



# 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 8:50am

*Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community*

\*SINGING Today is the Day  
by Lincoln Brewster and Paul Baloche  
Meet Us Here  
by Dan Marks

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – LOVE Johnnie and Larry Baker,  
Jason, Kara, Savannah, and Brayden Baker

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  
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.**

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

### 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 – LOVE

Laura Holbrook  
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.)*

SPECIAL MUSIC Midnight Clear (Love Song)

by Jonas Myrin, Chris Tomlin, and Ed Cash

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 61:1-3  
*(Old Testament, Page 691)*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 1:46-55  
*(New Testament, Page 57)*

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

PROCLAMATION IN SONG Glorious Night  
Praise Team by Ben McDonald, Casey Brown,  
David Frey, and Jonathan Smith

*Sending People to Serve in the World*

OFFERING OF GIFTS & MUSIC  
Breath of Heaven  
Donna Goeckler

REPORT FROM PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE David Sutherland

COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR PNC Fred Holbrook

\*SINGING Sanctuary  
by Randy Scruggs and John Thompson

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

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