

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope.  
All My soul waits for the coming of the Lord,  
more than those who watch for the morning.  
Leader There is no darkness with you, O Lord.  
O people of God, hope in him alone!!  
All For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plenteous redemption.  
Leader There is no darkness with you, O Lord.  
All For you are the light of the world!

—based on Ps. 130:5-7

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS / C. WESLEY; ARR. B. COLEMAN

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born Thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by Thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader As we light the first Advent candle, let us remember the words of the prophet Isaiah: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” (Is. 9:2) And let us remember the fulfillment of these words in Jesus Christ, who said, “I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.” (Jn. 8:12)

All Come, Lord Jesus, come!

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

COMFORT MY PEOPLE (ISAIAH 40) / REINDEER TRIBE

Comfort, comfort  
Comfort my people  
Comfort, comfort  
Comfort my people  
The voice of him  
calling in the desert  
Prepare the way for the Lord

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL / TRANS. J. NEALE

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
REFRAIN:  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

2. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;  
from depths of hell Thy people save,  
and give them victory over the grave.

3. O come, Thou Dayspring,  
from on high and cheer us  
by Thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death’s dark shadows put to flight.

4. O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All Lord, we have not kept watch for you.  
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.  
We have not waited to find your will for us.  
We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.  
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.  
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will.  
Help us to look out for the needs of others.  
Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.  
(silence is kept together)

SONG OF ASSURANCE

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH BE SILENT / G. MOULTRIE

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded,  
for with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of Lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.

4. Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.

5. At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to His presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
“Alleluia, alleluia  
alleluia, Lord Most High!”

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned  
The penalty is paid by the One who has come and is coming again!

—based on Is. 40:1-2

All Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.  
Together And also with you!

\* Children ages 2 to 5th grade are invited to participate in our children’s program during the sermon; children return for Communion.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*If you’re visiting with us for the first time, please fill out an information card (available at the welcome table) and drop it into the offering box or give it to a church staff member. For more announcements, see the back of the bulletin or visit our website.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

\*During the offertory, we consider all that we have and all that God may be asking us to give. Please take this time to ask God how you might give of your financial gifts, personal time and even vocational calling. There are different ways to give. You may mail your offering to our office: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA 91101; or give via our app (iOS and Android) or website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 37:1-28 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Jacob lived in the land of his father’s sojournings, in the land of Canaan.

<sup>2</sup> These are the generations of Jacob: Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. <sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. <sup>4</sup> But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

<sup>5</sup> Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: <sup>7</sup> Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” <sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

<sup>9</sup> Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” <sup>10</sup> But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” <sup>11</sup> And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

<sup>12</sup> Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock near Shechem. <sup>13</sup> And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” And he said to him, “Here I am.” <sup>14</sup> So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word.” So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. <sup>15</sup> And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” <sup>16</sup> “I am seeking my brothers,” he said. “Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.” <sup>17</sup> And the man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. <sup>18</sup> They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. <sup>19</sup> They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. <sup>20</sup> Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.” <sup>21</sup> But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” <sup>22</sup> And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. <sup>23</sup> So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. <sup>24</sup> And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. <sup>25</sup> Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. <sup>26</sup> Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? <sup>27</sup> Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him. <sup>28</sup> Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

Leader This is the word of the Lord.  
All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE

Marc Choi

“Dreams and Desires”  
Sermon Series: Genesis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Jesus, our shepherd, come to your church as Lord and judge. We pray for unity and wisdom for ourselves and those you’ve given to lead us. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Come to your world as king of the nations. We pray that you would empower goodness and restrain evil; turn our weapons of war into plowshares. Let the leaders of our world remember that they will stand in silence before you. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Come to the suffering as savior and comforter. We lift up to you our needs and longings, as well as those of our families, friends, and neighbors. Break into our lives where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to love you and our neighbors. In silence, we lift the names of those in need. (silence) For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. Renew our faith, hope and love as we wait. Amen.

COMMUNION

***GUIDELINES:*** The sacrament of Communion is also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist. It is the family meal for those who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. The invitation is from Jesus Christ alone, not from this church or any minister. If you are baptized and can call yourself a Christian, come to the table.

***DIRECTIONS:*** When instructed, please come forward to receive Communion. Receive the bread and juice from the servers. Pre-packaged elements, which are gluten-free are available in the line closest to the stage. Participate as you feel comfortable.

***CHILDREN:*** Children who are baptized, can profess faith in Jesus Christ in an age appropriate manner, and have talked to a pastor or an elder may participate in communion.

SONGS OF RESPONSE & CELEBRATION

O, BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM / WORDS: R. BOYCE; ARR. THE REINDEER TRIBE

1. O, beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
Shining afar through shadows dim  
Giving the light for those  
Who long have gone;  
Guiding the Wise Men on their way,  
Unto the place where Jesus lay.  
O, beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

CHORUS  
O, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
Shine upon us until the glory dawns.  
Give us a light to guide the way  
Unto the land of perfect day  
O, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

2. O, beautiful Star the hope of light  
Guiding the pilgrims through the night  
Over the mountains till the break of dawn  
Into the light of perfect day  
It will give out a lovely ray  
O, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on  
3. O, beautiful Star the hope of rest  
For the redeemed the good and blessed  
Yonder in glory when the crown is won  
Jesus is now the star divine  
Brighter and brighter he will shine  
O, beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING / R. ROBINSON

1. Come Thou fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount I’m fixed upon it,  
mount of Thy redeeming love!  
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
hither by Thy help I’m come,  
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure  
safely to arrive at home!  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God.  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed His precious blood!

3. Oh to grace how great a debtor,  
daily I’m constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to Thee:  
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here’s my heart, oh take and seal it;  
seal it for Thy courts above!

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader May you know the love of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit more and more. As you experience and extend God’s love, may the Holy Spirit make you ready for the coming again of Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Redeemer of all. Go in peace.  
All Thanks be to God! Amen!

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ADVENT  
CHRISTMAS  
EPIPHANY  
LENT  
EASTER  
PENTECOST  
ORDINARY TIME

Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation; it’s the season the church anticipates the coming of Christ. We look forward to and prepare for Christmas, the celebration of his birth. We also look forward to and prepare for his future and final coming to judge the world and mend all things. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting. The color of the season is purple, which is associated with royalty and repentance.

THE GRACE PASADENA APP

Use the app to listen to sermons, access an audio Bible, view and register for upcoming events (including City Groups), set up giving and more! Use the QR codes below.



For Android Phones



For iOS Phones

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **12/17:** Join us at our regular time (10am) for a special all-church worship service.
- **12/24:** All are invited to a pre-service fellowship hour starting at 9am and the Christmas Eve service at 10am. More details to come!
- **12/31:** No Sunday service
- **1/7/24:** Sunday service resumes

\*Looking for a way to love our neighbors? Consider joining the Park Ministry after the service.  
\*If you are in any kind of need, please email [mercy@gracepasadena.org](mailto:mercy@gracepasadena.org) or talk to a deacon or other leader of Grace. You are not alone - we are here to help!

\*Scan the QR code below for more details, other announcements and contact information!



GRACE PASADENA’S VISION STATEMENT

Grace Pasadena exists to **Experience & Extend** the life-giving grace of God

- **As** we grow in the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- **In** every sphere of life
- **For** our neighborhoods, city and the world

GRACE PASADENA’S CORE VALUES

**God-Centered Worship** – We seek to be transformed in worship as we experience the wonder of God and respond appropriately

**Gospel-Driven Identity** – We seek a personal experience of the gospel that both humbles us, and assures us that we are more deeply valued and loved by God than we can possibly imagine

**Outward-Facing Community** – We seek the betterment of our city as we extend God’s grace by loving our neighbors as ourselves

**Kingdom-Minded Movement** – We seek to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by creating community and global partnerships that can reach and serve those in need

GIVING & BUDGET

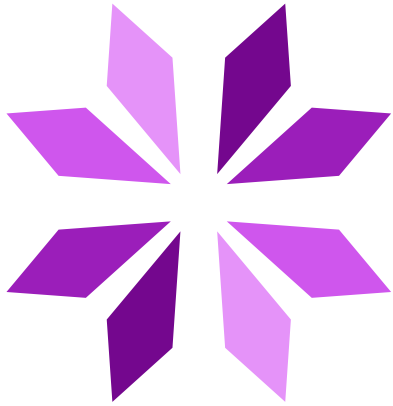
	JAN-OCT ‘23*	NOV ‘23*
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$389,220	\$30,205
BUDGETED GIVING _____	425,000	44,000
DIFFERENCE _____	-35,780	-13,795

\* as of 11/30/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



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“Discipleship, we might say, is a way to curate your heart, to be attentive to and intentional about what you love.”

JAMES K.A. SMITH | *YOU ARE WHAT YOU LOVE*

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice – it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances – but it the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat holds the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And I still believe you will come, Lord; you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that I am really speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

MARY OLIVER | *“AN ADVENT POEM”*

DECEMBER 3, 2023  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT