



*Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 5, 2021*  
*Grace Lutheran Church    11 am Service*  
**Welcomes You to Worship**

**202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota**  
**Web Site: [glcwttn.org](http://glcwttn.org) ~ [gracelc@midconetwork.com](mailto:gracelc@midconetwork.com)**  
**Church Office: 605-886-5737**  
**Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ 605-237-1501**

***Prelude***

**ADVENT WREATH AND LIGHTING**

**ADVENT HYMN**

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

**"Christ, Be Our Light"**

**ELW 715 vs 2**

***Refrain***

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

**RESPONSIVE LITANY—*Hope for Those Who Are Weary***

The Light shines in the darkness, **but the darkness has not overcome it.**  
During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

**The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**  
We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

**The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**  
We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

**The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**  
For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

**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.**

Today we light two candles. The first candle illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The second candle extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

**ADVENT HYMN (*cont*)**

***Refrain***

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

**"Christ, Be Our Light"**

**ELW 715**

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

**PRAYER OF BROKENNESS/CONFESION**

Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in

the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again. Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom. **Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Jesus Christ, the only son of our Heavenly Father, who came among us so that you might know God's mercy, who suffered and died paying the wages of your sin, who began a good work in you... forgives you all your sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit, live your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. In the name of Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Let us pray... **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE:** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.** (*Please share the peace with those around you.*)

**OFFERING FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY of Grace Lutheran Church**

**SONG of OFFERING:**      *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*      **ELW 294 sts 3**

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 part; yet what I can I give him— give my heart.
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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.**

**FIRST READING:** Malachi 3:1-4      **Pew Bible p 778**

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Luke 1: 68-79

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,**

**born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our

enemies, <sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

**<sup>72</sup>to show mercy to our forebears,**

**and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,**

**<sup>75</sup>holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**<sup>77</sup>to give God's people knowledge of salvation**

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**<sup>79</sup>to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,**

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**PRAISE SONG:                   “Love to the World”**

(Refrain) Light the path. Shine the way. Send the word.

Through our lives, show your love to the world.

Many roads up ahead, hard to see. Where is truth to be found?

Can I trust and believe? (Refrain)

Ev'ry nation and tongue, ev'ry tribe All are children of God;  
for each one there is life. (Refrain)

To the ends of the earth bring your light. Justice, mercy and love,  
let them shine through the night. (Refrain)

**SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11                   Pew Bible p 953**

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia.

**"Celtic Alleluia**

**ELW 174**

Alleluia, alleluia.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

**Pew Bible p 834**

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the third chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord:      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

**SONG OF THE DAY:**

**"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"**

**ELW 255**

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

2 O Jerusalem, herald good tidings,  
ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their king.

Like flow'rs of the field we perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the pow'r and the pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.  
  
3 But the word of our Savior is faithful,  
the arm of our God is strong,  
who stands in the midst of the nations  
and soon will right the wrong.  
  
Lord, feed your flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
in pastures of peace now lead them,  
and bring them to your fold.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.... An Advent Creed

We believe in one God, who is Creator, maker of all we see and all we don't see.

Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ, God from God, Light from Light, true  
God and true human. He is one with the Creator; the Word made flesh, our  
Messiah: Savior of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit, Breath of God moving among us; Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ; our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places who are weary and yearn for God's presence.

### PRAYER SONG: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

ELW 752

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;*

*Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

### PRAYER PETITIONS:

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Open the hearts of those searching, to hear the call to serve you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care. Bring all people into a right relationship with the earth that you create to respond with a spirit of care and respect for all of nature. Hear us, O God.

### **Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Grant to those of the Armed Services and their family's knowledge of your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. We pray especially for those dealing with health issues today... Rhys, Roy, Esther, Jim, Rose, Shannon, Joyce, Dennis, Carla, Sharon, Mary, Don, Duane, Lil, Judy, Tyler, Darlene, Jessica, Rick, Caden, Donnie, Robert, those in Care Center, Assisted Living or are homebound. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

### **Your mercy is great.**

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received.

Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Strengthen the bonds that form this faith family at Grace Lutheran and create a spirit of rebirth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### PRAYER SONG: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

ELW 752

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;*

*Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

**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.

**BENEDICTION:** God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate your hope, strength, and steadfast endurance as you await the coming Saviour. And may the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever more. Amen.

### **SENDING SONG:**

### ***"Build Up"***

*(Refrain) Build up, prepare the way.*

*Remove the obstructions from my people's way.*

*Build up, prepare the way. God is near. God is here today.*

*Break the chains of injustice. Let the oppressed go free.*

*Share our homes with the homeless and our bread with the hungry. (Refrain)*

*God sees all our destruction; how we get in love's way.*

*Still God comes and meets us with a steady healing embrace. (Refrain)*

*Then your light will break forth like the dawn and your  
healing will break into song. Build up, prepare the way.*

*Remove the obstructions from my people's way.*

*Build up, prepare the way. God is near, God is here today.*

### **SENDING**

God in peace. Prepare the way, for Christ is near! **Thanks be to God. We Will!**

***Thank you for worshiping with us today!***

### **Announcements for December 5<sup>th</sup>**

#### ***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, 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, 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.

**On the CALENDAR - For the week of December 5<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>**

Today	8:30 am Traditional Worship service 9:30 Sunday school 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:45 am - Adult Formation: Christmas Traditions around the World in Word and music 11 am - Contemporary Worship service 1 pm – Service at Edgewood
Monday	1 – 4 pm Dorcus Quilters 6 pm Choir Practice (All musicians are welcome) 7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (More ringers are welcome)
Wednesday	10 am Service at Hi Rise 4 & 6 pm Confirmation in the basement 6 pm Wednesday School 7 pm Family Advent Worship 7:30 pm Youth Group meets in Youth Room
Thursday	10 am Service at Stoneybrook 6 pm Grace Council Meets
Saturday	9 – 11 am Children Practice for Christmas Program
Sunday	8:30 am Traditional Worship service 9:30 am Sunday school 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 Bake Sale and Caramel Rolls sale begins 11 am Contemporary Worship service Noon – bake sale continues 2 pm Children's Christmas Program in the Sanctuary

**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 will preside –Pastor is off - NO Sunday School  
January 2 ONE service at 10 am will life stream to radio. –  
NO Sunday School

**Children's Christmas Program and Practice schedule**

The Sunday and Wednesday school children will have their Christmas program on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Practice for the Christmas program will be held on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 11 am. This is a very important practice for the children to attend as they won't have time during Sunday and Wednesday school to practice.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** – A special Blue Christmas service will be held at 6 pm on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

#### **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSIST IN OUR WORSHIP:**

**PASTOR:** Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ **Diaconal Intern:** Brenda Handel-Johnson

**READER:** Darlene Bresson                           **Pianist/Organist:** Brenda Handel-Johnson

**USHERS:** Grace Wickherst, Scott VanderLeest

**PRIASE TEAM:** Becky Sprouse, Leigh Carstenen, Judy Everson, Kayla Mohling

Riley Sprouse, Darla K. Lien, Krisma DeWitt

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

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

**Pastoral Calls:** You can reach Pastor Cheryl at 605-237-1501(cell or text) or

by E-mail: [cherylgracelc@midconetwork.com](mailto:cherylgracelc@midconetwork.com)

#### **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.

The meals start with planning the food and volunteer sign-up. Volunteers are needed for cooking: to prepare dishes prior to the day and cook the day of Christmas.

About 10 people are needed for cooking that day. There were 8 roasters of turkey and ham (4 of each) 15 gallons of salad; numerous pies made prior to the day, buns, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy and corn.

Volunteer Delivery drivers are needed to take the meals out to the people the day of Christmas. The more drivers there are the less time and trips it takes for the delivery. So we need a LOT of drivers.

Volunteers to dish up the food into take-out containers. Each take-out consists of meat, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy and corn plus a container of salad, a bun, and a container with pie. All are put into a bag and delivered to the people whether it is drive up or delivered. Clean up afterwards. Those who start cooking early in the morning appreciate fresh help to clean up after the hours of getting the meals out.

If you are unable to help with these activities, you can always donate to the Christmas dinner as supplies are needed, to-go containers and food. 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. The tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at the office.

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** today is lovingly given in memory of Roy & Doris Schmeling" from the Schmeling Radio Fund. The altar flowers are given by Liz Dunn in loving memory of Liz's dad, whose birthday would have been today. 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**

**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE**

11/28/21 Worship:  
106

**ROOF FUND**

Current: \$131,050  
Goal: \$171,000

**LAST WEEK'S DEPOSIT**

Deposits: \$3,806  
Weekly Budget: \$6,256

**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 **GREAT Christmas gift for that someone special**. Join us for 6-weeks of Dance Classes to learn foxtrot, jitterbug, waltz, polka, East Coast Swing, & Texas Two-Step. Classes begin January 11th thru February 15th in the Fellowship Hall at Grace and 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.

**Check us out on our website at [glcwtn.org](http://glcwtn.org)  
And Grace Lutheran Watertown FaceBook.**