



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Service of Worship  
Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

11:05am

*Gathering all People in a Caring Christian Community*

GATHERING CHIMES

Linda Dover, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

INTROIT

“Gaudete”

Tune: Piae Cantiones, 1582

*(Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary.)*

arr. Chris de Silva

Chancel Choir – Rebecca Prater, director

Katie Hearn & Kat Mason, flutes – Christine Nance, drum

Soli verses: Lauren Bond, Terri Monrad, & David Sutherland;

Bob Dover, Danielle Smith, & Mitch Trigger

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: My soul magnifies the Lord;

**ALL: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

One: The Mighty One has done great things.

**ALL: Holy is God’s name!**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(see insert)*

Jess and Jean Hampton, Joy and Mick Circo and Xander, readers

\*HYMN SING *(an opportunity to sing your favorite hymns of the season)*

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”

*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.*

SUNG PRAISE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Tune: French trad.

Chancel Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*(Glory to God in the highest.)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken together)*

God of majesty and glory, we thirst for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*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 Jesus’ love.)*

\*HYMN 106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 John 3:11, 18-23

Chris Krug

*(New Testament, Page 240)*

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words,

**Thanks be to God!**

SUNG ADORATION

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Music by Gustav Holst

Chancel Choir & Sue Trigger, soloist

arr. Mark Hayes

String Quartet & Percussion

Words by Christina Rossetti

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,*

*earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;*

*snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heav’n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain.*

*Heav’n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.*

*In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed, the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,*

*cherubim and seraphim throng’d the air;*

*but his mother only in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;*

*If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

READING

“The Ghost of Christmas Present”

From “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens

Josh Sutherland, Charlie Trigger

SERMON

“Hope”

Rev. Sue Trigger

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

Words & Tune: English Trad.

“Sussex Carol”

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel Choir & Chamber Orchestra

*On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,*

*news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King’s birth.*

*Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;*

*when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.*

*When sin departs before his grace then life and health come in its place;*

*angels and all with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.*

*All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night,*

*“Glory to God in highest heav’n, now and forevermore,” Amen!*

*Sending People to Serve Christ in the World*

\*HYMN 82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(seated)*

“Ring Out, Ye Bells!”

Music by Marques Garrett,

Chancel Choir

Samuel Carlton, & Dan Forrest

Christine Nance, djembe

Text by Paul Laurence Dunbar

Members of Charter Ringers – Celia Nicholas, director

*Ring out, ye bells! All nature swells with gladness at the wondrous story.*

*Sing, children, sing! Tonight a King hath come from heav’n’s high throne to bless us.*

*The outstretched hand o’er all the land is raised in pity to redeem us.*

*Ring out, the world was lorn, but Christ is born to change our sadness into glory.*

*Come at his call; be joyful all; away with mourning and with sadness!*

*The heav’nly choir with holy fire their voices raise in songs of gladness.*

*Ring out, no, be not still, but with a will strike all your harps and set them ringing.*

*Ring out, on hill and heath let ev’ry breath throw all its power into singing!*

*Ring out, ring out! Ring out, ring ye bells! Ring out, ye bells!*

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

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