



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Service of Worship  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 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

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Music by Gustav Holst

Guitar Ensemble adapted by Christopher Callender

David Barry, Sofe Lewis,  
& Christopher Callender

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God-with-us, Immanuel,

**ALL: comes to give us our own Holy Family,**

One: here with the body of Christ this day.

**ALL: Rejoice and be glad! Amen!**

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

Mac Fechtling, Jim and Sue Trast, readers

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Aria Elizabeth Bradford**, daughter of Anju and Christopher Bradford

Sponsor – Arun Idiculla

Grandparents - Anna and Ninan Idiculla

*(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”

*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.*

\*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 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(Stanzas 1 & 6 Only)

VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

“What Child Is This?”

Christopher Callender, guitar

GREENSLEEVES

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

*(New Testament, Page 1)*

Dave Pack

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

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.*

READING

“The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come”

From “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens

Scrooge – Josh Sutherland, Ghost – Charlie Trigger, Narrator – Barbara Douglas

SERMON

“Joy (Again)”

Rev. Mitch Trigger

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“A Weary Couple”

David, Susan, Josh, & Kylie

Sutherland, vocals

Donna Heer & Caroline McDonald, violins

Zoe Thompson, cello – Christopher Callender, guitar

Katie Hearn, flute – Bob Dover, clarinet

*A weary couple lodged within a stable,  
the only space where they could spend the night.*

*Were other trav’lers happy to be able  
to keep her labor out of mind and sight?*

*But choirs of angels heard the mother’s weeping,  
and heaven rang with songs of peace on earth.*

*They went unheard by those in comfort sleeping,  
for Jesus came among the outcasts at his birth.*

*An angel came to Joseph in his dreaming  
and warned him so his family could flee.*

*As they escaped King Herod’s evil scheming,  
the son of God became a refugee.*

*How many children die without such warning?  
How many mothers will not be consoled,*

*their voices choked with anger, tears, and mourning,  
for songs unsung and stories never to be told?*

*But still the angels sing their hymn of “Glory”  
beyond our fears that never seem to cease.*

*For Christ has come, and God’s unfolding story  
redeems the world to live in love, good will, and peace.*

*Sending People to Serve Christ in the World*

\*HYMN 100

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Masters in This Hall”

Linda Dover, organ

arr. John S. Dixon

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

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