



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

December 23, 2018

8:50am

Service of Worship  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## \*HYMN SING

*(An opportunity to sing your favorite hymns of the season)*

### Christmas Medley

*Away In the Manger*

*Silent Night*

Arr. Dan Chapman

## 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)*

Megan, Dave and Esme Minaschek, readers

## 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”

*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.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken together)*

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

## \*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.)*

## \*SINGING

Awesome In This Place

Dave Billington

Cornerstone

Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan,

Eric Liljero and William Batchelder Bradbury

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)

Donna Goeckler

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

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 1:18-25

Meredith Watson

*(New Testament, Page 1)*

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

## READING

“The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come”

From “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens

Scrooge – Mitch Trigger, Ghost – Ky Townsend, Narrator – Melanie Townsend

## SERMON

“Joy (Again)”

Rev. Mitch Trigger

*Sending People to Serve in the World*

## OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

Midnight Clear (Love Song)

Praise Team

## \*SINGING

Prepare the Way

Darrell Evans and  
Eric Nuzum

## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

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