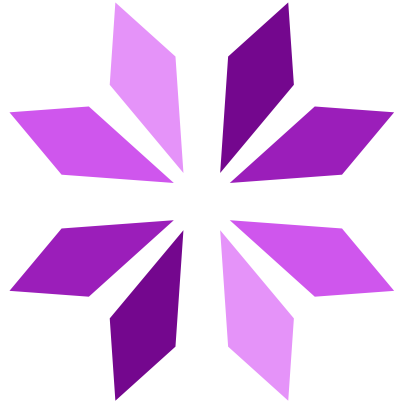
PLEASE NOTE: All tax-deductible gifts for 2022 must given by 12/31/22. Any financial gifts sent through the mail must be dated and postmarked by 12/31/22. Our mailing address is: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA 91101. To give via our website, visit: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

Would you like to give a stock gift? Contact info@gracepasadena.org to learn how.



(626) 653-6036 (voicemail or text) | info@gracepasadena.org | www.gracepasadena.org

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“The dual nature of Advent invites both songs and groans....So in your Advent prayers, give yourself permission to sing and permission to groan. Remember that the sweet taste of shalom during Advent is only that, a taste; it is not the full feast yet to come. And the groans induced by our sufferings are not the final sounds; one day they will be subsumed into a chorus of glory. So sing and let your songs be joyful longings; groan and let your cries be hopeful laments.

BOBBY GROSS

“The gospel is good news, and the good news is the announcement of a kingdom and how we can enter that kingdom through faith in the King. This starts with the glad declaration that the old order—whether it’s the imperial Rome or imperial Me—has been overthrown....Every time we speak out for justice, every time we make peace, every time we strike out the ravages of the curse, we’re announcing that this wreck around us isn’t yet the kingdom—it gets better than this. At the same time, we recognize that the kingdom is fully here only when we see—by sight, not just by faith—the unveiling of Christ.”

RUSSELL MOORE

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice – it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances – but it the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat holds the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And I still believe you will come, Lord; you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that I am really speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

MARY OLIVER | “AN ADVENT POEM”

THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 27, 2022