



The 49th Lord's Day Sunday, December 3, 2023

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Sunday:

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday:

Youth Group 6 – 8 p.m.

Contact Info

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Find more information and listen to sermons:



Welcome to Grace Covenant Church

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

Grace Covenant Church strives to embrace, embody, and extend our triune God's truth, goodness, and beauty through worship, discipleship, and mission in Jesus Christ.

Visitors, we are so glad you are here! Please locate a 'Visitor's Card,' and fill out any info you'd like to share with us so that we may get to know you better. You can place it in the offering plates on the tables in the Narthex.

David Donovan, Pastor pastordavid@gracecovenantpca.com

Rebecca Michelson, Director of Music *music@gracecovenantpca.com*

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Karen Brown, Prayer Requests & Praises prayerandpraise@gracecovenantpca.com

Find more about us at www.gracecovenantpca.com

The Order of Public Worship



≰ CALL TO WORSHIP

(Salmo) Psalm 24

"The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!...The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

≸ Song of Adoration

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!, TH 198 (3)

★ PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CONFESSION OF SIN

Most holy and beneficent Father, you have blessed us greatly with the gifts of your Son, our sonship in him, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. But we acknowledge and confess to You our sin of taking these gifts for granted and abusing them. Because of fear and selfishness, we have used them for our own good instead of the good of others. Have mercy upon us and cleanse us from our sin through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. For the glory of your great name, increase our faith in Christ, lift from us depressions and worry, end our pride and self-righteousness, save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption, and help us to grow in understanding, wisdom, and faithfulness. And may we shine as lights bearing a true witness to Your name, that we may be used to help prepare the way of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the perfect merit and mediation of our Savior we pray, Amen.

God invites us to His heavenly throne of grace

TH= Trinity Hymnal

God cleanses us and renews us in His grace

≸ Song of Praise

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, TH 197

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed; all that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed. She hath suffered many a day now her griefs have passed away; God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.

O that warning cry obey!

Now prepare for God a way; let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain; let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

(Isaías) Isaiah 1.16-17; 57.14-21

NEW TESTAMENT READING

(Hebreos) Hebrews 10.32-39

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COLLECTION

≸ Song of Trust

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, TH 194

SERMON TEXT

(Isaías) Isaiah 7.1-9

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Isaiah's Christmas Children: Courage in Trial While Waiting on God's Promise"

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

≸ Song of Response

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, TH 196

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 ev'ry nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear; come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear! O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tiding of a birth; "Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

God consecrates us to renewed

devotion and obedience

(continued...)

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories know no end; by his life he brings us gladness, Our Redeemer, Shepherd Friend. Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall; this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King, born to reign in us for ever, 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.

God blesses us with His presence and power to be His ambassadors of grace

≸ BENEDICTION

(1 Tesalonicenses) 1 Thessalonians 5.23-24, 28

≸ Song of Blessing

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.



Nursery Schedule:

12/03: Sunday School Worship

Children's Church

Celia Reed Lois Barday & Caleb Prather Dan & Angelia Crouse

12/10: Sunday School Worship Children's Church

Jeannie Altman & Nathan Prather Christian Michelson & Daniel Stout

Please Take Note:

Mission of the Month – Please pray for Calvary Children's Home, a local orphanage in Powder Springs, GA that provides housing and Christian love and support to children, from preschool through high school and into college, who are separated from their families. Sign up in the church fover to receive the CCH newsletter.

PCA Day of Prayer – Today has been set aside as a Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving for the PCA to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the inaugural General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America. The first General Assembly was hosted at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama on December 4, 1973. Go to https://pca50.org/ dayofprayer to see the prayer guide. Even if you didn't sign up for a time, you can still pray for our denomination!

Youth Group & Christmas Party – Youth group meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM! This Wednesday, we will have our Christmas Party (more details to come)! The Sign Up Genius for youth meals is up and running, please see your email for the link. The rest of this year is covered but please consider signing up for January.

Women's Winter/Spring Bible Study – Plan to join us January through May as we study What a Royal Mess: A Study of 1st and 2nd Kings by Susan Tyner. Groups will meet on Tuesday mornings and on Wednesday evenings, so you can choose which day and time works for you. Sign up now through December 17th to receive a copy of the book. There is a \$15 suggested donation, but it is not required. Sign up in the foyer or by emailing wmc@gracecovenantpca.com.

Calvary Children's Home Christmas Outreach – Angel Tree Gift Card donations for Calvary Children's Home will be collected through the month of December (Dec. 3 - Jan. 8). Take a paper angel from the Angel Tree in the church foyer to see a list of gift cards you might purchase. Include the amount on the card and leave donations in the box by the Angel Tree.

Grace Children's Christmas Tree – Lois needs to take pictures of all the children at church to go in their ornaments. Every child under 18 who participates in a Grace activity will be represented on the children's tree this year with a crocheted ornament handmade by our Thursday night craft club. This includes AHG, TL, ESL, and our own children of Grace. The ornaments will go home with them to keep, AFTER Christmas and we take the tree down.

Love Gift Legacy for ESL Curriculum Project – Mission to North America is raising funds to develop a new ESL curriculum to better equip churches to teach English as a second language.

To give, please use the basket located on the bistro table in the narthex and make checks out to "PCA CDM" and write "Love Gift Legacy" on the memo line.



...striving to make disciples who embrace, embody, and extend God's truth, goodness, and beauty through worship, discipleship, and mission in Jesus Christ.