



Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 12, 2021

Grace Lutheran Church 8:30 am Service

Welcomes You to Worship

202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota

Web Site: glcwtm.org ~ gracelc@midconetwork.com

Church Office: 605-886-5737

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ 605-237-1501

PRELUDE: *“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”* arr. By *Judith E. Treisback*
Grace Handbell Choir

Welcome and Announcements *Congregation responses in Bold Print*

ADVENT WREATH AND LIGHTING

ADVENT HYMN *“Christ, Be Our Light”* **ELW 715 vs 3**

3 Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ,
for water many still thirst. Make us your be our light! Shine in your church gathered
bread, broken for others, Shared until all today.
are fed. Christ, be our light! Shine in our

RESPONSIVE LITANY– *Hope for Those Who Are Watching*

Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day! Make us
vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ
as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

This morning we light three candles. The first candle reminds u of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The second candle is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The third candle awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior’s promised coming.

ADVENT HYMN (cont)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be

“Christ, Be Our Light” **ELW 715**

our light! Shine in your church gathered
today. Christ, be our light

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins, not as frightened servants but as children of the household of God. Whenever we live like losers, without the faith-optimism of those who have received grace upon grace; Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Whenever we serve slavishly, forgetting the glorious liberty of those who have been named children of God; Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Whenever we only laugh sarcastically, mocking human faults instead of participating in the joy of the redeemed; Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

God our Savior-Friend, by the grace of Christ Jesus please bring us to repentance and annul our sins, and by the infusion of your Spirit help us to recover the joy for which we are created. With all the enlightened souls on earth and in heaven, we long love you all the days of our life, and adore you throughout eternity. For your name's sake. **Amen!**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Listen to what God says: "I have taken away the judgments against you; I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it." With joy draw waters from the well of salvation! Forgiveness is real! Trust it and share it; forgive as you have been forgiven.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Let us pray... **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OPENING SONG "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" ELW 242

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| <p>1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.</p> <p>2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing, his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.</p> | <p>3 In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing, as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.</p> <p>4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.</p> |
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FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Pew Bible p 767

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands

grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 12: 2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Special Music "The First Song of Isaiah" **by the Choir**
(Congregation to sing the Refrain with the choir, Music is printed at the end)

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7 **Pew Bible p 955**

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Celtic Alleluia" **ELW 174**
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18 **Pew Bible p 834**

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the third chapter.

Response: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what

should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!” **ELW 246**

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| <p>1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say. "Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!"</p> <p>2 Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.</p> <p>3 See the Lamb, so long expected, come with pardon down from heav'n. Let us</p> | <p>haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv'n;</p> <p>4 So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.</p> <p>5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son with the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run!</p> |
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the Living God who is directly involved in the affairs of the world. I believe that God chooses the meek and the poor to shame the proud and the rich. I believe in the incarnate Word, leaping in a woman's womb, cradled in poverty. I believe in Jesus, true son of Mary, true Son of God, who came among us in weakness, that we might come to know the profound strength available to common people who turn to God in trust and with love. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE:

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

OFFERING FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY of Grace Lutheran Church

SONG of OFFERING: “In the Bleak Midwinter” **ELW 294 sts 1**

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| <p>3 What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my</p> | <p>part; yet what I can I give him—give my heart.</p> |
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OFFERING PRAYER: Let us pray... **God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER SONG: “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” **ELW 752**

PRAYER PETITIONS: *Response:* **Your mercy is great..**

PRAYER SONG: “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

ELW 752

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE COMMUNION:

COMMUNION SONG

“Lamb of God”

ELW p 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW 257

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| 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel. | the grave. |
| 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. | 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. |
| 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. | 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. |
| 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er | 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. |
| | 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. |

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

Let us Pray... **Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.**

BENEDICTION:

Rejoice in the Lord always, show gentleness to all, do not be anxious, make your needs known to God by prayer, with thanksgiving; and the peace of God guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG:**“Joy to the World”****ELW 267**

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| <p>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.</p> <p>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p>3 No more let sin and sorrow 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.</p> <p>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, wonders of his love.</p> |
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DISMISSAL: Go in peace... for Christ is near! Thanks be to God. We Will!**Announcements for December 12th*****Keep in your prayers - Those dealing with Health Issues:***

Rhys Arnold, Roy Arnold, Esther Bakeberg, Jim Bakeberg, Rose Beck, Shannon Beck, Joyce Brever, Dennis Carlson, Carla Frost, Sharon Goble, Bev Goeman, Mary Haukens, Don Harrington, Duane Holker, Lil Jutting, Judy Lien, Tyler Mutziger, Darlene Olson, Jessica Pekelder, Rick Raml, Caden Thompson, Donnie Vrtacnik, and Robert Wittrock, Darlene Young, those in Care Centers, Assisted Living, or who are Homebound. Pray for members of the Armed Forces and their families, our Law Enforcement personal, Fire Fighters, EMT and all First Responders.

A RADIO BROADCAST of the Sunday morning worship service can be heard at 10:05 a.m. each Sunday on KWAT (95 AM). **The RADIO BROADCAST** today is given by Jerald Bossen, in memory of Peter & Marjorie Bossen by their Family. The altar flowers are given by Cal and Nyra Brown. The special flowers are donated by Darcy, Raethz & Denise Biller in memory of mom's birthday on December 16th – Sharon Johnson. Your gifts are greatly appreciated for the Mission and Ministry of Grace Lutheran. If you would like to help with these special weekly needs, please call the office or send your donation to ***Grace Lutheran, 202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota 57201***

On the CALENDAR - For the week of December 12th thru 19th

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| Today | 8:30 am AND 11 am - Worship service w/communion
9:30 am Sunday school AND Coffee Fellowship
9:30 Bake Sale and Caramel Rolls sale begins
10 am – Raise the Roof Committee meeting
Noon – bake sale continues (fund raiser for roof)
2 pm Children's Christmas Program in the Sanctuary |
| Monday | 1 – 4 pm Dorcus Quilters
6 pm Choir Practice & 7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice |
| Wednesday | Services at Town View at 8:30 am AND Jenkins at 10:30 am
4 & 6 pm Confirmation in the basement
6 pm Wednesday School ~ 7 pm Family Advent Worship w/communion |
| Sunday | 7:30 pm Youth Group meets in Youth Room
8:30 am AND 11 am Worship service |

9:30 am Sunday school ~ 9:30 Coffee Fellowship
11 am Baptism of Bria Lovina Crain
1 – 3 pm Las Posadas Celebration

Upcoming Events:

December 22th – 6 pm Blue Christmas
Christmas Eve – 4 and 7 m Services w/COMMUNION
Christmas Day – 10 am Service w/COMMUNION – Brenda is off
December 26th – ONE service - 10 am NO COMMUNION – (Brenda) Pastor is off - NO
Sunday School
January 2 ONE service at 10 am will live stream to radio. NO Sunday School

Children's Christmas Program TODAY

The Sunday and Wednesday school children will hold their Christmas program today, December 12th at 2 pm. Everyone is welcome to come and hear the good news as told by the children.

BAKE SALES TODAY! Don't forget to stop by and pick up all your Christmas goodies for your Christmas festivities OR share them with others.

Last day to order Rada knives from the Dorus Quilters is TODAY – December 12th. Please get your orders in to Darlene Bresson.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSIST IN OUR WORSHIP:

PASTOR: Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

READER: Dee Haugan

DIACONAL INTERN: Brenda Handel-Johnson

PIANIST/ORGANIST: Judy Everson

SONG LEADER: Becky Sprouse

CHOIR MEMBERS: Becky Sprouse, Leigh Carstensen, Judy Everson, Kayla Mohling, Riley Sprouse, Jackie Abel, Darla K. Lien, Marian Raml, Laura Moller, Krisma DeWitt, Karen Kasperson

BELL CHOIR: Becky Sprouse, Leigh Carstensen, Judy Everson, Liz Dunn, Riley Sprouse, Jackie Abel, Darla K. Lien, Marian Raml, Laura Moller, Jason Mohr, Isaak Montemayor, Kaitlyn Payne

COMMUNION SERVERS: Cindy VanderLeest **USHERS:** Tigh Koistinen Cindy Vander Leest

MUSIC/CHOIR DIRECTOR: Brenda Handel-Johnson

Sound/Video Tech Team: Paul Henrichs, Wyatt Sprouse, Larry Picht

Gary Rukstad, Jason Mohr, Anthony DeHaan, & Dylan Jordan

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE –

A special Blue Christmas service will be held at 6 pm on Wednesday, December 22nd. If you are grieving someone you shared past Christmases with cause intense feelings of loss, loneliness and sadness. It can be a very painful time of year for those who suffer due to death, divorce, health issues, unemployment, business loss, broken relationship, life altering operations, family trauma or any type of loss. It is even more traumatic as COVID-19 seems to rear it's ugly head once more. A Blue Christmas service creates a safe place for those who struggle with loss or mourn a loved one. It is a time to join together with others burdened by grief for emotional encouragement and receive spiritual support. Any who have suffered this past year or continue to suffer from years gone by are welcome to come to this nondenominational service and hear God's word of hope and healing shine through the

darkness calling you forward to the bright shining light of spring when new life returns.

MISSION OF THE MONTH – Grace Lutheran Christmas Dinner

This month’s Mission of the Month is the annual Grace Lutheran Christmas Dinner. Last year there were approximately 500 meals served through deliveries and carry out over the noon hour on Christmas Day. Sign up to help with this event for: cooking, salad making, donate pies, delivery drivers, dish up into take-out, or clean up afterwards. If you are unable to help with these activities, you can donate to the Christmas dinner as food and supplies are needed. This is a wonderful Christmas tradition put on by Grace Lutheran each year and a special service project for those who are alone at Christmas, have no family, or no longer cook a traditional meal. It truly shows how grace is experienced here through the Mission and Ministry of Grace Lutheran. Worship service is at 10 am and serving begins at 11 am. Please consider giving to this gift.

Looking for a Great Stocking Stuffer? Tickets for a chance to win a 2021 Kubota RTV-xG850 Sidekick make a great gift!... AND a fun way to support the Raise the Roof Fund Raising Project at Grace Lutheran. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at the office.

COME CELEBRATE LAS POSADAS with our friends & neighbors from Latin America Sunday, December 19 a Las Posadas Christmas journey will be celebrated from 1 -3 pm at Grace Lutheran. Friends from the Glacial Lakes Multicultural Center who have known the Central American tradition of singing and walking from house to house to re-enact the journey of Mary and Joseph will come to share this tradition with us. This will be a family event during which we will be singing, walking from place to place following our own Mary and Joseph and finishing with a piñata, hot chocolate and treats. Intern Brenda Handel-Johnson who serves Grace Lutheran through serving the broader community brings this tradition to us at Grace as we learn to be an agile church of the future. We hope you will invite your friends and family to come to Grace to experience a beautiful tradition and welcome our neighbors from Latin America.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED: Roberta Bartel has been doing our Sunday worship PowerPoints for several years as a volunteer. Life changes and she no longer be able to continue giving this gift to Grace Lutheran. We are now in need of someone to take on this gift of their time to create the PowerPoint for the services each year. Our custodian, Rich Dunn will have back surgery and off for a few months beginning right after Christmas. We are looking for someone to fill that part-time position, approximately 20 hours per week, for 3 to 6 months. If you service Grace for a short time, contact the office.

Looking for a **TERRIFIC Christmas gift for that someone special.** Join us for 6-weeks of Dance Classes beginning January 11th thru February 15th. Learn foxtrot, jitterbug, waltz, polka, East Coast Swing, & Texas Two-Step. cost just \$70 per couple or \$40 for a single. Proceeds go toward the Raise the Roof Fund. Register at the office from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Thursday or mail a check to Grace at 202 2nd St SE, Watertown, SD 57201.

<p>LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE 12/1/21 & 12/5/21 Worship’s: 166</p>

<p>ROOF FUND Current: \$131,050 Goal: \$171,000</p>
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<p>LAST WEEK’S DEPOSIT Deposits: \$6,194 Weekly Budget: \$6,256</p>
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ISAIAH 12: 2-6*

JACK NOBLE WHITE



Surc-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the



Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.