

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

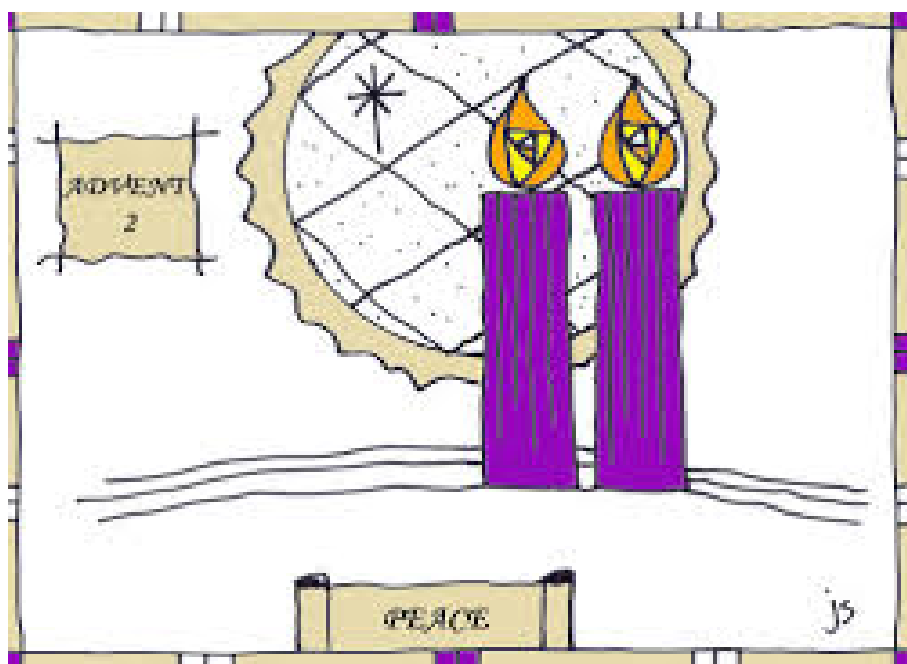
December 8, 2024

9:30 am

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## Welcome and Vision Statement

**We are an open and affirming congregation.  
We genuinely welcome people of all ages,  
race, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,  
beliefs,  
and those who are cognitively  
and or physically challenged.  
Our vision is to be a community  
of love and purpose,  
each one engaged in ministry,  
seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship,  
and embodying God's love for the world.**



## **Prayer Candles**

Before Worship, you may offer a prayer and light a candle at the communion table.

## **We Gather**

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship: Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Worship Team

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people  
and redeemed them.

**He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his child David,  
as he spoke through**

**the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,**  
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the  
hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant that we, being rescued from the hands of our  
enemies,

might serve him without fear, in holiness and  
righteousness in his presence all our days.

**And you, child, will be called the prophet of the  
Most High,**

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
**to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the  
shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of  
peace”** (Luke 1:68-79).

\*Opening Hymn #88 “O Come, O Come, Emanuel”  
vs.1,5-7

## **We Reflect**

Prayer of Illumination

**We Long for our Lord to come near,  
we wait for the fulfillment of God’s promises.  
Draw close, reconciler and transformer of all  
things, renew our world, restore your peace,  
display your righteousness. Amen.**

~ written by Christine Sine, and posted on **Godspace**

Reading from the Letter to the Philippians 1:3-11

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Luke 3:1-6

SERMON

\*Hymn #106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

## **We Respond**

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is **to Know, Love, and Serve God**

Offertory Invitation *Musical Meditation*

Prayer of Dedication

(Many thanks to all who contribute to the mission and ministry of our church in offering plates during worship and by electronic giving throughout the month).

Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)

Lord, in your mercy/with thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

**We Are Sent**

\*Hymn # 92 "While We Are Waiting, Come"

\*Charge and Benediction

L: God is sending you to be messengers of this holy season.

P: **We will go to share God's grace in the shadowed places of our world.**

L: Jesus is sending you to be messengers of his gospel.

P: **We will go to share the good news of justice in every way we treat each person.**

L: The Spirit is sending you to be messengers of peace.

P: **We will go to share the gifts of hope and reconciliation which have been placed in our hearts.**

(c) Thom M. Shuman

\*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

**And also with you**

*(We invite you to offer a sign of peace to those around you and as you gather for fellowship. We remind you to ask what folks feel comfortable with...a verbal greeting, a handshake or fist bump, etc. Do not assume.)*

## POSTLUDE

***\*Indicates, please stand in body or spirit.***

*All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594*