

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2017

Fourth 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

Tony Merry

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INVOCATION

Todd Sands

PRELUDE "Love Came Down at Christmas"

M. Bradshaw

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Greetings, favored one! Do not be afraid. The Lord is with you.

P: Holy Spirit, come upon us. Power of the Most High, overshadow us.

CELEBRATION THROUGH PRAISE

*OPENING HYMN 218 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

*OPENING PRAYER

Our souls rejoice in your presence, O God. Speak now your word in our hearts that our lives may rejoice in your way. Amen.

*RESPONSIVE READING 199 Cantic of Mary – Luke 1:46-55

ANTHEM "The Jesus Gift" G. Martin
Grace Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Cindy Lawyer

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Amy Dosch, Lexi Oldfield, Carley Oldfield

ADVENT HYMN 211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" [vs. 7]

"O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.

From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife."

Reader 1 – "Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God for God has looked with favor on us, God's servants."

Reader 2 – "God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty."

Reader 3 – God of Justice, God of Peace, we open our hearts to you. Give us grace to be instruments of your righteousness.

Reader 4 – Give us courage to turn away from distractions and distortions and turn toward the home you have made, are making, and will complete through Christ.

All – We, God's people, sing songs of joy with the prophet, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God." (Isaiah 61:10 NRSV)

Reader – On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the morning of Christmas Eve, we light these candles, turning with courage toward the One who makes a home among us.

Light candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

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

CELEBRATION THROUGH GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 Todd Sands

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PREPARATION 216 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

MESSAGE Pastor Mark

Chow

GOD MAKES THIS WORLD OUR HOME

RESPONSE 204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

CELEBRATION THROUGH OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

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

CONFESSION (Luke 1:38, 51-55 NRSV)

We have refused your will, God Most High.

We have relied on our own strength. We have made the powerful more powerful.

We have ignored or suppressed the lowly.

Silence

We have blessed the people who can support themselves and left the hungry people to starve.

We have celebrated wealthy people and sent poor, sick, and outcast people to early graves.

Silence

Give us Gabriel's words, "Fear not," and Mary's courage to sing and live them.

Have mercy upon us. Overthrow our sin with your strong arm. Cast out our fear.

Silence

PARDON

According to the promise made to us in Christ Jesus, the Mighty One remembers mercy when we confess our sin. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Take courage!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Take courage!

Glory to God! Amen.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY "Christmas Improvisation" G. W. Cassler

*DOXOLOGY 94 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia!

Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*BLESSING OF THE OFFERING Todd Sands

GOING FORTH TO CELEBRATE

*CLOSING HYMN 228 "He Is Born"

***BENEDICTION**

Look at the home God is making. Kings and empires fail and everyone can prosper. All who are hungry are abundantly fed, and those whose action or neglect starved them are stopped. Whatever has been lacking for some is now available for all. Go forth in the joy of Mary and in the strength of the Spirit to join what Jesus announced and what God is still doing to make this world a home!

Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" [refrain only]

*POSTLUDE "Postlude on 'O Come All Ye Faithful'" M.

McDonald

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY -- Sunday School – 21 Worship – 33; 88

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- December 24 Jeff Mock, William J. Taylor
- December 26 LeRoy Beach
- December 29 Klayre Dodson, Marlayna Dunn, Troy Kenily, Aaron Zangmeister
- December 30 Joan Minning

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, December 24	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Music
	8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve & Communion Service
Monday, December 25	<i>MERRY CHRISTMAS</i>	
Tuesday, December 26		
Wednesday, December 27	NO	Bell Choir
	NO	Chancel Choir
Thursday, December 28		
Friday, December 29		
Saturday, December 30		
Sunday, December 31	8:15 a.m.	Early Service – Fellowship Hall
	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall
	9:15-10:15	Sunday School – all ages
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service

VISION STATEMENT for Grace Church

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

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2017 must be received in the church office before noon on December 31. Any money received after that date will be credited to 2018.



GRACE UNITED

METHODIST

CHURCH

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December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent - "Coming Home"

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 Candles — Doug & Becky Spade

Celebration Through God's Word

Scripture – Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

The Word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Message – *God Makes the World Our Home* — Pastor Mark Chow

Celebration Through Our Gifts

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Going Forth to Celebrate

TONIGHT – Christmas Eve — Music of the Season – 7:30 / Service with Communion – 8:00

NEXT SUNDAY – December 31 – New Year's Eve — Two By Two will lead the music at both the 8:15 and 10:30 worship celebrations.