

PRELUDE

ANGELS FROM THE REALM OF GLORY / J. MONTGOMERY

1. Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story  
now proclaim Messiah’s birth

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen his natal star
- REFRAIN

Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader

All

I rejoiced with those who said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

Psalm 122:1

SONG OF PRAISE

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL / TRANS. J. NEALE

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

2. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;  
from depths of hell Thy people save,  
and give them victory over the grave.
3. O come, Thou Dayspring,  
from on high and cheer us  
by Thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death’s dark shadows put to flight.

4. O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.
- REFRAIN

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to Thee, O Israel.

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE

Reader

<sup>2</sup> “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”  
<sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.  
<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.  
<sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace.

Micah 5:2-5

SONGS OF PRAISE

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL / J. WADE

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold Him,  
born the King of angels;

2. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest;

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;
- REFRAIN:

O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS / C. WESLEY

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born Thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by Thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to Thy glorious throne.
3. Come Thou long expected Jesus  
Promised one of history  
Ancient of days all wrapped in glory  
in a stable for ox and sheep  
All the promises and redemption  
resting in his mother’s arms  
O Messiah Emmanuel  
Forever God dwells with us

CONFESSION OF SIN

All

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

(Silent Confession)

The Agnus Dei

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader

<sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—<sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Romans 6:6-7

SONG OF ASSURANCE

JOY TO THE WORLD / I. WATTS

1. Joy to the world; the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav’n and nature sing  
And heav’n and nature sing  
And heav’n and heav’n and nature sing

2. Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns;  
let men their songs employ,  
While fields & floods,  
rocks, hills & plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found

4. He rules the world  
with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders, and wonders of his love

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader

Together

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.  
And also with you!

\* Children ages 2 to 5th grade are invited to participate in our children’s program during the sermon; children return for Communion.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader

All

God of promise, light of the world, on this first Sunday of Advent we lift our eyes to the future you have spoken into being. You have given us a vision of a world shaped by your peace, your justice, and your love. We confess how easily our hope shrinks to the size of our fear, our schedules, and our expectations. Teach us in this season to wait with trust, to watch with faith, and to hope with courage as we look toward the world you are bringing.  
Lord, in your mercy,

Leader

All

**Hear our prayer.**  
For a world aching for peace, we pray that your promised future would press gently into the present. Where violence seems endless and division feels normal, plant the stubborn hope that another way is possible. Where people have stopped believing in healing, restoration, or reconciliation, let the light of your coming kingdom begin to dawn. As we wait for the day when swords become plowshares, teach us to live now as people shaped by that future.  
Lord, in your mercy,

Leader

All

**Hear our prayer.**  
For all who are waiting — waiting for answers, relief, healing, comfort, or direction — draw near in their weariness. When hope feels fragile, strengthen it. When delays feel like silence, remind them that you are still at work. Teach us in this Advent season that waiting is not wasted time, but sacred space where trust is formed and faith is deepened.  
Lord, in your mercy,

Leader

All

**Hear our prayer.**  
For your church, as we begin a new Christian year, shape us into a people of visible hope. Where we are tempted to look backward, help us look forward. Where we are tempted to settle into comfort, stir our hearts toward faithfulness. May our words, our worship, and our lives point beyond themselves to the coming King and the world he will one day make new.  
Lord, in your mercy,

Leader

All

**Hear our prayer.**  
For our city and our neighbors, may our lives quietly testify to the hope we profess. Make us gentle where the world is harsh, patient where the world panics, and generous where the world withholds. As lights in the darkness, help us reflect the brilliance of the world we are waiting for, not with noise or force, but with steady love and faithful presence.  
Lord, in your mercy,

Leader

All

**Hear our prayer.**  
Faithful God, you have promised a day when your mountain will stand above all others, when harm will cease and peace will reign. As we begin this season of Advent, keep us awake with expectation, steady in hope, and anchored in your promises, through Jesus Christ our coming King and living hope.

All

Amen.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

During the offertory, we consider all that we have and all that God may be asking us to give. Please take this time to ask God how you might give of your financial gifts, personal time and even vocational calling. There are different ways to give. You may place your offering in the blue box at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings; mail your offering to 254 N Lake Ave #287, Pasadena, CA 91101; or give via our app (iOS and Android) or website: [www.gracepasadena.org/give](http://www.gracepasadena.org/give).

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:  
<sup>2</sup> In the last days the mountain of the LORD’S temple will be established  
as the highest of the mountains;  
it will be exalted above the hills,  
and all nations will stream to it.  
<sup>3</sup> Many peoples will come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the temple of the God of Jacob.  
He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths.”  
The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
<sup>4</sup> He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.  
<sup>5</sup> Come, descendants of Jacob,  
let us walk in the light of the LORD.”

Reader This is the word of the Lord.  
All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE

Nick Locke

The World We’re Waiting For

COMMUNION

**GUIDELINES:** The sacrament of Communion is also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist. It is the family meal for those who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. The invitation is from Jesus Christ alone, not from this church or any minister. If you are baptized and can call yourself a Christian, come to the table.  
**DIRECTIONS:** When instructed, please come forward to receive Communion. Receive the bread and juice from the servers and return to your seat. Communion will be taken together after the Song of Communion.  
**CHILDREN:** Children who are baptized, can profess faith in Jesus Christ in an age appropriate manner, and have talked to a pastor or an elder may participate in communion.

COMMUNION SONG

O, BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM / R. BOYCE

1. O, beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
Shining afar through shadows dim  
Giving the light for those  
Who long have gone;  
Guiding the Wise Men on their way,  
Unto the place where Jesus lay.  
O, beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on  
**CHORUS**  
O, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
(Star of Bethlehem)  
Shine upon us until the glory dawns.  
Give us a light to guide the way  
Unto the land of perfect day  
O, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
shine on (shine on)

2. O, beautiful Star the hope of light  
Guiding the pilgrims through the night  
Over the mountains till the break of dawn  
Into the light of perfect day  
It will give out a lovely ray  
O, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
shine on (shine on)  
3. O, beautiful Star the hope of rest  
For the redeemed the good and blessed  
Yonder in glory when the crown is won  
Jesus is now the star divine  
Brighter and brighter he will shine  
O, beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
shine on (shine on)

COMMUNION ACCLAMATION

Leader Therefore we declare the great mystery of our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament  
All Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!  
Leader These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

CLOSING SONG

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN / J. WORK

**REFRAIN**  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.  
1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold thru-out the heavens  
There shone a holy light.  
2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior’s birth.  
3. Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

BENEDICTION

Revelation 22:20-21

Leader He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.  
The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people.  
All Thanks be to God, Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Women’s Ministry - Christmas Crafting** | Saturday, December 6, 2-4 pm in South Pasadena | Scan the QR code to RSVP  
**Christmas Eve Service** | Wednesday, December 24, at 4:30 pm  
**Family Service** (no Children’s Sunday School) | Sunday, December 28  
**Open Tables | College students**, interested in connecting with families at Grace? We’d love to have you join our new college ministry, Open Tables. Fill out the form by scanning the QR code to learn more and get paired with a family.



GIVING & BUDGET

	JAN-OCT 2025	NOV 2025
GIVING AS OF 11/28/2025	\$391,733	\$32,189
BUDGETED EXPENSE	634,802	65,515
DIFFERENCE	243,069	33,326



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We preach not one advent only of Christ, but a second also, far more glorious than the former. For the former gave a view of His patience; but the latter brings with it the crown of a divine kingdom. For all things, for the most part, are twofold in our Lord Jesus Christ: a twofold generation: one of God, before the ages; and one, of a virgin, at the close of the ages; His descents twofold: one, the unobserved, like rain on a fleece; and a second, His open coming, which is to be. In His former advent, He was wrapped in swaddling clothes in the manger; in His second, He covers Himself with light as with a garment. In His first coming, He endured the cross, despising shame; in His second, He comes attended by a host of angels, receiving glory. We rest not upon His first advent only, but look also for His second. And as at His first coming, we said, “Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord,” so will we repeat the same at His second coming; that when with angels we meet our Master, we may worship Him and say, “Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.”

CYRIL OF JERUSALEM  
BISHOP OF JERUSALEM (313-386)

O King of the nations and their Desire,  
the Cornerstone making both one:  
Come and save the human race,  
which you fashioned from clay.

O REX GENTIUM (O KING OF THE NATIONS)  
FROM THE O ANTIPHONS (7TH CENTURY)

NOVEMBER 30, 2025  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT