



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Service of Worship
Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

8:50am

Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community

*SINGING

“Forever”

by Chris Tomlin

“Shout to the Lord”

by Darlene Zschech

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – PEACE

Ray, Pat, Amy, and Kelly Kowalczewski

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fred Holbrook

(Please sign and pass the Grace Greetings books at this time.)

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 (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

Sarah Evans

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.)

*SINGING

“We Fall Down”

by Chris Tomlin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11

(Old Testament, Page 667)

Nancy Kalesz

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 & MUSIC “Give Thanks”

by Henry Smith

*SINGING (*Hymnal 80*) “You Shall Go Out with Joy” by Rubin & Dauermann

*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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