



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Service of Worship  
Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017 11:05am

*Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community*

PRELUDE "Bell Sonata" G.F. Handel  
Linda Dover, organ chimes

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

INTROIT "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Claude T. Smith  
Symphony Orchestra – Pam Kelly, director

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – PEACE Christine Hutchins & Mary Johnson  
One: Advent is here. The Light is coming. Hope leads us out of the darkness and toward God's Light.  
One: We light the Candle of Peace. Tearing down walls of anger, hurt, and fear move us closer to the light.  
**All: God of Light, you have knit peace into the very fabric of our being. Help us to take actions that grow and share that peace. AMEN.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP  
One: Jesus says: I am coming soon.  
**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**  
One: God has promised us a new creation  
**All: where righteousness will be at home. Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 88 (verses 1-2, 6-7) VENI EMMANUEL  
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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 (114, v. 3) "Away in a Manger" CRADLE SONG  
*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 Terri Monrad  
Prayers by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art

*"God," I whispered. "What if peace isn't possible? Then what?"*

*God was quiet for a minute. Then God wrapped me up in God's arms and told me a story.*

*God said, "In the beginning, I knit you together. I wove strands of peace into your heart so that you might know and grow love; and your heart was beautiful, wild, and free."*

*That was a long time ago, but peace is part of who you are. It just gets stuck under fear, doubt, and hurt—like a bird with stones on its wings."*

*"I don't understand," I fussed. "If peace is part of who we are, then why are we humans so bad at it?"*

*God held me a little tighter and said, "Little bird, remember how loved you are, and start small. Remove the stones of anger, hurt, and fear one at a time and peace will surely grow."*

*Then God lifted up my arms and set me out to fly, and I realized that, grounded in God's love, I was beautiful and wild and free, and peace was a part of me.*

*So I flew home, and stayed up all night writing love letters and tearing down walls so that the peace in me could fly to the peace in you.*

*Let me know when you get it.*

*[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 129 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ES IST EIN' ROS'

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

SUNG TESTIMONY "I Shall Know Him When He Comes" Chancel Choir  
Music by Douglas Wagner  
15<sup>th</sup> century text adapted by Charlotte Lee  
*I shall know Him when He comes, not with sound of pipe or drum, but by the holy harmony which His coming makes in me. He shall wear no royal robe, or a crown of precious gold, but he my Lord, my King shall be always, ever there for me. He shall not in castle, warm, live in splendor, safe from harm, but in a manger, crude he'll sleep, warmed by the breath of cows and sheep. Come, Lord Jesus, tarry not. Find in me a resting spot. My heart is open, come dwell within. Let life be born in me again. By the holy harmony which his coming makes in me, I shall know Him when He comes.*

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11 Gene Wilson  
*(Old Testament, Page 667)*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 1:1-8  
*(New Testament, Page 34)*

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "At the Feet of Jesus" Fred Holbrook

*Sending People to Serve in the World*

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC arr. Mark Hayes  
"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

\*HYMN 80 THE TREES OF THE FIELD  
"You Shall Go Out with Joy"

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (*seated*) arr. Claude T. Smith  
Finale from "Rhapsody on Christmas Carols"  
Symphony Orchestra – Pam Kelly, director

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