



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Service of Worship  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017 10:00am

*Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community*

\*SINGING Louder  
by Redman, Myrin, and Ingram  
Angels We Have Heard on High (Hymn 113) GLORIA

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – JOY Barb and Beth Purvis  
One: Advent is drawing to a close. The Light is fast approaching!  
Hope leads us out of darkness and toward God’s Light.  
Peace starts with small steps that move us closer to God’s Light.  
Love shines light on what is possible.  
One: We light the Candle of Joy. It reminds us of the joy God feels when we sing together, work together, and remember those who are hurting.  
**All: God of Light, there is joy in the beauty of creation, in our ministry to others, and in the birth of a baby destined to reflect your Light in all the world. May that Light come quickly! Amen.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP  
One: Jesus says: I am coming soon.  
**All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**  
One: The mystery of the ages is now revealed..  
**All: To God be the glory forever! Amen.**  
Let us worship God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Fred Holbrook  
*(Please sign and pass the Grace Greetings books at this time.)*

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 (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 – Joy Kendra Holtzman  
Prayers by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art

“God,” I asked, “What brings you joy?”  
“Oh, my child,” God said, “The list is so long.  
Hearing you say my name and seeing you soak in this beautiful creation bring me joy. When you stand with family, neighbors, and strangers, and sing or work together, my heart risks overflowing with joy. When you remember the children, and the quiet, and the hurting—I swear my heart could take flight.”

“And when your heart takes flight,” I asked, leaning forward with curiosity, “then what happens?”  
And God leaned back and laughed the most musical, heart-filled, soul-reaching laugh I’d ever heard, and that’s when I remembered—joy is contagious, and it is a gift. And then I started singing.  
*[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 Heaven Everywhere  
Praise Team

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 96 Rick Randolph  
*(Old Testament, Page 550)*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 2:1-14  
*(New Testament, Page 58)*

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

SERMON “Glory and Peace” Fred Holbrook

*Sending People to Serve in the World*

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC  
“Mary, Did You Know?” by Lowry & Greene  
Donna Goeckler, soloist – Denice Trawicki, piano

\*HYMN 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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