

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Green

**Those who are able, please stand.*

Please silence cell phones and pagers.

Gathering Prayer

All: Lord, by your mercy guide our outward actions in such ways that our inward being is informed in faith, hope, and love. May the decorations we offer engage our senses during the days of Advent and enliven our praise and worship. We offer our prayer in the name of the child of Bethlehem, our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Introit *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

*Call to Worship

One: In the days to come the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hill; all the nations shall stream to it. Many people shall come and say:

All: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD; to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God’s ways and that we may walk in God’s paths.

One: With what shall we come to God’s house? Bring branches of cedar and holly, bring evergreens and pine tree, hang wreaths and garlands.

All: Make the church fragrant with the smell of living things and our holy play.

One: In acts of hanging greens and listening to the words of prophets and seers let us make our hearts and this space a place of inward and outward preparation for the one who comes to give us second birth.

*Hymn 106 *“Prepare the Way, O Zion”*
BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

THE ADVENT WREATH Advent: A Time of Expectation

New Testament Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 17 p. 245

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of *Hope*
Bill & Sherry Weeks

Reader: Watch and wait for Christ’s coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer. We light this first candle in hope.

Hear God’s promise of hope from Isaiah 2:2-4: “In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

Let us pray:

All: Faithful God, out of war’s chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ’s advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

Congregational Response
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to Thee O Israel

Anthem *“Prepare the Way”*

PROCESSION OF POINSETTIAS
Poinsettias: Star Flowers for the Holy Night

Hymn 129 *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”* EST IS EIN’ ROS’

THE PLACING OF THE PARAMENTS
Paraments: Visual Expressions of our Faith

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:30-33 p. 53

Hymn 82 *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*
HYFRYDOL

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS Evergreens: Symbols of the Unchanging Nature of God

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 60:13 p. 60

THE PLACING OF CHRISMONS ON THE TREE

The Christmas Tree: Reflecting the Starlight of the First Christmas Eve

Here in this Place we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Here we will remember his Advent, his birth in Bethlehem, weak and helpless as an infant. And here we rekindle our prayer, “Come, Lord Jesus” as we await his coming as the bright and morning star.

We hang symbols and signs of Christ—ruler, prophet, priest. We hang stars, crosses, triangles, the *alpha* and the *omega* to remind us of his identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity.

THE PLACING OF THE NATIVITY The Nativity: God Came to Us as a Child

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:8-16 p. 54

Hymn 93 *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*
TRURO

Prayers of The People and The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory

Doxology *“Gloria in Excelsis Deo”*

Prayer of Dedication

All: O God, at the beginning of this season of giving, make us wise regarding the value of what we give to others and to you. We give our love to you, and in the name of Christ, we give you a portion of our possessions to be used as expressions of your love to other people. Amen.

Charge and Blessing

Chorus

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

11:00 a.m. Hanging of the Green Service

Tuesday, December 10

12:30 p.m. Ladies Luncheon at the home of Kristie Myers. RSVP, kristiehomans@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 24

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Joy Offering will be received

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Bob Thornton's Class: 12-week study of 1 Corinthians.

Tuesdays

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Poinsettias

Use this Christmas season to purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone special.

The poinsettias are \$7 each and will be displayed through Advent. You may take them home after the Christmas Eve Service.

If you would like to order a poinsettia, please complete the form or email gracepresbyterian2@gmail.com to place your order on or before 12/15.

Flowers and Refreshments 2025

If you would like to bring flowers and/or refreshments next year, please see the bulletin board to sign up. Thank you!

Liturgist: Joey Homans

Ushers: Jane Miller and Priscilla Taylor

Elders : Chuck Achuff, Joe Fortune, Kristie Myers, Andrew Permenter
Betty Powell, and Lynette Steritz

Clerk of Session: Susan Atkins

Deacons: Jerry Atkins, Joey Homans, Nancy McCue, Barbara Quintrell,
Christine Seese, and Dan Scott

Nominating Committee: Andy Clemons, Bonnie Fry, Kristie Myers,
Margie O'Byrne, Dan Scott, Mary Ann Sheehy, Peggy Thornton

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Office hours: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30

Welcome to Grace Presbyterian Church!
Grace is a church for the community, and all of God's people are welcome here.

In Our Prayers: John and Susan Adams (Marsha Loftin), Susan Atkins, Frank Ball, Ruth Ann Ball, the Barnes Family - Carey and his son Baron (Mary Ann Sheehy), Bill and Sandy (Dan Scott), Gretchen Blackwell, Cathy (Kristi Deutz), Tyler Chadwick, Keith Chastain, Lisa Conn, Trey Courtney, Patricia Crain (Ruth Ann Ball), Darren (Chris Yarbrough), Mary Delasota (Bob Thornton), Mike Eason (Joey), Grace (Chuck), Jim Hambright, Patrick Hawkins family (Shirley), Kevin Herrit and Family, Clara, Hogan (Shirley), Margaret Hunt (Jim Hambright), Irena (Gretchen Blackwell), Jenna (Reece Neidlinger), Doug Jones (Margie O'Byrne), Julia (Kristi Deutz), Cynthia Kodua, Shelby Lee, Linda (Jaycey), Martha's Family (Dan Scott), Penny McDaniel (Kay), Anna McQuilken (Kristi Deutz), Eric Nelson (Katie), Betty Powell, Mandy Power, Brenda Reagans (Kristie), Dan Schmelzinger, Kathy Silvio (Marsha Loftin), Nancy Smiley (Ruth Ann Ball), Susan (Ruth Ann Ball), Priscilla Taylor, Thos -Thomas (Mary Ann Sheehy), Viviana Torres, the family of John Trammel (Emma Teems), Theresa Tucker (Chris Seese), Carol Watkins, Bill and Sherry Weeks, Wilma & her husband (Sandy), Anonymous leukemia patient

Assisted Living: Sandy Grimes, Zoe Putnam

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WIFI NETWORK:

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PASSWORD:

Grace2You

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