

PRELUDE + WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader	Let us praise our Lord Jesus Christ. At Christmas Jesus came as a baby.
All	<b>Alleluia! Jesus is coming!</b>
Leader	He came to be like us because he loves us. He came to save us from sin and death.
All	<b>Alleluia! Jesus is coming!</b>
Leader	He died, rose from the dead, and ascended on high. He will come again because he loves us.
All	<b>Alleluia! Jesus is coming!</b>
Leader	We praise Jesus, who came as a baby and will come again at the end of time to make all things new!
All	<b>Come, Lord Jesus, come!</b>

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

*JOY TO THE WORLD / I. WATTS*

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing!	4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.	
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.	

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader 1	We light these candles to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.
Reader 2	The shepherds were the first to hear the joyful announcement of Christ’s birth—the good news of great joy for all the people.
Reader 3	Upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds spread the word concern- ing what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed.
Reader 4	We have also heard this wonderful news. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him, and long for his coming.
All	<b>And we are filled with an expressible and glorious joy.</b>

—based on Lk. 2:10, 17-18; 1 Thess. 1:6; 1 Pt. 1:8

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

*HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING / F. FRANZEN*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”	2. Christ, by highest Heav’n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord; late in time, behold Him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity; pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
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**REFRAIN:**  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

*O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL / J. WADE*

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold Him, born the King of angels;	2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest;
<b>REFRAIN:</b> <i>O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!</i>	3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All:** Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with buying, and giving. We are busy cleaning house and packing bags. We are busy with the stuff of the season. And we confess that our busyness has been misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing to receive anew the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Forgive us and restore your peace in our busy lives. By your Spirit, help us to let go of thing that do not matter, to receive the life of your Son, the Light of the world, and to love you and our neighbors. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept together*

SONG OF ASSURANCE

*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH / FRENCH CAROL*

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.	4. See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
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**REFRAIN**  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*  
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?  
3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

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	<b>Thanks be to God!</b>

—based on Is. 40:1-2

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader	May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
Together	<b>And also with you!</b>

*\* Please note: We will not be offering our children’s Sunday program today. All children are invited to stay and participate in the entire service. A wiggle area is available for our little ones, toddlers and their parents or guardians.*

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, OFFERING + KID’S CHOIR

*\*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 7:10-16 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

Leader	This is the Word of the Lord.
All	<b>Thanks be to God!</b>

MORNING MESSAGE

Ben Ewen

*“Asking for Immanuel”*  
*Sermon Series: Waiting with Isaiah*

PROFESSION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES’ CREED

*Brothers and sisters, in whom do we believe and trust?*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there 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.**

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 accept- ed. 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 faith- fully in life. Amen.*

SONGS OF RESPONSE & CELEBRATION

GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN / ARR. THE REINDEER TRIBE

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ, our Savior,  
was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r,  
when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heav’nly Father,  
a blessed angel came  
and unto certain shepherds,  
brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born,  
the son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Tidings of comfort and joy.
3. “Fear not,” then said the angel,  
“Let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior,  
the true and radiant light,  
to free all those who trust in him,  
from Satan’s pow’r and might.”  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Tidings of comfort and joy.

4. Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
And in true love and fellowship,  
each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas,  
is filled with heav’nly grace.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Tidings of comfort and joy.

THE FIRST NOEL / TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL; ARR. THE REINDEER TRIBE

1. The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay  
tending their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night  
that was so deep.

2. They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued  
both day and night.
3. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made heaven  
and earth of naught,  
and with His blood mankind  
hath bought.
- CHORUS

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

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

CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

EASTER

PENTECOST

ORDINARY TIME
- 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **12/18:** All Church Family Advent Service @ 10AM
- **12/24:** Christmas Eve Service @ 4PM
- **12/25 & 1/1:** No Sunday Services
- **1/2:** Rose Parade Viewing Party
- **1/8:** Sunday Services Resume
- **Week of 1/22:** City Groups Resume
- **2/24 - 2/25 :** Men’s Retreat

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	56,198
BUDGETED GIVING _____	468,000	423,000	78,000
DIFFERENCE _____	+20,889	-8,955	-21,802

¹as of 12/16/2022; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors

YEAR-END GIVING NOTE

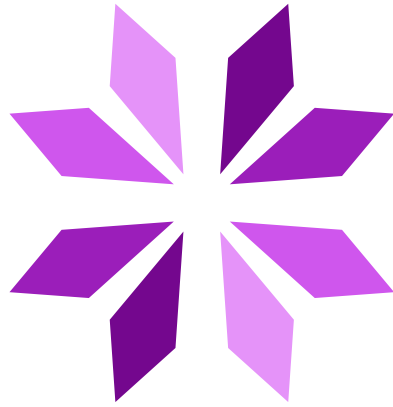
**PLEASE NOTE:** All tax-deductible gifts for 2022 must given by 12/31/22. Any financial gifts sent through the mail must be dated and postmarked by 12/31/22. Our mailing address is: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA 91101. To give via our website, visit: [www.gracepasadena.org/give](http://www.gracepasadena.org/give).

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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“Christmas is fast approaching. And now that Christ has aroused our seasonal expectations, he’ll soon fulfill them all!”

ST. AUGUSTINE | FROM SERMON 51

“One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along, that while we need to be reassured of God’s arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home. While we wait, we have to trust, to have faith, but it is God’s grace that gives us that faith.”

MICHELLE BLAKE

Salvation to all that will is nigh;  
That All, which always is all everywhere,  
Which cannot sin, and yet all sins must bear,  
Which cannot die, yet cannot choose but die,  
Lo, faithful virgin, yields Himself to lie  
In prison, in thy womb; and though He there  
Can take no sin, nor thou give, yet He will wear,  
Taken from thence, flesh, which death’s force may try.  
Ere by the spheres time was created, thou  
Wast in His mind, who is thy Son and Brother;  
Whom thou conceivst, conceived; yea thou art now  
Thy Maker’s maker, and thy Father’s mother;  
Thou hast light in dark, and shutst in little room,  
Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb.

JOHN DONNE | “ANNUNCIATION”

THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 18, 2022