

Grace United Methodist Church



November 27, 2022 - 10:00AM

Order of Worship for the First Sunday of Advent

**Grace United Methodist Church is a Family of Faith
striving to share God's love with all.**

*** Please Stand If You Are Able**

Opening Voluntary – “Song of Thankfulness” by J. Denton

Choral Introit

Greeting

Advent Lighting of the Candle – JoAnne Hazell and Julianne Hazell

Opening Hymn #196 – “Come, Though Long-Expected Jesus” *HYFRYDOL

***Call to Worship**

L: I was glad when they said to me,

P: let us go to the house of the Lord!

**L: In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains.**

P: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord!

***Opening Prayer**

When, O God, will the day of peace come? When will the nations stream to your holy mountain and beat their swords into plowshares? When will the long night of war and hatred, give way to the dawn of love, righteousness, and joy? We are ready for the dawn, O God. Shine your light into our world, mighty One of peace. Illuminate the path, and give us the wisdom and courage to follow your light. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

God, we are ready now. We want peace now. We long to receive the Prince of Peace in our world today. But don't delay too long, Holy One, for soon we'll be busy with parties, and decorating, and baking, and shopping. Our lives are crammed so full, we find it hard to calendar you in; we find it hard to locate the time to welcome the Light of the World. We need your help, O God. Teach us to set aside our party wardrobes, and clothe ourselves in Jesus Christ. Guide us into true readiness, even though we do not know the date and time when true peace will reign. Wake us up; shake off the cobwebs of our complacency; and take us with you on the path up your holy mountain. Plant your peace within us, so that each day, each moment, we may be ready for the harvest of your love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

L: The light of God's love shines brightly!

P: The invitation is given: Come, walk in the light. Amen

Scriptures

Old Testament - Isaiah 2:1-5

1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. 3 Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. 5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

L: The Word of God, For the People of God. P: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel – Matthew 24:36-44 (Please stand if you are able)**

36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away,

so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

L: The Word of God, For the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

*** Hymn before Message #626** – “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” *PICARDY*

Message – “Tiptoeing toward Peace” Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer and Choral Response

Passing of the Peace of Christ

The psalmist sings, “For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’” Turn now to your own relatives and friends, your sisters and brothers in Christ, gathered here in the house of the Lord, and greet them with these same words: “Peace be within you.”

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

If this Advent is to be about more than going through the motions, then we must get ready for the Prince of Peace in new and radical ways. What can we do to signal our readiness for the coming of Christ into this very place? We can start with a total commitment of our resources and our lives to the cause of God’s peace in the world. When we give our financial gifts to the ministry of this church, the benefits travel widely through the connections of our denomination, but nowhere is the impact greater than in our own hearts. I invite you to use this time of offering as an opportunity to get ready for Christ’s arrival.

Choral Selection – “Behold A Day Is Coming” by J. P. Williams and P. Drennan

***Hymn No. 95** - Presentation of the Offering

***Offering Prayer**

Thank you, God. Thank you for the wake-up call, reminding us to be ready. Thank you for not giving up on your vision of peace. Thank you for the opportunity to gather each week in your house, that we might encourage one another to stay on your path. And thank you for the opportunity to give these gifts for your ministry, that together we might help the world be ready to receive the Prince of Peace, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn #706 – “Soon and Very Soon”

VERY SOON

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Closing Voluntary – “Now Thank We All Our God” by T. Chesterton
(Please remain seated for the Closing Voluntary)

Flowers are given today by the Hartmann Family in *memory of Kay Hartmann* on what would have been her 95th birthday.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker	Sunday School Teachers: -No Sunday School today-
Director of Music: Kenneth Richardson Liturgist and Reader: Brian Stone Audio-Tech: Brandon Gauntlett	Counting Team: Don Pike Ushers: Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano



♥Family of Thornton (Thornie) Stone, ♥Family of Ella Fort, ♥Juzer Kasubhai, ♥Jennifer Morton, ♥Audrey Weaver and Family, ♥Honey Knice, ♥Bob LoBello, ♥Emma Donnelly, ♥Family of Maria Calero, ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Tyrone Jenkins (nephew of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Patricia Sullivan (friend of Jenifer Hartig), ♥Jim Poch, ♥Christine Doeringer, ♥Rasheen Rutledge (cousin of Naomi Brown), ♥All our Military men and women, ♥Ken Richardson, ♥Barbara Siegl, ♥People of Ukraine, ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥All UMW in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske). **Note:** Prayer List names will continue to be listed for two weeks. After that period of time, the names will be removed unless you call us with current information.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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