



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Service of Worship
Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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.)

STORIES OF FAITH AND RACE Nelson Townsend and Laura Holbrook

REPORT FROM PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE David Sutherland

COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR PNC Fred Holbrook

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – LOVE Jim, Amy, Rachel, Will & Emily Grice

One: We continue to wait. The Light is coming.
Hope leads us out of the darkness and toward God's Light.
Peace starts with small steps that move us closer to God's Light.

One: We light the Candle of Love.
Love shines light on what is possible.

All: God of Light, thank you for showing us what love can do. Let love ripple out from each of us as we work to shine your light far and wide. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based on Isaiah 9:2-3a)*

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
All: those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

One: God has multiplied God's people and increased our joy.
All: We rejoice before God as people have joy at the harvest. Let us worship God.

*HYMN 366 (vv. 1, 3, & 4) HYFRYDOL
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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 (alternate tune)
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 – Love Cheryl Johnson
Prayers by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art

"But what does love look like?" I asked.
God said,
"I love you when I open the shutters to let the light in.
And I love you when I wander through the hallways of your mind, whistling love songs to keep nightmares at bay.
And I love you when I kneel in your garden and pull the weeds that try to strangle you so that you can grow nothing but wildflowers for days.
And I love you when I brush the dust off your piano keys and stairwells so that you can once again open up your heart to another, and maybe even invite them in to dance."
I whispered to God, "I don't think I'm very good at that."
Then God said, "It's ok. Sometimes your heart is full of dust, and your home is full of hatred, and the garden soil is so rocky that not a single bit of new life can grow.
But I love you anyhow, and I will never leave you. So when you aren't sure, listen for my lullaby. Look for the wildflowers. I am there. I am always in the hallways of your heart. That is love. I just can't leave you alone."
[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 121 (vv. 1, 3, & 4) ST. LOUIS
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Revelation 15:2-4 Fred Holbrook
(New Testament, Page 255)

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.
Thanks be to God!

PROCLAMATION Gloria Music by Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir, Chamber Orchestra and Solo Quartet Early Hymn (c.380)
Beth Lillian, soprano – Sarah Randolph Cecil, alto
David Sutherland, tenor – Bob Dover, bass

Mvt. I *Gloria in excelsis Deo*
*Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to all those of good will.
We praise thee. We bless thee. We worship thee. We glorify thee.*

Mvt. II *Domine Deus, Rex coelestis*
*Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father almighty.
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.
Lord God. Lamb of God. Son of the Father.
Thou who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou who takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou who sittest at the right hand of the Creator, have mercy on us.*

Mvt. III *Quoniam tu solus sanctus*
*For Thou alone art holy. Thou alone art the Lord.
Thou alone art the most high, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen*

Sending People to Serve in the World

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC arr. Wilbur Held
"Of the Father's Love Begotten"
Donna Heer, violin – Linda Dover, organ

*HYMN 93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" TRURO

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (seated) Gloria by Mark Hayes
*Recap from Mvt. I Gloria in excelsis Deo
Chancel Choir & Chamber Orchestra*

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