

**PRAYER SERVICE  
DECEMBER 20, 2020  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**+ ANNOUNCEMENTS +**

God loves you all the time  
**And all the time God loves you.**

**+ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH +**

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
open our eyes to see your presence  
in the lowly ones of this earth.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may sing of your advent among us  
in the Word made flesh.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

**+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS +**

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**  
**We have not welcomed the stranger;**  
**we have not loved our neighbor;**  
**we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**

**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace

your sins are forgiven, and you are free—

free from all that holds you back

and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,

† comforted by Christ's peace,

and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**+ OPENING DIALOGUE+**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**+ PRAYER OF THE DAY +**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us  
from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming  
love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

**+ FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 +**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**+ PSALM 1:46b-55+**

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forbears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

**+ SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27 +**

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**+GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38 +**

The Holy Gospel is from the first chapter of Luke beginning at the 26th verse.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**+ THE MESSAGE +**

**+ PEACE +**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.  
And also with you.

**+ APOSTLES' CREED +**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
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**

**+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION +**

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world.  
Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths (*Nearby churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues may be named*). Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community.

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence (*especially*).

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**+ THE LORD'S PRAYER +**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**+ BLESSING +**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever. **Amen.**

+ DISMISSAL +

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

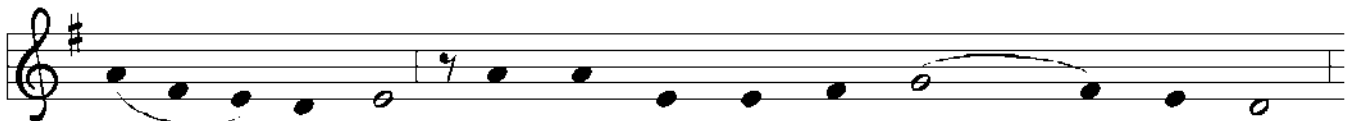
+ HYMN +

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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**Grace Lutheran Church  
Prayer Service for December 20**

**Assistant/Readers:** Josh Fickes, Ben Fickes



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Rev. David Wasgatt, Pastor Emeritus

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian

2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, DE 19707

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**LIVE NATIVITY**

This year's live Nativity will be available online on Monday, December 21.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Prayers of the Faithful for Week of December 20**

**TODAY we pray for:**

For all those suffering with Covid-19; Erica Lee Angelo, Genevieve Spence,  
For the family and friends of Joe, who died December 7.

Brian  
Pat Kizuka  
Polly Gillis  
Allen Whitley  
Kathy Long  
Louise Ench  
Christina  
Stacy Dambaugh  
Gener Ernst  
Sue, friend of JoAnne Deaton  
Roger Camp  
Krisida Alberto  
Diane Kiefer daughter of Margie Betley  
Barbara Hewlett, daughter-in-law of Kathy Long  
Russ & Joan Snyder

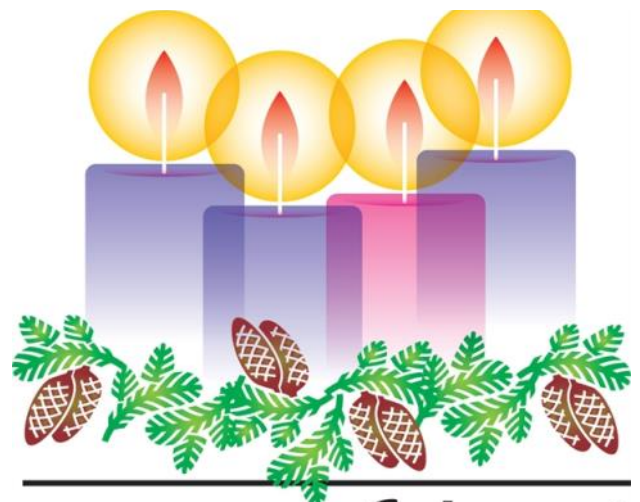
- all in our hearts and minds today.

**WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:**

Clare Schoening, Scott; Barbara Lynn Grabher; daughter in law of Erika and Ed Burke, Kyle, Bill Smith; step-father of Rebecca Koreck, Lena, Leslie, friend of Diane Teig, Jack Baskow, Claudia and Geof Bromfield, Connie and family, Scott & Lia Wycoff, The Fenner family, John Worrell—brother in law of Bill Baur, Mike Goyda, Lis Verbeck, Lois Snyder

David & Angie Wasgatt, John Deaton, Joan Sandstorm, Delores Sipe, Doug Price, Bob Waller, Kent Hardel, Gretchen Platz, Ellen Hall, Nanci Hunsinger, Betty Magoon, Claire Schoening, Tyler, Bill Howerin, Marcia Burton, Gina Clay

For our bishops; Elizabeth Eaton, Bill Gohl  
For the Dean of the Delmarva Conference; Barbara Melosh  
For our staff; Pastor Tara, Susan Allen, Jordan Irazabal, Louis Jones  
For leaders & congregations of the Delmarva Conference;  
For all pastors and church leaders  
For our country; the United States, leaders and citizens.  
For all of our global neighbors, stricken by the corvid-19 virus.



**To request a prayer, or update prayers, please call the church office (302-239-6481) or email [office@glcde.org](mailto:office@glcde.org).**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

## Every Sunday on Zoom at 10:00AM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?  
pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URINqK1pIU09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URINqK1pIU09)

Meeting ID: 843 3854 8999

Passcode: 799577



## Adult Education Opportunity

### *Anxious for Nothing – Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*

While initially produced in 2017, this Max Lucado video program is right on target for this year.

Titled “Anxious for Nothing – Finding Calm in a Chaotic World”, this is a series of five one-hour sessions. While there is some carryover from one session to another, each session is valuable on its own.

The program will follow the Sunday “Coffee and Connect” hour, using the same ZOOM link.

The remaining sessions on December 13, December 20, January 3, and January 10. Please join us as you are able.



## Christmas Eve Virtual Candlelighting

Because our Christmas Eve services will be virtual this year, we would like to include a short slideshow of all of you holding a candle at home. It can be any kind of candle you have in your house! If you have multiple people in your household, please take a separate picture for each person - we want as many pictures as we can get. Pictures should be emailed to Jordan ([jordan.irazabal@gmail.com](mailto:jordan.irazabal@gmail.com)) no later than **Monday, December 21st at noon**. We are very much looking forward to adding this into our service this year!



## CHRISTMAS EVE

**Drive thru Holy Communion** will be offered on Christmas Eve from **10am to 12 noon**.

All are welcome, Please remember to keep masks on as you drive up to receive.

Communion is offered by Pastor Tara Magoon in mask and gloves.

Communion elements are gluten free and either wine or grape juice. If you cannot receive either the bread or the wine, remember that Christ affirms his full presence in, with and under each element alone as well.

**Worship Services will be virtual on Christmas Eve.**

4:30pm Family Worship

7:00pm Candlelight Worship

There will not be a worship service at Grace on **December 27, 2020**. Bishop Gohl has given this day to clergy in the synod to be able to spend the day with family. The Bishop will conduct worship via youtube from the ELCA DE/MD synod . Please join us in this service. Following the details for Digital Worship: <https://demdsynod.org/digital-worship/> or go directly to <https://www.facebook.com/DelawareMarylandSynod>



## A BIBLE STUDY WITH HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

7PM on Wednesdays during Advent; beginning December 2 on Zoom.

Join the study as members of Grace and Hope listen to and study the scripture that is interpreted through music in Handel's Messiah. We will be looking especially at those portions that address the feeling of Advent and Christmas. The leaders for this Study are Pastor Tara Magoon and Michael Mekailek, Hope's Director of Music.

Topic: Handel's Messiah Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URINqK1pIUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 3854 8999

Passcode: 799577