



**Grace Episcopal
Church
Galena, Illinois
Second Sunday in Advent**

December 6, 2020

Welcome to Grace Church!

It is, as always, a pleasure and privilege to worship together today. Please know that your presence is valued whether this is your first time at Grace or whether you are a regular, whether we are together in person or online on Zoom.

*As we prepare ourselves for worship,
please sit or kneel in quietness
while the prelude is offered.*

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

- | | |
|--|---|
| * Members and Guests, <i>Celebrants</i> | * Robin French, <i>Music Director</i> |
| * Rev. Linda Packard, <i>Presider</i> | * Nancy Cook, <i>Erben Organ</i> |
| * Rev. Diane Luther, <i>Deacon, Preacher</i> | * Eric Kallback, <i>Vestry Coordinator</i> |
| * Terri Jackman, <i>Lector</i> | * Ann Berry & Amy Hardwicke, <i>Altar Guild</i> |
| * Elizabeth Ludescher, <i>Intercessor</i> | * Maren Coates, <i>Greeter</i> |

We gather to worship

PRELUDE

Et in Terra Pax

Gilpin

Please stand as able as the church bells ring.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

Presider: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**All: Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Deacon: O God, we light the second candle of Advent.
(With first candle already burning, the acolyte lights the second candle.)

We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

Priest: Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

People: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

THE LESSON

Lector: A reading from **Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,

And carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

(alternately by verse as directed by the lector)

Benedixisti, Domine

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.**

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

**Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

THE EPISTLE

Lector: A Reading from **Peter**

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to **Mark**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Diane Luther

We affirm our faith

THE CREED

(Please stand as able.)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

We offer prayers

- Deacon: Gracious God, through your messengers the prophets you have called your people to prepare the way of the Lord and to welcome the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: Speak tenderly to your people that we may wait for and hasten the coming day, saying: Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have greeted each other.
- Intercessor: Indwelling God, you have baptized your Church with the Holy Spirit: Inspire us to lead lives of holiness and godliness as we prepare for new heavens and a new earth, that as Christ comes he finds us to be a people of peace and justice. Mercy and truth have met together;
- People: righteousness and peace have greeted each other.**
- Lector: Holy and Mighty One, open the ears and eyes of the leaders of all the nations that they may listen to what the Lord God is saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you. Mercy and truth have met together;
- People: righteousness and peace have greeted each other.**
- Intercessor: Compassionate One, look upon the needs of all humanity: Feed your flock like a shepherd; gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom, gently leading the mother sheep, that all may know the comfort of your strength. Mercy and truth have met together;
- People: righteousness and peace have greeted each other.**
- Lector: Ever-present God, lift up your voice with power to herald good tidings to the people of this community to cast out all fear as we listen for the happy cry of your coming salvation. Mercy and truth have met together;
- People: righteousness and peace have greeted each other.**
- Intercessor: Glorious One, come with might in your divine recompense to reveal your glory to all who look to you in hope, as we pray especially for Joe Watts, and all those on our Prayer List. Others? ____ Mercy and truth have met together;
- People: righteousness and peace have greeted each other.**
- Lector: Accept our glad tidings for those who offer you their gracious thanksgivings, especially for Matthew (Morel) and Max (Vollkommer) serving in the military; the birthdays of *Bill (Boehler), *Dave (Mikelson), *Mary Lou (Smith), Melanie (Hoffman) and *Carol (Most); our Outreach partners Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico; the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission; all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors. Others? ____.
- Bring into your everlasting reign those who have died, especially Eugene (Berningham) and Virginia (Merton). Others? ____.
- People: righteousness and peace have greeted each other.**
- Deacon: Look upon your creation and comfort your people, O Holy One: Let every valley be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; let the uneven ground become level and the rough places a plain, that all people may see the revelation of the glory of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

(Stand or kneel as able)

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

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

People: *Amen.*

(Stand as able.)

We share the Peace of Christ

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

We share the ministries of the Church

DEDICATION AND BLESSING

Blankets and knitted items will be donated to the United Churches Food Pantry and to Shelter Care in Rockford.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

ANNIVERSARY/BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

For those who have received the consecrated wafers and communion items, you may prepare your worship area as the priest prepares the table.

PRESENTATION HYMN *Prepare the Way, O Zion* F.M. Franzén, C. Price/*Svenska Psalmboken*

As the hymn is played, and the altar is prepared for Communion, you may reflect on these words:

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.

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.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Franz Michael Franzén was one of the first notable Finnish poets. He was also one of the most talented lyrical poets in Sweden in his time (1772-1847). Franzén was not only a pioneer in Swedish romantic poetry, but also a notable religious poet. He was a gentler and more intimate poet than other contemporaries and his lyrics and hymns contain some of the emotional pietism that were a feature of 18th-century thought. The essential features of Franzén's poetry are domestic harmony and descriptions of the happiness and joy of simple living. His poetry also included hymns and drinking songs. Of his hymns, the one that is most worth mentioning is the very popular Advent hymn Bereden väg för Herran ('Prepare ye the way of the Lord'), which to this day is still sung in many Advent services in Sweden.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP Eucharistic Prayer D

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

(Stand or kneel as able.)

Presider and **People:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

Presider: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.
Amen.

Presider and People: We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you,
Lord our God.

Presider: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and forever. **Amen**

Presider: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider: The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

People: Lord, unite us in this sign.

FRACTION

Presider: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION MUSIC

For those who do not have the consecrated wafers, you may say this prayer as others receive.

PRAYER FOR WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO SHARE COMMUNION

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

-- The Prayer Book for the Armed Services

Presider: Let us pray:

Celebrant and

People: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
You have graciously accepted us as living members
Of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
And you have fed us with spiritual food
In the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
And grant us strength and courage
To love and serve you
With gladness and singleness of heart;
Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

Presider: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your Path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among You, and remain with you always.

People: *Amen.*

Deacon: Go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Prichard/Carter

The flowers today are given by the Altar Guild.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers are Requested: *Please include the following concerns during worship today and throughout the week:*

Cycle of Prayer:

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and for our companion Parishes: Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeffrey, our Bishop and all members of Grace Church.

We pray for those who are sick or in need:

Havyk (Beauchamp), *Ruth (Beegle), Barb (Bolsen), *Bob (Burton), *Bill (Calvert), *Kathy (Doig), Matthew (Dowe), *Renee (Dowe), *Al (Elsbree), Mary (English), Keith (Ferguson), Daney (Fitzpatrick), *Jennie (Fjelde), Martha (Furst), Bev (Getz), Susan (Haerle), *Barb (Hooper), Howell Family, Ginger (Komiskey), Alden (Kuntz), Verity (Liljedahl), *Alice Maffit, *Diann & *Robert (Marsh), *Mary (Nelson), Sarah (Newton), *Bill (Norton), Maureen (O'Dea), Lisa (Prindle), Steve (Raiman), David (Schaller), Jason (Schaller), Gabriel (Serrano), Melody (Serwich), Stacia (Stroud), *Pat (Terry), *Tom (V.), Joe (Watts), Mina, Stanley, Don, Heather (H.), David (J.), Kathie (O.) and Bruce (W.)

We give thanks for the many blessings we have received:

Max (Vollkommer) and Matthew (Morel) serving in the military;
the birthdays of: *Bill (Boehler), *Dave (Mikelson), *Mary Lou (Smith), Melanie (Hoffman) and *Carol (Most); our Outreach partners: the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission and all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors.

We pray for those who have died, including Vincent (Bucci); and **the anniversary of the deaths of:** Eugene (Berningham) and Virginia (Merton).

ANNOUNCEMENTS for December 6, 2020

Zoom Poetry Meeting

A Zoom Poetry group is meeting at Grace Church on Mondays at 2:00pm. If you are interested, write Carol Poston at poston@sxu.edu or call her at 815-777-0220 to receive the link to the meeting.

Mid-Week Eucharist is this Wednesday, December 9th, at 7:30am in the church and online.

Wednesday Morning Study Group is Wednesday, December 9th, at 10:30am online.

Meditative Prayer meets Friday, December 11th, at 9:00am online. You are welcome to join, and gentle guidance will be provided for those unfamiliar with this practice.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
for Sunday, December 13th, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 John 1:6-8, 19-28
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Psalm 126 or
Canticle 15 (or 3)

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020 CALENDAR

December 6th, 13th & 20th Advent Eucharist 10:30am
December 20 Longest Night Service 7:00pm
December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Christ Mass 5:00pm

Music Copyright Information

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grace episcopal church
galena, illinois

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, Bishop of Chicago
The Very Rev. Gloria G. Hopewell, D. Min., Rector
The Rev. Linda Packard, Priest Associate
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Nancy Kenney, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Greg Serwich	Sr. Warden	Lynn Giles	Jr. Warden
Richard Luther	Treasurer	Diann Marsh	Clerk
Anita Sands (2018-21)	Tony Packard (2018-21)	Charlotte Stryker (2019-22)	
Elizabeth Ludescher (2019-22)	Nancy Cook (2020-23)	Eric Kallback (2020-23)	

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