



The 51st Lord's Day
Sunday, December 17, 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
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Rebecca Michelson, Director of Music
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JB Pritchett, Chair of the Deacons
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Laurie Chastine, Women's Ministry Committee
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Find more about us at www.gracecovenantpca.com

The Order of Public Worship



✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

(de Salmos) from Psalms 98 & 8

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the strings and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, what is man that you are mindful of him, you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

✠ SONG OF ADORATION

Angels We Have Heard on High, TH 214

✠ PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty Father, who inhabits eternity but dwells with those who are humble and needy: we confess our sins before you. We have not always honored you as the only eternal God, but have instead erected idols in our hearts. We have not always esteemed you as the incomparable God of all glory, but have often cherished earthly things as more important than you. So we thank you for the first advent of our King and the victory he has inaugurated. As we wait for his second advent and the consummation of his victory, help us to return to you,

✠ =
Congregation
Standing

God invites us
to His heavenly
throne of grace

TH= Trinity
Hymnal

God cleanses us
and renews us
in His grace

live in awe of your glory, beauty, goodness, and truth, and walk in the courage and confidence your presence provides us. And may we serve as your ambassadors of eternal glory and grace, as we wait for our King's second advent and the full consummation of his kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF THE GOSPEL

(Hebreos) Hebrews 1.1-4

✠ SONG OF PRAISE

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, TH 211

*God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray;*

*Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*From God our heav'nly Father,
a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the son of God by name. [Refrain]*

*"Fear not, then," said the angel,
"let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's pow'r and might." [Refrain]*

*The shepherds at those tidings
rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding,
in tempest, storm, and wind:
and went to Bethlehem straightway,
the Son of God to find. [Refrain]*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

(Génesis) Genesis 1.1-3, 26-28; 3.15

NEW TESTAMENT READING

(Juan) John 1.1-5, 9-18

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**

What Child Is This, TH 213

SERMON TEXT

(Isaías) Isaiah 8

God
consecrates us
to renewed
devotion and
obedience

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

“Isaiah’s Christmas Children:
Swift Is the Plunder, Speedy Is the Prey”

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

✠ **SONG OF RESPONSE**

As with Gladness Men of Old, TH 226

*As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we
evermore be led to thee.*

*As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly cradle bed,
there to bend the knee before
him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.*

(continued...)

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

*As they offered gifts most rare
at that cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.*

*Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.*

*In the heav'nly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
alleluias to our King.*

✠ **BENEDICTION**

(1 Tesalonicens) 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:

12/17: Sunday School
Worship
Children's Church

On Break
Laurie Chastine & Haylie Floresta
David & Amber Stout

12/24: Sunday School
Worship
Children's Church

On Break
Betty Stacy & Katie Rolston
On Break

Please Take Note:

Christmas Brass Today! – It is a privilege and joy to welcome all those participating in our brass choir today! Thank you so much for sharing your talents and hard work with us to bless us with a special form of accompaniment. Thank you so much to Les and Candy Still for all their hard work in organizing and leading this for us!

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.

Regular Weekly Ministries on Break – All of our regularly scheduled weekly ministries (TL, AHG, ESL, Women's and Men's Bible Studies, Youth Group) are on break until the new year.

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.

Youth Group Meals – Thank you so much to all who have been feeding our youth on Wednesday nights! It is a tremendous blessing! Please consider providing meals in the new year, beginning January 10. The Sign Up Genius for youth meals is up and running, please see your email for the link. Please contact Lois (office@gracecovenantpca.com) if you need assistance.

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.

Flowers Today – Our flowers today have a dual purpose; they are given in loving memory of Michelle Pritchett's father, Jesse Winfrey, Sr. and in celebration of the 59th wedding anniversary of Steve and Janice Furlong!

Brass Choir Participants

Conductor - *Candy Still*

Trumpets: *Michael Oubre*
Wesley Kline
Jake Gearin
Jonathan Turner
Noah Hartdegen
Joe Turner
Brianna Curtis

Trombones: *Ben Ferguson*
Luis Gonzalez
Landen Whited
Stephen Altman
Max Davis
Carter Stacy
Les Still

F Horns: *Clay Ramsey*
Debbie Davies
Sarah Altman
Leslie Oubre

Tubas: *Michael Baker*
Jerry Rios
T.J. Emareyo

Bass: *Marilyn Ramsey*

Piano: *Rebecca Michelson*

Keyboard: *Jeff Chastine*



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.*