

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader The mighty God summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.  
**All** **Our God comes and will not be silent.**  
Leader God calls, and we respond to his love.  
The heavens declare God’s righteousness.  
**All** **We were once in darkness,**  
**but God has shone his light on us!**  
**We join heaven and earth**  
**to shout out God’s glories!**  
Leader Offer up to God your thanksgiving.  
**All** **Our God will hear us, save us,**  
**and stay with us forever.**  
**Come, Lord Jesus, come!**  
  
—based on Ps. 50; Is. 9

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING / R. ROBINSON

1. Come Thou fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount I’m fixed upon it,  
mount of Thy redeeming love!  
  
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
hither by Thy help I’m come,  
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure  
safely to arrive at home!  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God.  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed His precious blood!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader We light these candles to proclaim the good news  
that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.  
He has come and is coming again.  
Let us heed the words of the prophet Isaiah  
and prepare for his coming by making straight all that is crooked.  
**All** **Let us prepare for Jesus Christ,**  
**who is anointed by God to bring good news to the oppressed,**  
**to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives**  
**and release to the prisoners.**  
**For as a garden causes seeds to grow,**  
**so the Lord God will cause righteousness**  
**and praise to spring up before all the nations.**  
  
—based on Jn. 1; Is. 9 & 40

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST / REINDEER TRIBE

Glory to God in the highest  
And peace on earth  
Peace on earth  
Glory to God in the highest  
And peace on earth  
Peace on earth  
Good will to men,  
O daughters of Zion rejoice  
Shout with joy and sing  
Our Savior is here

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL / TRANS. J. NEALE

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
**REFRAIN:**  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.*  
2. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;  
from depths of hell Thy people save,  
and give them victory over the grave.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All:** Lord, we have not kept watch for you.  
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.  
We have not waited to find your will for us.  
We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.  
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.  
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness;  
give us eyes to see the light of your love and fill us with new faith.  
Help us to wait to know your will.  
Help us to look out for the needs of others.  
Help us to work and watch for your coming. **Amen.**

Silence is kept together

SONG OF ASSURANCE

LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING / TRANS. T. BAKER

1. Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming,  
as men of old have sung.  
It came, a flow’ret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.  
  
2. Isaiah ’twas foretold it,  
the Rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright,  
she bore to men a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

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!  
**All** **Thanks be to God!**  
  
—based on Is. 40: 1-2

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 9:1-7(ESV)

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.  
<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.  
<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.  
<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Brannin Pitre

“The Light Has Dawned”  
Sermon Series: Waiting with Isaiah

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Our Maker and Redeemer, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
Keep your Church watchful at all times, and give us the strength  
to stand in your love with confidence as we wait for you to come  
again. For this, O Lord, we pray:  
**All** **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
Leader Mighty God and Prince of Peace, bring your kingdom with  
justice and mercy. Establish among the nations your scepter of  
righteousness; establish your peace in all the world. For this, O  
Lord, we pray:  
**All** **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
Leader Wonderful Counselor and Everlasting Father, bind up the  
brokenhearted, restore the sick, and raise up all who have fallen.  
May the light of your coming dawn on all who live in darkness and  
the shadow of death. For this, O Lord, we pray:  
**All** **Jesus, our Emmanuel, 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 appropriate 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

O, BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM / WORDS: R. BOYCE; ARR. THE REINDEER TRIBE

1. O, beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
Shining afar through shadows dim  
Giving the light for those  
Who long have gone;  
Guiding the Wise Men on their way,  
Unto the place where Jesus lay.  
O, beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

**CHORUS**  
O, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
Shine upon us until the glory dawns.  
Give us a light to guide the way  
Unto the land of perfect day  
O, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

DOXOLOGY / T. KEN

Praise God,  
from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Amen

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 (from the Latin “to come”) 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

- **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
- **1/2:** Rose Parade Viewing Party

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

	JAN-DEC ‘21	JAN-NOV	DEC ‘22¹
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS	488,889	414,045	32,481
BUDGETED GIVING	468,000	423,000	78,000
DIFFERENCE	+20,889	-8,955	-45,519

¹as of 12/8/2022; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors

YEAR-END GIVING NOTE

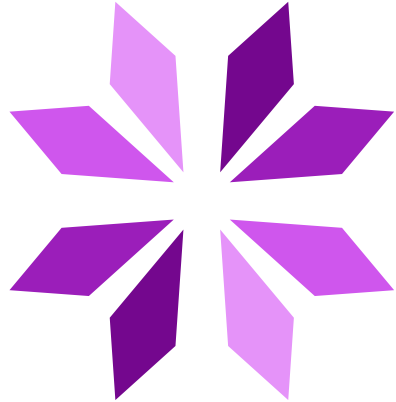
**PLEASE NOTE:** All tax-deductible gifts for 2022 must given by 12/31/22. Any financial gifts sent through the mail must be dated and postmarked by 12/31/22. Our mailing address is: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA 91101. To give via our website, visit: [www.gracepasadena.org/give](http://www.gracepasadena.org/give).

Would you like to give a stock gift? Contact [info@gracepasadena.org](mailto:info@gracepasadena.org) to learn how.



(626) 653-6036 (voicemail or text) | [info@gracepasadena.org](mailto:info@gracepasadena.org) | [www.gracepasadena.org](http://www.gracepasadena.org)

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We must be disarmed by God. That’s the theme of Advent. God is on the move to disarm us all.

FLEMING RUTLEDGE | “ADVENT AT GROUND ZERO”

The God of the universe became a wiggling baby in order to get close to you.

TIMOTHY KELLER

No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor. The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need even of God- for them there will be no Christmas. Only the poor, the hungry, those who need someone to come on their behalf, will have that someone. That someone is God. Emmanuel. God-with-us. Without poverty of spirit there can be no abundance of God.

OSCAR ROMERO | “THE GOD WE HARDLY KNEW”

THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 11, 2022