



The 50<sup>th</sup> Lord's Day  
Sunday, December 10, 2023

A CONGREGATION OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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**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  
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Rebecca Michelson, Director of Music  
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*Find more about us at [www.gracecovenantpca.com](http://www.gracecovenantpca.com)*

# The Order of Public Worship



## ✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

(Isaías) Isaiah 12.1-6

Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

*We will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry, your anger turned away, that you might comfort us.*

Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.*

## ✠ SONG OF ADORATION

*O Come, All Ye Faithful, TH 208*

## ✠ PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Father of lights, from whom comes every good gift and every perfect gift from above, in Christ you have done great things and our hearts should be filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we forget what you have done for us. We become intoxicated with human passions instead of your will. But we also confess the opposite error; we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your empowering grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. And help us to live watchful lives as we joyfully anticipate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fullness of glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF THE GOSPEL

Jeremiah 23.4-5; 1 Corinthians 1.28, 30

✠ =  
Congregation  
Standing

God invites us  
to His heavenly  
throne of grace

TH= Trinity  
Hymnal

God cleanses us  
and renews us  
in His grace

Jeremías 23  
1 Corintios 1

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming,  
as men of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to men a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night.*

*The shepherds heard the story,  
proclaimed by angels bright,  
how Christ, the Lord of glory,  
was born on earth this night.  
To Bethlehem they sped  
and in the manger found him,  
as angel heralds said.*

*This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God;  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev'ry load.*

*O Savior, child of Mary,  
who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory,  
who dost our weakness know,  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven  
and to the endless day.*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

(Mateo) Matthew 1.18-25

**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**

*A Celtic Silent Night*

**✠ SONG OF TRUST**

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear, TH 200*

**SERMON TEXT**

(Isaías) Isaiah 7.10-25 & 8.5-10

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON**

“Isaiah’s Christmas Children:  
God with Us, Suffering Our Distress and Destruction”

**PRAYER OF APPLICATION**

**✠ SONG OF RESPONSE**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem, TH 201*

*O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together*

Words by  
Joseph Mohr,  
music by  
Franz Gruber,  
arranged by  
Patrick  
Tierney

God  
consecrates us  
to renewed  
devotion and  
obedience

*(continued...)*

*proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.*

*How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.*

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:

12/10: Sunday School  
Worship  
Children's Church

Celia Reed  
Jeannie Altman & Nathan Prather  
Christian Michelson & Daniel Stout

12/17: Sunday School  
Worship  
Children's Church

On Break  
Laurie Chastine & Haylie Floresta  
David & Amber 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 foyer to receive the CCH newsletter.

**Youth Group & Christmas Party** – Youth group meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 PM! This Wednesday, we will have our Christmas Party! We will be meeting at the Stout's home (find their address in Breeze or speak with Daniel or Kelly). Come and enjoy the fellowship and fun!

**Sunday School on Break until January 7** – To provide our many different teachers, facilitators, and nursery volunteers, Sunday School will take a the rest of December and start back up in the new year.

**Christmas Brass Sunday December 17** – Please join us next Sunday for our annual Christmas Brass service where we will be accompanied in our singing by a brass choir! It is always a beautiful time of worship. Please invite others to join us! Special thanks to Les and Candy Still for all their hard work!

**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@gracecovenanttpca.com](mailto:wmc@gracecovenanttpca.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.

**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.



GRACE  
COVENANT  
CHURCH

PCA

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