

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

Asheville, North Carolina

www.gcpcusa.org

November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent



Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Processional

Bless the Lord

BLESS THE LORD (Taizé)

Lighting the Candle of Promise

* **Hymn 87**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

* **Call to Reconciliation**

*** Prayer of Confession**

Let us hold in our hearts the truth about the struggle to trust.

When so many people and situations are not trustworthy we put walls up.

(silence)

Our walls can be barriers to believing things can ever change.

(silence)

Our unbelief can leave us jaded and quick to expect the worst.

(silence)

It is hard for us to trust that God's promises are real.

(silence)

Amen.

*** Assurance of God's Grace and Love**

*** Sung Response** Freedom Is Coming

*** Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Faith Sharing

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 24:36-44

Homily

Marcia Mount Shoop

Solo

In Jesus Name (God of Possible)

Nichole, Pardo, Hulse and Spencer

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to The Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

The Lord's Prayer (*Alternate Version from New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book*)

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of
the world; Your heavenly will be done by all created
beings; Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People (*All bread is gluten-free.*)

Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Prayer After Communion

Offering (*Please place green prayer cards in the offering plate. Staff will pray for them during Advent*)

Offertory Anthem

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Gustav Holst

Prayer of Dedication

* **Hymn 79**

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE

* **Charge & Benediction**

Postlude

"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

Ludwig Krebs

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me © 2008 Paul M. Vasile, Used by permission.

Please remain seated during the Postlude.

*** Stand in Body or Spirit.**

We gather to worship God who is larger than all our imaginations!

We encourage all persons to sing the nouns and pronouns they prefer in referring to God.

Please remember to silence your cell phone during worship.

Advent Wreath: Members of GCPC 20s/30s/& Beyond Group

Liturgist: Josie Plocica **Soloist:** Mesheala Sundblade

Head Usher: Liz Huesemann

Deacon of the Week: Bill McNeff | **email:** wpmcn6@yahoo.com

Thank you to Jeannette Williams for the flowers that decorate the sanctuary this morning, given to the glory of God, with Happy Birthday wishes to grandson, A.C., and Happy Thanksgiving to the GCPC family.

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.

Welcome Visitors!

Please take a moment to fill out the visitor card found in your pew to let us know more about you and place it in the offering boxes right outside the sanctuary.

Childcare is available for children, birth to 4 years of age.
Check-in is by the Welcome Desk in the narthex.



Announcement Info



2023 Pledge Card



To give to GCPC

SESSION

Class of 2022

Jessica Graham
Anna Hamel
John Legerton
Christi Mobley
Keith Prince
William Hamel

CLASS OF 2024

Keaton Hill
Tim Moe
Bill Neeriemer
Anne Raustol
Martha Seddon

CLASS OF 2024

Susan Curtis
Rob Everett
Russell Kominiski
Libby Kyles
Denise Lockett
Melissa Shook

MODERATOR:

Marcia Mount Shoop

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Richard Coble

CLERK: Kelley Griffith

TREASURER:

Joe Brumit—
treasurer@gcpcusa.org

BOARD OF DEACONS

CLASS OF 2022

John Curry
Jeff Curtis
Martha Ensing Johnson
Cathy Froehlich
Beth Robrecht
Bill Ryan
Jeane Smith

CLASS OF 2023

Pam Baker
Jerry Bleckley
Cathy Byers
Bill McNeff
Karen Rohls
Leslie Sharpe
Ellen Sizemore

CLASS OF 2024

Pat Cheffins
Kimo Hyatt
Justin Kyremes-Parks
Emma Maney
Skip Stansell
Paul Tierney
Debbie Welch



WELCOME STATEMENT

Trusting that God's grace embraces and desires covenant with all people, Grace Covenant seeks to be an inclusive and hospitable place of spiritual growth. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, ethnic, racial, or gender identity, economic position, residency status, or political affiliation. We trust that God is always at work transforming each life and our life together, helping us to better follow Christ's example of love and courageous welcome.

STAFF

Ministers: All the Members
Pastor/Head of Staff: Marcia Mount Shoop—marcia@gcpcusa.org
Associate Pastor: Richard Coble—richard@gcpcusa.org
Director of Formation for Children, Youth & Families: Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks—amykim@gcpcusa.org
Interim Choral Director: Shane Bloemetjie
Interim Accompanist: Wayne Smith
Director of Media & Technology: Micah Hayes—micah@gcpcusa.org
Engagement & Communications Coordinator: Anna Louise Murchison—annalouise@gcpcusa.org
Stewardship & Finance Administrator: Natalie Weaver—natalie@gcpcusa.org
Maintenance & Repair Technician: Cliff Schlegelmilch—cliff@gcpcusa.org
Assistant Director of Youth Ministry: Melva Lowry—melva@gcpcusa.org
Garden Manager: Allison Kiehl—allison@gcpcusa.org



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN in the bins next to the glass doors.