

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Good morning! We wish God's grace and peace to you as we worship this morning. During the welcome, please sign the registration pads. If you are a first time visitor, we welcome you this morning and pray you have a meaningful worship time with us. (CCLI 1765953)

WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

Ministers – The Congregation
Pastor – Mark Chow

GATHERING FOR CELEBRATION

WORSHIP CHIMES

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INVOCATION

PRELUDE "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 122:1

L: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

P: Welcome home! Let us worship joyfully in God's house. Amen.

Tony Merry

Todd Sands

W. Held

Todd Sands

CELEBRATION THROUGH PRAISE

*HYMN OF PRAISE 196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*OPENING PRAYER

Todd Sands

Tear open the heavens, O God. Open our hearts. Let your Word fall on our ears, and lead us home. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

ADVENT HYMN 211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" [vs. 1 – no refrain]

Reader 1 – God of justice and peace, healing and comfort, we see all that is wrong and wonder where you are.

Reader 2 – We are a broken people, unable to work together for our common good. We cannot see or hear each other even within our own families and communities.

Reader 3 – We are a suffering world, our nations are filled with conflict and violence. The fragile earth cries out with longing for redemption.

All – We, God's people, long for God's presence, saying with the prophet: "If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!"

Reader – On this first day of Advent, we light this candle to remind us of our longing that God will come into the world, bringing justice and peace, comfort and healing.

Light first candle – HOPE

ADVENT HYMN 211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" [refrain only]

Cindy Lawyer

CELEBRATION THROUGH GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:1-9

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

COMING DOWN HOME

Pastor Mark Chow

CELEBRATION THROUGH OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

The Lord requires of us a pure offering, without blemish or spot. We must be right with God and to come to His table. Therefore, let us confess our sins against God and reconcile with our neighbors. Let us pray.

CONFESSION

Pastor – We have all become like one who is unclean,

People – and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

Pastor – We all fade like a leaf,

People – and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Silence

Pastor – Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;

People – we are the clay and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Pastor – Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,

People – and do not remember iniquity forever.

Silence

PARDON

Pastor – As far as the East is from the West, so far does our God remove our transgressions from us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People – In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All – Glory to God. Amen!

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Larson

"An Advent Gospel"

L.

Grace Chancel Choir

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE SACRAMENT

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING 13-15

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(The Sacrament of Communion will be received by intinction this morning. You may come down the center aisles and receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and return to your seat by the outside aisles. For those wishing to receive the elements in the pews, simply remain seated and the communion stewards will come to you.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, God, for coming down home among us in this holy mystery, flesh and blood in our flesh and blood. Send us by your Spirit to hear the cries of others who long for your coming and join them in your work that makes all things new; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO CELEBRATE

*CLOSING HYMN 701 "When We All Get to Heaven"

*SENDING FORTH

Pastor – Go in peace, love, and power in the name of our God who tears open the heavens.

People – Amen!

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" [refrain only]

POSTLUDE "Ricerca for Advent"

J. K. F. Fischer

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ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY -- Sunday School – 21

Worship – 33, 80

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

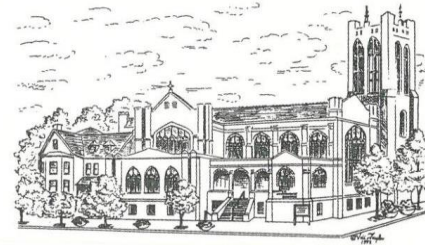
- December 5 Korey Haddox, Kathy Kenily
- December 6 Mary Ruth Howell, Logan Young
- December 8 Shirley Luburgh
- December 9 Jeri Pocock, Tracie Sidwell

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, December 3	2:30 p.m.	Advent Tea – Coburn UMC
Monday, December 4		
Tuesday, December 5		
Wednesday, December 6	11:30 a.m.	OWLS – Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Thursday, December 7		
Friday, December 8	6:30 a.m.	Bible Study – Parlor
Saturday, December 9		
Sunday, December 10	NO - 8:15 a.m.	Early Service – Fellowship Hall
	9:00-10:15	Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall
	9:15-10:15	Sunday School – all ages
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	6:00 p.m.	Messiah – Central Trinity UMC

VISION STATEMENT for Grace Church

GRACE WILL Gather to worship God — Grow spiritually — Go serve and make disciples



GRACE UNITED

METHODIST

CHURCH

516 Shinnick St.
Zanesville, OH 43701

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graceumc516@sbcglobal.net

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent - "COMING HOME"

The season of Advent is a time of preparing for the homecoming of Christ to redeem and renew us, the earth, and all creation. During this Holy Season of expectation, we prepare our homes and our hearts for the coming of Christ the King.

8:15 a.m. Worship Celebration

Thank you to Joyce Cooper and our praise team for leading us in worship.

Gathering for Celebration

Celebration Through Praise

Lighting of the Advent Candle – HOPE

Celebration Through God's Word

Scripture – Isaiah 64:1-9

The Word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Message – *Coming Down Home* — Pastor Mark Chow

Celebration Through Our Gifts

Invitation, Confession and Pardon

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Going Forth to Celebrate

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2018

.... are on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. They are arranged in alphabetical order. Numbers have changed for some people. Those who regularly attend the 8:15 service will find theirs in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not find yours, check with Judy.

LOOKING AHEAD ---- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

December 10 --- There will be one worship service on NEXT Sunday at **10:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. This service will be the children's Christmas program. The annual potluck will be held following the service.

December 10 — **6:00 p.m.** — Handel's *Messiah* presented by the Zanesville Civic Chorus at Central Trinity UMC [S. 7th St.]

December 24 — Christmas Eve — Music of the Season begins at 7:30 p.m. Communion with Candlelight Service begins at 8:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Now is the time to be placing your order for poinsettias for the Christmas season. They will be \$7.50 each. They will be used in the sanctuary on December 17, and 24.

Please complete the order form and return to the church by placing it in the offering plate or mailing (checks made payable to the church).

We need your order by December 8.

_____ number of poinsettias _____ amount enclosed

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____