



No eye has seen, no ear
has heard
the coming of the
majesty,
the glory!
breaking through the
night of sense,
calling forth every knee
that every tongue may
confess,
without restraint or delay,
lifting every heart to
praise
coming on the clouds
the glory!
the shrieking and the
shouting,
the story of the Most High
God,
surrounded by angels
on wings of faces,
the presence of the
burning,
traces the places He's
been.

whispering wounds
healed within,
on the very ground there
lay the One
who came to save,
held in hands the One
whose
face did shine like the
sun,
who walked the perfect
path of peace,
held out the branch to
guide our feet
the light shining where
we cannot see
that the curse might be
undone,
that we might walk free,
all can sing hallelujah to
our King
the mirth, the joy so
sweet,
His birth, coming on the
clouds,
the glory!

Christmas I

December 31, 2023
GRACE CHURCH SEATTLE

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

1300 E Aloha St

Worship 10:15 AM

Live stream found on

Grace Church Seattle's

[YouTube](#)

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:15 AM

Nursery: (6 months to 2yrs)

Room 118

(children may be picked up at the end of the worship service)

Preschool: (3yrs to 5yrs) Room

120 (children are picked up during *offering*)

Worship Prep Class: (Kinder to 3rd grade) Room 119

(children are picked up during *passing of the peace*) **No class**

5th Sundays of the month.

Nursing Room

(Nursing moms only)

Back of Sanctuary, west side.

Family Room

Chapel (Livestream Viewing)

Lap desks, color pencils, activity pages are found in foyer

Parents, please note our Diocese requires minors never be unaccompanied during church events including Sunday morning worship. Thank you for keeping an eye on your children. Please reach out to any of our pastoral staff with questions. Thank you for your understanding.

Cover Artwork:

"Christmas"

Jade Hawk, 2023

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worldwide.

CHRISTMASTIDE 2023

We all are born into the world looking for someone who is looking for us.

Curt Thompson

We were created for deep and profound connection—with God, with others, and even with ourselves. To paraphrase one writer, the core of our humanity is original blessing, not original sin.

At creation, human beings were “comfortable in our own skin” and enjoyed deep friendship with God and one another, and lived in harmony with all creation.

Yet, we all know this state of blessing to be something that eludes us. No matter hard we may try, we just cannot seem to find our way back home.

In an unexpected and glorious twist of the plot, we discover that God longs to be reunited with us. Over the centuries and throughout the course of our lives, God steadily and lovingly comes looking for us.

Make no mistake, regardless of what you might think of God at this moment, know that God desires to be with you.

During the Christmas season every year, we take time to re-tell this grand story of God’s desire to be reunited with his beloved. It is a narrative that is thick with meaning and has many twists and turns. Yet, the book of Matthew offers us a glimpse into this story’s core significance:

*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God with us’.*

God has once again drawn near to us. We are no longer alone. God has come to be with us forever.

Let heaven and nature sing!

REFLECTION QUOTES

Vulnerability is the core of shame, fear and struggle for worthiness.
But it's also the birthplace of creativity, of belonging, and love.

Brené Brown

Just as soon as I belong
Then it's time I disappear

Metallica

The Word [from John 1] is the same as the God on page 1 of Genesis.
The Word is also distinct from the God on page 1 of Genesis.
So, the Word is God that you met on page 1, and the Word is simultaneously distinct from that God.
So, John is creating in your brain a space for an utterly unique kind of being.

Tim Mackie, "Gospel of John—Prologue"

Liturgical Colors: Liturgical colors can orient us to the season of the church year and help to engage our sense of sight in worship.

White is the color for Christmastide, symbolizing purity, holiness, and virtue, as well as respect and reverence. White (and gold) represent days and seasons of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ.

The small symbols you will see throughout these pages correspond to a "Key to Liturgy" [available here](#) or printed and found in the lobby at the Grace Kids Table. .

*Prayer by
Carreen Raynor, 2023*

The Seasonal Greeting is a way we welcome each other into this holy space and time. It prepares us for the hearing and responding to God. Our liturgy can be thought of as a conversation between each other and God. Conversations require both hearing a responding. This greeting prepares us for the hearing and responding to God.

*ACNA Book of Common Prayer,
2019*



*The Worship Sourcebook
©2004 Faith Alive Christian
Resources*

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

In our culture, Christmas can often feel like a mad dash to get everything ready in time for December 24th. This is followed by an intense, 48-hour period where we try to squeeze in all of our celebrating. Instead of feeling joyful, we are often worn out.

This is where the church calendar can help us. Christmastide begins on December 25th and extends through January 5th (hence the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"). Instead of feeling rushed then exhausted, we have an extended period of time to remember and enjoy the reality that Jesus is Immanuel—God with us.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Seated

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Stand if able

THE SEASONAL GREETING

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.

Jesus Christ is our life and light.

**In his name and in his power,
let us worship God!**

The First Noël

1. The first No - el the an - gel did
2. They look - ed up and saw a
say star was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in
star shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far; and
fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that
to the earth it gave great light, and so it con - ti - nued both
was so deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,
day and night. [* 2nd time repeat chorus] 8
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Anonymous

"Noël" means "Christmas" or
"Christmas time" in old French.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from you no secrets are hid:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy Name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A collect is a prayer that is intended to collect or sum up the prayers of the community, typically following a four-fold pattern: invocation, meditation, petition, and doxology. The Collect for Purity helps us to hear God's word and worship by reminding us that we are laid bare when we come before him. He sees and knows all that we are and all that we bring to him.

We come to God that we might be shaped and formed by his Word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Seated

LECTIO SACRA

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:5

I delight greatly in the Lord;

my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation

and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,

as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the soil makes the sprout come up

and a garden causes seeds to grow,

so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness

and praise spring up before all nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,

for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,

till her vindication shines out like the dawn,

her salvation like a blazing torch.



"Lectio Sacra" means "sacred reading." It has been the practice of the church for thousands of years to have portions of the bible read during worship services. The assumption behind this practice is that we are people who need to be shaped by all of God's word.

The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.
You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
No longer will they call you Deserted,
or name your land Desolate.
But you will be called Hephzibah,
and your land Beulah;
for the Lord will take delight in you,
and your land will be married.
As a young man marries a young woman,
so will your Builder marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you.

New Testament Reading

Galatians 3:23-29

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

INTERLUDE

Musical interludes are included in our service in order to provide space for reflection and worship.

Standing with hands raised

PRAYING THE PSALMS

Psalm 147:12-20

Extol the Lord, Jerusalem;
praise your God, Zion.

**He strengthens the bars of your gates
and blesses your people within you.**

**He grants peace to your borders
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.**

He sends his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.

**He spreads the snow like wool
and scatters the frost like ashes.**

He hurls down his hail like pebbles.
Who can withstand his icy blast?

**He sends his word and melts them;
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.**

He has revealed his word to Jacob,
his laws and decrees to Israel.

**He has done this for no other nation;
they do not know his laws.**

Praise the Lord.



Praying through the Psalms each week teaches us how to pray, using the prayer book of ancient Israel. As we pray, there will be pauses for reflection.

In The Bleak Midwinter

3

Our God, heav'n can not hold Him,
What can I give Him,
Frost - y wind made moan,
Nor earth sus - tain:
Poor as I am?
Earth stood hard as i - ron,
Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way
If I were a shep - herd,
Wa - ter like a stone;
When He comes to reign:
I would bring a lamb:
Snow had fall - en, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid - win - ter A
If I were a wise - man,
Snow on snow on snow,
sta - ble - place suf - ficed:
The Lord the bleak mid - win - ter
I would do my part: Yet what I can I give Him:
Long, - long - a - go,
Je - - - Him - - - sus - Christ.
Give - - - heart.

Words: Christina G. Rossetti, 1872
Music: Gustav Holst, 1906



SERMON

Seated

In the Beginning Was the Word...
Rev. John Haralson

Musical interludes are included
in our service in order to provide
space for reflection and worship.

INTERLUDE



CONFESSION OF SIN

Kneel or Sit

O God, you search us out and know us,
and all that we are is open to you.

We confess that we have sinned.

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we make no room for Christ,
and fail to welcome him into our lives,

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

Christmas Confession
Nathan Nettleton
laughingbird.net

When we follow shooting stars
and squander our gifts in Herod's court,
**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we seek to cut down those
who might rise above us,
**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we sanitize your birth place
and erase from memory the poor and displaced,
**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth,
and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence,
**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

We turn to you, O Christ,
perfect union of Spirit and flesh;
**We renounce evil;
We claim your love;
We choose to be made whole.**

(You are invited to confess your sins silently.)

Stand if able

RECEIVING OF GRACE

John 3:16-17 (ESV)



Brothers and sisters, hear this good news:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

May the peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

Love Came Down At Christmas

1. Love came down at Christ - mas; love, all love - ly, love di - vine.
 2. Wor - ship we the God - head; love in - car - nate, love di - vine.

Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
 Wor - ship we our Je - sus; but where - with for sa - cred sign.

1. **4** Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine.
 2.

Love to God and all men. Love for plea, and gift, and sign.

1. **8**
 2.

Love came down at Christ - mas; love, all love - ly, love di - vine.

Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.

text: Christine G. Rossetti, 1885
 music: Traditional Irish Melody
 arr. Doug Petty
 and Shawn Colvin

PASSING THE PEACE

As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from him. In response to his grace, we also extend that grace to one another. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "May the peace of Christ be with you" and receive back the greeting "And also with you."

Seated

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are new, please let us know about your visit through the QR code. If you are a regular attender, you can update your household information through the same QR code. Please use the cards inserted in the Order of Worship to share any praises or prayer requests you might have.



BAPTISM OF CHARLIE & ANDERS WILLIAMS

Scripture teaches that we are all created in God's image, and therefore breathtakingly and wonderfully made. Yet sin has corrupted us and carried us away from God.

But through the gospel and in the power of the Spirit, God addresses each one of us and calls us back to himself, resulting in a profound change. The act of baptism is about that transformation and provides a public opportunity to turn to Christ and express a personal trust in him and what he has done for us.

So, let us thank God for drawing Charlie, and Anders to himself and pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that in your great love you have called Charlie, and Anders to know you and to trust you. Increase this knowledge and strengthen their faith. Lord, we ask you to set apart this water and grant that they may be born again by the Holy Spirit, cleansed from all sin, and inherit your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.)

Presenter: I present Charlie, and Anders to be baptized.

Celebrant: Brian and Caroline, are you willing to speak for these children, accepting responsibility for their Christian upbringing in the life of the Church?

Answer: I am

Celebrant: Do you believe that your children are created in God's image, are loved by God, and a gift from God to the world?

Answer: I do

Celebrant: Do you turn to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins as well as your childrens'?

Answer: I do

Celebrant: Will you walk with Jesus and keep his commands?

Answer: I will, with the Lord's help.

Celebrant: Do you reject selfish living and all that is false and unjust?

Answer: I reject them all.

Celebrant: Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

Answer: I renounce all that is evil.

Celebrant: Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness and evil, and lead you into the light and obedience of the kingdom of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(The Celebrant then addresses the Congregation, first inviting them to stand.)

Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Charlie and Anders in their life in Christ?

Congregation: **We will.**

Celebrant: Let us join with them to proclaim our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

Celebrant: Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

Congregation:

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

Congregation:

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

Congregation:

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Let us now pray for Charlie and Anders who are to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

That they may continue in the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

We ask you to hear us, Good Lord.

That they may walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which they have been called, ever growing in faith and all heavenly virtues.

We ask you to hear us, Good Lord.

That they may persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever they fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

We ask you to hear us, Good Lord.

That they may proclaim by word and deed the Good News of God in Christ Jesus to a lost and broken world.

We ask you to hear us, Good Lord.

That as living members of the Body of Christ, they may grow up in every way into him who is the head.

We ask you to hear us, Good Lord.

That, looking to Jesus, they may run with endurance the race set before them, and at the last receive the unfading crown of glory.

We ask you to hear us, Good Lord.

Charlie, and Anders, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(The Celebrant makes the sign of the Cross upon the forehead of the newly baptized saying)

Charlie, and Anders, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and belong to God forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant:

For you, Jesus Christ came into the world.
For you, he lived and showed God's love.
For you, he suffered the darkness of Calvary
and cried at the last "It is finished."
For you, he triumphed over death and rose to new life
For you, he reigns at God's right hand
All this he did for you, though you do not know it yet.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon Charlie and Anders the forgiveness of sins, received them as your own children by adoption, made them a member of your holy Church, and raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit, that they may enjoy everlasting salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. May they shine as a light in the world to the glory of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Celebrant: Let us welcome our sister and brother!

Charlie and Anders we receive you into the fellowship of the Church!

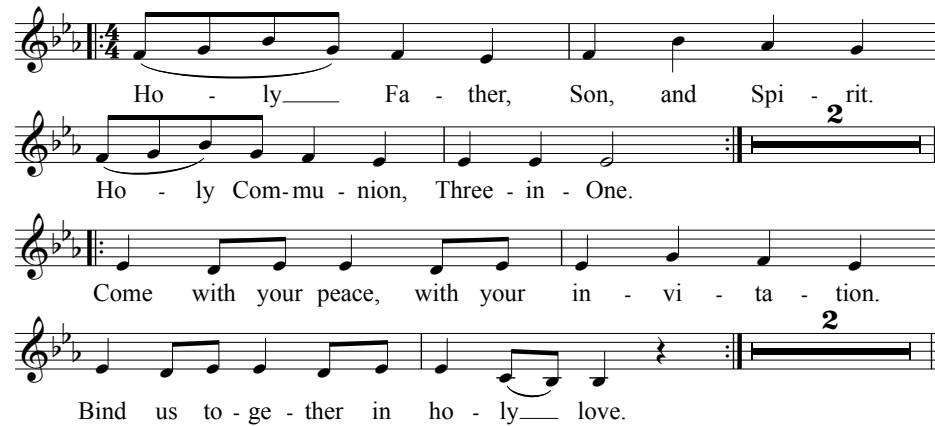
Stand if able

Light of the World

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Collect for the First Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Trinity Song



Ho - ly — Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit.
Ho - ly Com - mu - nion, Three - in - One.
Come with your peace, with your in - vi - ta - tion.
Bind us to - ge - ther in ho - ly — love.



Offering Tiles

Many of us tithe electronically and this can be a wise practice and a blessing to the church. A downside can be the loss of the embodied practice of physically bringing our offering to the Lord. If it will aid you in your worship to reclaim a physical expression of tithing, tiles are now available in baskets at our welcome table for you to choose and place in the offering basket as it is passed.

We come to the Table of our Lord
that he might feed and nourish us.



Seated

OFFERING

***Parents, please pick up your children from the Preschool Class. Nursery may stay through to the end of worship.**

To give to the Grace General Fund, you can give several ways:

- To give online, text GODISLOVE to 206.859.9405 or scan the QR code.
(This will take you to our on-line giving page)
- Give via Venmo (Give to @graceseattle; all transactions are private)
- Give via PayPal (Give to bookkeeper@graceseattle.org)
- To gift stock, contact our bookkeeper@graceseattle.org
- Mail to check to:

Grace Church Seattle
505 Broadway E, PMB 324, Seattle, WA 98102



To give to the Serving the City Fund or Benevolence Fund, you can give several ways:

- For text, online, and app giving, specify "Serving the City" "Benevolence Fund" in the "Fund" field.
- For all other giving, Indicate "Serving the City" or "Benevolence Fund" in the memo or comments field.
- Matching giving available through Benevity (contact our bookkeeper for details).

MUSICAL OFFERING

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Stand if able

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

We Ascend (The Sursum Corda)

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with Angels and Archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
who for ever sing this hymn
to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Song of Heaven (The Sanctus)

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly
2. Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry
3. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord, God of pow - er and might,
- ry. Ho -
Lord. Ho -

2. 3.
sa - nna in the high - est!
sa - nna in the high - est!

The *Sursum Corda* (Latin: "Lift up your hearts") is an ancient Christian communion prayer. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been raised with Christ and now reign with him in heaven.

The *Sanctus* (Latin: "Holy") is one of the songs being sung in heaven before God's throne. We join our voices to with the angels and those who have gone before us in the faith to give glory to God.

Jess Alldredge
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Seated

We Remember (Words of Institution)

We Ask God's Blessing (Prayer of Consecration)

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon these your gifts of bread and wine that they may be for your people the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, may we be one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him.

As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. For by him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

We Preach the Good News

Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Communion Elements:

Cup: Wine or Grape Juice

Bread ingredients: Wheat Flour, Rye Flour, White Unbleached Flour, 1% Milk, Yeast, Vegetable Oil

Rice Crackers: Organic Brown Rice Flour, Organic White Rice Flour

Prefilled, factory-sealed communion

elements also available:

Communion wafer ingredients: wheat flour, water, vegetable shortening (soybean oil, cottonseed oil).

Receiving Communion

We will come forward by rows, starting at the front. There will be factory sealed communion elements as well as gluten free crackers with designated juice and wine on the table at the front. Otherwise, there is bread to dip in either wine (tall cup) or juice (short cup).

We Draw Near (The Lord's Supper)

(All are invited to come forward during Communion. The act of receiving the bread and wine is a confession, that as you receive those gifts, you have already received the gift of a renewed relationship with God, through Christ. If that is not your confession, you may still come forward to receive a prayer. Simply cross your arms across your chest as an indication that you are coming for prayer.)

Stand if able

Joy To The World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-
Joy to the earth! the Sa - vior reigns: let men their
No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the
ceive her King; let ev - every heart pre -
songs em - ploy; while fields - and floods, rocks,
fest the ground; He comes to make of His
na - tions prove the glo - ries of His
pare Him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
hills, and plains, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
bless - ings flow far as the curse is found, far -
right - eous - ness and won - ders of His love, and
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat, re - peat the
as the curse is found, far as, far as the
won - ders of His love, and won - ders of His
na - ture sing.
sound - ing joy.
curse is found.
of His love.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719
Music: ANTIOCH,
Lowell Mason, 1848
Arr./Orch. Jess Alldredge



BENEDICTION

Romans 15:12-13 (ESV)

May Jesus Christ, the sun of righteousness,
who comes with healing in his wings,
fill you with the joy and peace
that passes all understanding.
The blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



SENDING

Let us go forth and serve the world
as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

WELCOME TO GRACE

The various opportunities for growth, connection and service at Grace are listed below.

GRACE KIDS If you have any questions about Grace Kids, email linn@graceseattle.org.

Resources for Sunday Worship. Children are always welcome to remain in the service. To participate in a class, children must be signed in each week with KidCheck, our secure check-in system and wear their printed name tag. Check-in stations located in lobby and downstairs.

- Nursery (6 months-2 years), located downstairs in classroom #118
- Preschool (3-5 years), located downstairs in classroom #120. Children are picked up during the *offering*.
- Worship Prep Class (Kinder-3rd grade), located downstairs in classroom #119, children are picked up during *passing of the peace*. **This class does not meet on the 5th Sunday of the month.**
- Nursing mothers' room is located in the back of the Sanctuary
- Family room is provided in the upstairs chapel with a livestream viewing.
- Kids Activities are available in the lobby each week for use during in-person worship.

Christian Formation Class. Christian Formation Classes are offered for children age 2 - 5th grade.

YOUTH GROUP All youth ages 12-18 are welcome to join our Youth Group, which meets during Christian Formation Hour the first three Sundays of the month. This year we'll be exploring the practice of prayer together. If you are interested or have questions, email Nelson Hall at nelson@graceseattle.org.

YOUNG ADULTS Join other young adults in our community as we gather together for lunch the second and fourth Sundays of every month at 12:30 PM. Please contact nelson@graceseattle.org for more details.

COMMUNITY FORMATION

Adult Christian Formation Class. The adult class will be exploring the Gospel of Mark this fall. You can access the audio to all the classes through the QR code.



Community Groups. These are groups of 6-12 people that gather in peoples' homes in a variety of neighborhoods in the Seattle area. Email Jamie Afshari, at jamie@graceseattle.org for more information.

Growth Groups. These are groups of 3 men or 3 women that are designed to be communities where people can be known and grow (1-year commitment). Please contact Jamie Afshari at jamie@graceseattle.org or John Haralson at john@graceseattle.org.

SERVING THE CITY Serving the City (STC) exists to disciple our congregation in service, to care for our neighbors and neighborhoods, and to support people who have been marginalized. We do this by partnering and volunteering with local organizations to support their work in our community—New Horizons, REST, World Relief, and Olive Crest. This fall, STC is hosting focused events on caring for the housing insecure and unhoused in our city, we hope you join us as we learn, pray and seek the ways the Lord may be calling us to serve in this area. If you are interested in learning more about STC, contact Drew Billups at drew@graceseattle.org.

MUSIC & ARTS. As a worshipping community, we seek to respond to God with music and visual arts that are winsome, well-crafted, and beautiful. We also find ways to stay connected to the broader artistic and creative community in our neighborhood and city. If you are interested in getting involved with the music and arts at Grace, or want to learn about the Grace Artists group, email Jess Alldredge, Worship Arts Director at jess@graceseattle.org.

OTHER GROUPS

LGBTQ+ / SSA Community in Seattle. Join us each month for Sunday lunch, laughter, and a sense of community, here on Capitol Hill! For over five years, Grace Church Seattle has been an active supporter of "Revoice"; a ministry committed to supporting LGBTQ+/SSA individuals who long to follow Jesus. Now, Revoice has established a local chapter here in Seattle in order to offer support and community to our LGBTQ+ / SSA siblings. For more information and details select "Seattle" at <https://www.revoice.org/local-chapters>

Recovery From Sexual Compulsivity Discussion Group. This group meets Wednesdays at 8 PM via Zoom. It is an anonymous (first-names) male-only meeting that follows a 12-step format open to men of any or no faith. For more information contact Clint Morse (206-915-1669).

Book Club. Love reading? Join us once or every month. We read all kinds of literature including best sellers, classics, non-fiction, and young adult fiction. We meet in person at different locations each month - email office@graceseattle.org for more details.

EVENTS

Gregg Colburn Presentation. We have rescheduled the presentation by Dr. Gregg Colburn, author of Homelessness is a Housing Problem for January! Please join us at the SDA on Thursday, 1/25 at 6 PM. This is a valuable opportunity to hear from a figure who has been an important part of the national conversation around the challenge of homelessness. Dr. Colburn's research looks at data from cities and counties across the US to try to understand why homelessness is more intense in some areas. The book dispels common myths about the causes of homelessness, zeros in on the fundamental cause, and offers practical solutions. Bring your friends! An RSVP through the QR code is appreciated but not essential, also feel free to share the link with friends!



2023-2024 Ministry Year Key Dates

Key dates for this year are listed below, you can see more details and subscribe to our calendar through the QR code.



January

- Friday, 1/19 - Sunday, 1/21 - Youth Retreat
- Thursday, 1/25 - Dr. Gregg Colburn Presentation at 6 PM at the SDA. Details above.
- Sunday, 1/28 - Congregational Budget Meeting

February

- Sunday, 2/11 - Jamie's Ordination Service & Celebration

March

- Saturday, 3/9 - Parents/Loved Ones of LGBTQ+ (with Revoice Leadership)
- Sunday, 3/10 - Revoice Leadership at Grace

Men's & Women's Retreats

- Friday, 4/12/2024 - Sunday 4/14/2024 - Men's Retreat at Rainbow Lodge
- Friday, 5/3/2024 - Sunday 5/5/2024 - Women's Retreat at Rainbow Lodge

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Kid's Class on the 5th Sunday of the Month. There will be no Worship Prep Class this morning, December 31, as it is the 5th Sunday of the month. Nursery and Preschool will be open.

Benevolence Fund. The team is looking for more people to join in the work they do to support those with financial needs in our congregation and community. To learn more about joining the team, email benevolence@graceseattle.org.

Bell Tower Counseling is a non-profit counseling center in Seattle that provides evidence-based and biblically-sound counseling services to those in need across Washington state. Through partnerships with individual donors and churches like Grace, Bell Tower is committed to offering generous scholarship resources to our clients so that financial need is never a barrier to receiving high-quality counseling care.

We have openings for new clients right away as well as opportunities for donors to come on board to help us sustain this important work. You can schedule a free intake call at belltowercounseling.org/contact and learn more about giving opportunities through the QR code.



WOMEN IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP After a year-long prayerful discernment process by the congregation and leadership of Grace, we believe it is good and right for Grace to move forward with both women preachers and women priests. We look forward to opening up our pulpit and leadership structures to women and believe that our congregation will benefit from having a fuller reflection of the image of God in and through our church's pastoral and preaching ministries.

SOUL CARE SEATTLE

Grace is blessed to partner with Soul Care Seattle, an urban retreat and spiritual direction ministry located on Capitol Hill. They have many different ways to help you grow in your relationship with God.

Soul Care Seattle is located at **The Layne**: 1252 16th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

Listening Prayer Group. A Listening prayer group is a small group that meets with the intention of building a community around the word of God. The passages will focus this year on the questions Jesus asked his followers and asks us today. For more information and to RSVP scan the QR code. Meetings are at 7 PM at The Layne on these Thursdays: 1/18, 2/22, 3/21, 4/18, and 5/16



Half-day Retreat schedule at the Layne (Saturdays, 8:45 AM to 12 PM). Why a silent retreat? How many of us have the space to be truly quiet and listen to ourselves or listen to God about ourselves? In this time, you are free of distractions, defenses, calendars, and performance. These retreats are available to those who would like to experience silence & prayer in community. You will start, and end, as a larger group, but then you will have personal time to do any of the following: contemplate the prayers and writings that are given to you, walk in the beautiful parks around The Layne, or rest on the porch or other areas in the house. Scan the QR code to register and email renee@soulcareseattle.com if you have any questions. The silent retreats are held on these Saturdays: 1/13, 2/10, 3/16, 4/20 and 5/18



Centering Prayer Group. Centering Prayer consists of sitting in silence with God - beyond thoughts, words, and emotions and opening our mind, heart and whole being to the Trinity. We begin each session praying a Psalm together, a 20-minute period of silent Centering Prayer, followed by Sacred Reading of Scripture (Lectio Divina). All are welcome. **Please note this is over zoom.** Scan the QR code to register (no cost). If you have any questions email donna@soulcareseattle.com. The time of fellowship and prayer is from 7 to 8:30 PM and are held on these Thursdays: 1/11, 2/15, 3/7, 4/25 and 5/9



Spiritual Direction. Find out more about Spiritual Direction and how to sign up through the QR code.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

12/31 First Sunday of Christmas
Worship Service 10:15 AM
No Worship Prep Class
(In-Person and Livestream)

01/07 First Sunday After the Epiphany
Christian Formation Hour 9 AM
Worship Service 10:15 AM
(In-Person and Livestream)

01/14 Second Sunday After the Epiphany
Christian Formation Hour 9 AM
Worship Service 10:15 AM
(In-Person and Livestream)

Emergency Plan

In the unlikely event of an emergency or evacuation, all children attending a Grace Kids Class will be escorted immediately from their classrooms to the farthest edge of the front lawn, at the corner of E. Aloha St. and 13th Ave. E., where they can be reunited with their parents or guardians.

STAFF

Rev. John Haralson, Pastor john@graceseattle.org
Drew Billups, Assistant Pastor, Serving the City drew@graceseattle.org
Jamie Afshari, Director of Community Formation jamie@graceseattle.org
Jess Alldredge, Worship Arts Director jess@graceseattle.org
Linn Haralson, Grace Kids Director linn@graceseattle.org
Nelson Hall, Assistant Pastor of Youth & Young Adults nelson@graceseattle.org
Nicole Hall, Administrator office@graceseattle.org
Noni Wilson, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@graceseattle.org

MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Angela Wheeless, Meals Ministry meals@graceseattle.org
Jo Taniguchi, Premarital Mentoring taniguchijo@gmail.com
Benevolence Fund, benevolence@graceseattle.org.
Sara Billups, Eric Hadden, Rebecca Ifland and Tamarack Randall serve on the benevolence team. Email the address above or any of them individually if you have financial need.

VESTRY

Nate Andrews nateofgraceseattle@gmail.com
Sara Billups sara@sarabillups.com
Eric Hadden hadden.eric.a@gmail.com
Renee Huie reenehuie@gmail.com
Rebecca Ifland becca.ifland@gmail.com
Tamarack Randall tamarack.graceseattle@gmail.com
Darik Taniguchi dariktaniguchi@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE

Not sure who to contact? If you have needs or resources you'd like to offer the community, please contact us at pastoralcare@graceseattle.org.

GIVE

You can give financially to Grace in many ways.

- General Fund. This goes to support the mission and worship of our congregation.
- Benevolence Fund. This goes to help those in our congregation and community who are facing unexpected financial need.
- Serving the City Fund. This goes directly to our efforts to serve the hurting and marginalized in our city.

You can give to any of these funds online through the QR Code.



Financial Update (as of 11/30/2023):

General fund: YTD giving - 683,406.69, Budget - 889,163
Serving the City: YTD giving - 21,467.00, Budget - 137,500

Grace Church Seattle is a member congregation of the Churches for the Sake of Others Diocese of the Anglican Church in North America.

Worship Location 1300 E Aloha St, Seattle, WA 98102
and Livestream on Youtube
Mailing Address ****NEW**** 505 Broadway E, PMB 324, Seattle, WA 98102

graceseattle.org
office@graceseattle.org