

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

Asheville, North Carolina

www.gcpcusa.org

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent



Your whole self is welcomed here. Please feel free to take care of your body during worship in ways that work for you.

Centering Music

Call to Worship *(Excerpt from "Brilliant Night Suite," a poem by Paula Larke)*

* Hymn 850

In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

(Verse 1 – Soloist first time through and then congregation)

Truth Telling Together

Honor the Dark

Lea Morris

Honor the dark as you do the light.

Receive the gifts that come to us by day and by night.

I choose to honor the dark, uncertainty and change.

Deliver us from fear until only love remains.

* Passing of the Peace

GCPC Connects

Faith Sharing

**I have love to share with the whole wide world
And I start by loving myself
When I take good care of my heart and soul
I have room for everyone else
I love me, so I can love you God loves me, so I can love you**

Faith Sharing Recessional

(Children 3rd grade and under may leave for worship enrichment or childcare for 0-4 years.)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

"Encountering"

Marcia Mount Shoop

Anthem

All Praise to Thee

Elaine Hagenberg

Prayers of the People

Sung Response

***For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.***

The Lord's Prayer *(adapted from the New Zealand Anglican Church)*

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Parent 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 trials 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.**

* Hymn 103

Come Now, O Prince of Peace
(Verses 1-3)

O-SO-SO

Community Land Acknowledgement

Congregational Response:

We will stay awake to the impact of our history. We will trust the healing opportunities Spirit offers in our unknown future.

One: We go from this encounter with divine darkness with new courage to acknowledge our complicated history on this land, this land called "Togiyasdi," by the Fire People, the Cherokee ancestors.

(Repeat Congregational Response)

One: We carry with us all that we are learning about the Doctrine of Discovery, Christianity authorizing genocide and the seizing of land from non-Christians, the impacts of red-lining and urban renewal on this community, the origins of the names of the roads that locate our church building, and the harmful history of Presbyterian participation in chattel slavery, boarding schools for indigenous children, and upholding white supremacy in the ways faith has been lived out.

(Repeat Congregational Response)

One: We carry with us our shared gratitude for these ancient mountains and the mystery and majesty of all the wildlife and trees and plants that thrive here. We celebrate signs of resilience and resolve in the way this land grows food and community.

(Repeat Congregational Response)

Heath: We honor the legacy God is calling us to remember and practice: to let go, to lean in, to believe we can change and that the world can change, too.

Sung Benediction

Hymn 103 (*Verse 4, sung in round*)

**Come, hope of unity; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.**

The Battiloro Handpan Drum used in worship today was donated by Pamela Culp.

** Stand in Body or Spirit.*

Please remember to silence your cell phone during worship.

Worship Leaders: Marta Alcalá, Heath Rada

Musicians: Amber Cook, Tim Moe, MC Ellis, Blake Bradley,
Gabi Thompson, Choir, Bell Choir

Head Usher: Cathy Froehlich

Deacon of the Week: Carolyn Haag | **email:** cjhaag88@gmail.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 great-granddaughter, Evie Williams.

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.

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



Announcement Info



2024 Pledge Card



To give to GCPC

Hearing Aid T-Coil Loop -- listen in. The GCPC sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Aid Loop. This loop sends a magnetic signal directly to personal hearing aids equipped with T-Coil. Most hearing aids require you to select the Telephone or T-Coil program on your hearing aid to take advantage of the signal.

SESSION

Class of 2023

Keaton Hill
Tim Moe
Bill Neeriemer
Anne Raustol
Laurel Seddon

Class of 2024

Margaret Belk
Susan Curtis
Russell Kominski
Libby Kyles
Denise Lockett
Melissa Shook

Class of 2025

Mary Berg
Ben Kees
Bob Lane
Hans Rosario-Singer
Kate Shem

MODERATOR:

Marcia Mount Shoop

CLERK:

Kelley Griffith

TREASURER:

Joe Brumit –
treasurer@gcpcusa.org

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023

Pam Baker
Jerry Bleckley
Cathy Byers
Bill McNeff
Ellen Sizemore

Class of 2024

Pat Cheffins
Kimo Hyatt
Justin Kyremes-Parks
Emma Maney
Paul Tierney

Class of 2025

Frank Chapman
Carolyn Haag
Liz Huesemann
John Huie
Robin Mallernee
Sarah Merrill
Larry Stern

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

Director of Formation for Children, Youth & Families: Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks – amykim@gcpcusa.org

Director of Music Ministries: Ray Landis – ray@gcpcusa.org

Director of Media & Technology: Micah Hayes – micah@gcpcusa.org

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Stewardship & Financial Administrator: Brett Pinkston – brett@gcpcusa.org

Administrative Assistant to Pastor/Head of Staff: Katie Claxton – katie@gcpcusa.org

Administrative Assistant: Olivia Goldstein – olivia@gcpcusa.org

Property Manager: Cliff Schlegelmilch – cliff@gcpcusa.org

Garden Manager: Allison Kiehl – allison@gcpcusa.org



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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<https://www.youtube.com/@GCPCVideo>

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