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*Choir Carol Service  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Jackson Center, Ohio  
December 8, 2023  
8:00 am*

Welcome to  
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*Second Sunday of Advent*  
December 8, 2024 ~ 8:00 A.M.

**Welcome to Our Guests**

God sends us out as messengers with his good news. Who has brought that news to me? Who needs me to carry that news to them? We believe God has a purpose for you being here today and our desire is to be an instrument in helping you discover and fulfill that purpose. You are invited to come and worship with us again. If you are a visitor, we ask that you sign the guest register in either vestibule and fill out a card found in your pew. Please let us know if the pastor or we may be of service to you in any way.

**The Common Thread in Today's Readings**

The Old Testament also declares the Christ. Malachi prophesies with a pun that God will send a malaki, a messenger, who will prepare the way before him. God is coming, says the prophet, to refine and judge and call to repentance. The Lord has always led his people, keeping their foot from slipping and their soul alive. God will complete the work he has begun—whether in the history of salvation, in the Church, or in our individual lives. It will fully come to pass when all humanity sees God's salvation, that day when Jesus returns in glory.

**As We Gather**

*\* Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

Welcome & Announcements

Rick Russell

The Prelude

Nancy McName & Cheryl Burch

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Choir

L: Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ.

Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace.  
*(Light two adjacent Blue Candles).*

L: God envisions a peace for the world. We dream of God's peace, we long for it. Peace among nations, peace within our own borders, peace in our hearts, peace in our homes. When there is no peace to be found, we look back to the manger, to the infant Christ, who is the Prince of Peace longed for through the ages. We remember the peace glimpsed on that Holy Night so long ago, peace that surpasses all understanding, and we long for the risen Christ's return. We light this candle in Peace.

**C: On this day, we pray in hope of peace as we cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

## Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Opening Hymn

***“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”***

No. 45

Confession and Forgiveness

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit, that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**C: Amen**

*(Silence for personal confession)*

L: Let us pray.

**C: Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion, forgive our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

L: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep, us in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

\*Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

**ALL: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Time for Young Disciples

“The Friendly Beasts”

Choir

## Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

Anthem

***“Sing of a Merry Christmas”***

Choir

Reading

“Sing”

Patty Mann

Hymn

***“Angels We Have Heard on High” (verses 1 & 3)***

No. 71

Reading	“Shine”	Shirley Schindel
Hymn	<b>“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (verse 1)</b>	No. 54
Reading	“Listen”	Susan Ware
Anthem	<b>“Antiphonal Noel”</b>	Choir
Reading	“Be Humble”	Seth Regula
Hymn	<b>“What Child Is This?” (verses 1 &amp; 3)</b>	No. 40
Reading	“Comfort”	Kay Byrd
Hymn	<b>“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verse 1)</b>	No. 41
Reading	“Share”	Cortney Copeland
Anthem	<b>“Tiny Little Baby”</b>	Choir
Reading	Luke: Chapter 2, Verses 1-7	Cheryl Burch
Hymn	<b>“Silent Night” (verses 1, 2, &amp; 3)</b>	No. 65
Reading	Luke: Chapter 2, Verses 8-16	Tom Schindel
Hymn	<b>“The First Noel” (verses 1 &amp; 2)</b>	No. 56
Reading	“Celebrate”	Linda Jenkins
Anthem	<b>“New Star”</b> Solo: Seth Regula	Choir

## Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the saving Word and all God’s gifts.

Gathering of the Gifts

\*The Offering Hymn      **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ”**      No. 60

Response of Thanksgiving (sung to the tune of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”)

Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise, what he has done proclaim,  
 Let all who seek the Lord rejoice, and proudly bear His name.  
 Who leads His thankful people forth, His promises to claim  
 Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
 Oh tidings of comfort and joy.

\*Closing Prayer

\*The Lord's Prayer (sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

- [1] Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name.  
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same.  
By mortals and angels, come, Lord, reign alone.  
Oh, hear us and bless us, from heaven's high throne.
- [2] The bread that we yearn for, provide us each day.  
As we forgive others, our sins take away.  
In times of temptation, to lead us be near.  
From evil deliver, your children, so dear.
- [3] For yours is the kingdom, o'er all things you reign.  
And yours is the power, all things you maintain.  
To you be the glory, resounding again.  
From all of creation, forever. Amen.

## Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

\*Benediction

\*Closing Hymn

*"Joy to the World"*

No. 39

Postlude

Silent Prayer and Meditation

## ***Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve***

**Your offering to the Lord's work through Grace.** There is a **box for offering** located on a table nearby, for you to drop off offerings. All offerings are greatly appreciated to help the church stay in good financial standings and to do the Lord's work.

**Jingle Offering** – Today there will be a "special" offering for our area "Fish Pond Food Pantry". Any loose change that you have, please place in the labeled jar at the back of the church. Remember that this loose change offering will be used to continue to provide assistance for area families who are in need.

**Thrivent Choice dollars** need to be designated for next year, Thrivent members can designate by going online to [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).

**Merry Christmas!** The Children's Christmas Sunday School Program will be on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am service. They have been practicing lines and music during Sunday School in preparation for this worship service. Please come see the result of all their hard work!

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** at both 8:00 am & 10:30 am worship services will be the installation of the newly elected officers.

**The Backpack program** is asking for donations for the program. They are asking for fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups and peanut butter cups, small individual boxes of cereal, & small individual microwave meal cups (mac & cheese cups). There is a labeled box in the south vestibule for your donations.

**Joining Jesus on His Mission – An Adventure for Your Life**

“Will alter the way you see your life as a follower of Jesus and take you beyond living your life *for* Jesus to living life *with* Jesus. Simple, powerful, and applicable insights show you how to be on mission and recognize where Jesus is already at work.” Greg Finke

This once-a-month group will meet again on Sunday, December 15 at 3:30 pm at Grace Lutheran. Take the next step in your spiritual journey with Jesus.

**Adult Sunday Morning Sunday School at 9:15**

As you have read through the New Testament Gospels, or listened to them in worship, have you noticed that each one begins with the story of Jesus? But each one is quite different. You may wonder if each author is talking about the same person. The month of December we will be studying the beginning of Jesus’ life from the view of the four different Gospel authors. And we will be asking questions of the authors – Who is Jesus? Who is the audience?

What is the author’s purpose?

- December 1     Matthew 1
- December 8    Mark 1
- December 15   Luke 1-2
- December 22   John 1

## Grace Christmas Schedule

**Children's Christmas Program** will be December 15th at the 10:30 AM Worship Service.

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight**

7:00 PM with Communion.

10:30 PM with Communion & Choir.

### **Christmas Morning Worship**

9:00 AM with Communion.



Friends at Grace Lutheran, **Thank you so much** for your assistance cooking turkeys, baking pies or helping to serve or deliver meals to our 342 guests at the 10<sup>th</sup> Community Thanksgiving Dinner. What a blessing it is to live in such a caring community serving others. Happy Thanksgiving to you all.  
Wanda Wildermuth