

**Bold Text** is read or sung by the congregation

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### WELCOME & THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES—Hope and Peace

Watch and wait. Christ is coming!

Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,  
remembering the promises of God.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.

## READING Luke 1:76-79:

You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

You will tell his people how to be saved  
through the forgiveness of their sins.

Because of our God's deep compassion,  
the dawn from heaven will break upon us,  
to give light to those who are sitting in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide us on the path of peace."

## OPENING PRAYER

God of hope, you speak peace into the world through the Christ child.

Help us embody your peace and live as your peacemakers,  
that we may be called children of God.

God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come.

## RESPONSE "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (Verse 2)

No. 88

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily:**

**To us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, since the time of Abraham's call;  
since the time of Sarah's conception,  
you have been fulfilling your promises to us.  
Since the time you appeared in a burning bush  
and led your people from captivity,  
you have been guiding us to freedom.  
We confess that,  
like our ancestors, we are slow to trust.  
You send angels that we don't believe.  
You offer signs we do not heed.  
You provide and we are still afraid.  
You love, but we do not believe it can save.  
Forgive us.  
Help our unbelief.  
Continue to speak.  
Continue to promise.  
Continue to be our saving God.  
Continue to send us to live in love.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Based on Luke 1:78-79)

Our God's compassion is deep. You are forgiven.  
The dawn from heaven has broken in upon you. Thanks be to God!  
Get up. Come out of the darkness into the light of Christ.  
Come out of the shadow and grasp the life he offers.  
Follow him on the path of peace. Amen.

\*SONG OF PRAISE

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

No. 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

ADVENT MOMENT

Jesse Tree

Elder Beth Jones

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:5-25 (CEB)

SERMON

*"Anticipating Peace"*

Rev. Cindy Carlisle

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Blest Be the God of Israel*

Brittney Williams (solo)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, 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,  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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.**

\*HYMN

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

No. 79

Light dawns on a weary world

when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.

The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth  
with singing!

We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder  
echoes shalom.

Love grows in a weary world  
when hungry hearts find bread  
and children's dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes.

The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;

the hills and mountains shall break forth  
with singing!

We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder  
echoes shalom.

Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
the promised green of Eden comes.

The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth  
with singing!

We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder  
echoes shalom.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(the Great Prayer continues ending with the Lord's Prayer...)*

**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 debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,**

**and the glory forever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

### COMMUNION SONG

*While We Are Waiting, Come*

No. 92

While we are waiting, come;  
while we are waiting, come.

While we are waiting, come;  
while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come;  
come, Savior, quickly come.

While we are waiting, come;  
while we are waiting, come.

While we are waiting, come;  
while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come;  
with power and glory, come.

“While We Are Waiting, Come” TEXT: Claire Cloninger, 1986; © 1986 Word Music, LLC MUSIC: Don Cason, 1986  
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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### TITHES & OFFERING

For online offerings, please scan the QR Code at the bottom of the next page.

For all offerings sent in the mail, dropped in the offering plate as you come in or leave, or made online, thank you!

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King.  
Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
we're going to see the King!

No more crying there:  
we are going to see the King.  
No more crying there:  
we are going to see the King.

No more crying there:  
we are going to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
we're going to see the King!

No more dying there:  
we are going to see the King.  
No more dying there:  
we are going to see the King.

No more dying there:  
we are going to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
we're going to see the King!

Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King.  
Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
we're going to see the King!

*"Soon and Very Soon"*

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\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\*PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching - Rev. Cindy Carlisle  
Liturgist – Elder Beth Jones  
Advent Candles—Brittney Williams & Isiah Gomez  
Pianist—Patricia Provencio  
Choir Director—Brittney Williams  
Technology - Bob Jones, JT Thomas, Diane Thomas &  
Jim Collins



# DECEMBER 6-12

## Events + Celebrations

6	8	9	12
PFH Pool Board, 5:30PM	Zoom Bible Study, 2:00PM	Youth Group, 6:00PM Quilters, 6:30PM	Sunday Worship, 10:00AM Fellowship Hour, 11:00AM <b>Meeting After Worship</b> Hospitality Team, Mission Team

## Prayers + Concerns

Bob Hedicke

Henry Diaz

John Stark

Edrena Jones

Nancy Pries

*Need to add or remove someone from the Prayers / Concerns list?  
Give us a call at (915) 755-8206 or email us at [office@epgrace.com](mailto:office@epgrace.com)*

*We are imperfect followers of Jesus Christ,  
continually being transformed by God's love and forgiveness.  
We are building a vibrant, welcoming community that expresses that love in word  
and in action. Together we will nurture, be nurtured, and bring help  
and hope to the world.*

**GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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