



# 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 8:50am

*Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community*

\*SINGING Prepare the Way  
By Darell Evans and Eric Nuzum  
Blessed Be the Name of the Lord  
By Beth and Matt Redman

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – HOPE Matt, Jenny, Bradley,  
Ethan, Harrison, & Grant Stromberg

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.**

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

COME AS A CHILD  
*(Children ages 4 through 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Laura Holbrook  
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.)*

\*SINGING Better Is One Day  
By Matt Redman

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9 Harold Frye  
*(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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Invitation to the Table  
The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer  
**...Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom  
come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today  
our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin  
against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from  
evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now  
and forever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution  
The Sharing of the Bread and Cup  
*(The congregation will come forward, stopping at the chancel steps to receive  
communion by intinction. Take a piece of bread and then move to where the  
chalice is. Dip your bread into the cup when it is presented to you. Then return  
to your seat by way of the side aisles. The chalice on your right contains white  
grape juice while the one on your left contains red wine. If you prefer not to  
move, or prefer a gluten-free option, notify an usher and an elder will bring the  
elements to you.)*  
Communion Music  
Prayer after Communion

\*SINGING You Are So Good To Me  
By Don Chaffer, Ben Pasley, and Robin Pasley

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

***\*If convenient/able, please stand.***  
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