



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210 ♦ 913-345-1256 ♦ gcpc.org

Service of Worship
First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017 11:05am

Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community

PRELUDE "Sonata for Bells" by G.F. Handel

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Fred Holbrook
(Please sign and pass the Grace Greetings books at this time.)

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS *(see insert)* Ellie Parsons and Terry Garrison

INTROIT "We Three Kings" arr. Brian Childers
Charter Ringers
Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, directors
O star of wonder...guide us to thy perfect light.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – HOPE Gene & Christina Wilson
One: Advent begins. The Light is coming.
One: As our journey toward the light begins, we light the Candle of Hope.
Hope has the power to lead us out of the darkness and point us toward the light.
All: God of Light, embolden us to speak hope in the face of darkness and despair. AMEN.

*CALL TO WORSHIP
One: Jesus says: I am coming soon.
All: Come, Lord Jesus!
One: Heaven and earth will pass away;
All: but the word of God endures forever. Let us worship God.

*HYMN 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" GENEVAN 42

COME AS A CHILD
*(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to **Awakening to Worship**, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing.)*

Sing (115, v. 4) "Away in a Manger" MUELLER
*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD Barb Purvis
Prayers by Sarah Are, *A Sanctified Art*

"Creator God, tell me of another world," I said.
*"A world where bodies don't fail and all are born healthy, so people
dance for days. A world where grief sets its prisoners free and
heartbroken hearts find relief.*
*Tell me of another world, God. A world where toddlers believe they can
and clap for themselves every time they take another wobbly step.*
Tell me of the end of war.
*Tell me of a church whose walls become windows, and whose faith
becomes a magnet—drawing people in with love's pure pull.*
Tell me again about the lion and the lamb.
Tell me of another world," I said.
*Then God said, "Child, my child. You are my world. You are my heart, and
you are my Church. What you speak of is hope. But you should keep
speaking, and keep seeking, for it is such a beautiful prayer."*
[Silent reflection]

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
One: May the peace of Christ be with you and everyone.
All: And also with you and all others!
(Let us greet one another with expressions of love.)

*HYMN 654 "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" IN THE LORD
[sing three times; final time a cappella]

SONG OF HOPE "The Promise" Music by Russell Nagy
Chancel Choir Words by Joel Nagy
*Darkness takes flight, the Light is welling; Prophets foretell the One to come.
In virgin womb the Sign is swelling, Immanuel and holy One.
Come! Hope of all nations; Come! Holy One.
Come! Horn of salvation; One! Holy One! Come for your people on earth.
Rod from the root of Jesse taken; Pillar of flame, our daily guide.
Lamb that bides silent and forsaken; Ram that the Father's hand provides.
Silently by night, in mortal flesh enshrouded,
He who framed the mountains draws first breath.
Far from human sight, The Promise ne'er forgotten
is in love begotten, to conquer death.
Born for a world in sin and darkness, Jesus foretells the wrath to come.
Days of distress, yet He has promised,
"Be not afraid, for I will come."
Come! Hope of all nations; Come! Holy One. Come! Horn of salvation;
One! Holy One! Come for your people on earth. Come.*

*Equipping People to Develop and Share a
Faith That Works in Real Life*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9 Chris Krug
(Old Testament, Page 694)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 13:24-37
(New Testament, Page 50)

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Snoozing and Losing" Fred Holbrook

Sending People to Serve in the World

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC by J.S. Bach
"Sleepers Awake"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
The Invitation to the Table
The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.
The Words of Institution
The Sharing of the Bread and Cup
*When passing the bread say: "The bread of life given for you."
When passing the wine/juice say: "The cup of hope poured out for you." Responses may be: "Thanks be to God," "Amen," or "Alleluia." (Trays contain red wine and white grape juice. For a gluten-free option, notify an usher and an elder will bring them to you.)*

Communion Music Variations on "Noël Nouvelet" by Robert C. Lau
Prayer after Communion

*HYMN 357 "The Days Are Surely Coming" LLANGLOFFAN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Linda Dover, organ

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