



Grace Episcopal Church Galena, Illinois

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2020

Welcome to Grace Church!

It is, as always, a pleasure and privilege to worship together today. Please know that your presence is valued whether this is your first time at Grace or whether you are a regular, whether we are together in person or online on Zoom.

*As we prepare ourselves for worship,
please sit or kneel in quietness
while the prelude is offered.*

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

* Members and Guests, *Celebrants*
* Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell, *Presider*
* Rev. Diane Luther, *Deacon*
* Greg Serwich, *Lector*
* Richard Luther, *Intercessor*

* Robin French, *Music Director*
* Nancy Cook, *Erben Organ*
* Nancy Cook, *Vestry Coordinator*
* Charlotte Stryker, *Altar Guild*,
* Amy Harwicke, *Greeter*

We gather to worship

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel/Sanborn

Please stand as able as the church bells ring.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

Presider: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presider and

**People: Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Deacon: O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent.
(With the first three candles burning, the acolyte lights the fourth candle.)

We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary.
Fill us with your grace and light.

Priest: Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God's voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God's beckoning to us as well.

People: Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of the world. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

THE LESSON

Lector: **A reading from 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 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." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 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. 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?" 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; 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. 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, 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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

CANTICLE 15 *(alternately by verse as directed by the lector)*

The Song of Mary Magnificat *Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.***

THE EPISTLE

Lector: A Reading from **Romans**

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 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-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! ***Amen.***

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to Go

THE SEQUENCE HYMN *(recorded)* *Behold Your God*

THE GOSPEL

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to **Luke.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

We affirm our faith

THE CREED

(Please stand as able.)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

We offer prayers

Deacon: Extend your greeting to your favored ones, O God, and let your Holy Spirit overshadow us, that we may proclaim your love to our generation, as we await the coming of Christ, saying: Let your faithfulness and love be with us; for your love is established forever.

Intercessor: Gracious and Loving God, build your Church into a house that shall be made sure forever before you, that we, like Mary, may respond in faithfulness and be bearers of the Christ Child unto all the world. Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

People: for your love is established for ever.

Lector: Eternal and Infinite One, raise up just leaders, and guide the nations of the world, that all people may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and that evildoers shall afflict them no more. Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

People: for your love is established for ever.

Intercessor: Compassionate One, let the prophetic writings be made known to all the nations to bring release and comfort to all who are oppressed, to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

People: for your love is established forever.

Lector: Loving God, empower your Holy Spirit to come upon this community that we may be the servants of the Lord and live graciously according to your word.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

People: for your love is established for ever.

Intercessor: Gracious One, visit all for whom we pray with your mysterious love, and honor the intercessions of your people as we pray for all those on our Prayer List. Others? ____.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

People: for your love is established for ever.

Lector: Hear our glad tidings as we offer you our praise and thanksgiving, especially for those with whom we rejoice this week, especially for Matthew (Morel) and Max (Vollkommer) serving in the military; the birthday of Carl (Davis) and the 10th anniversary of our Rector's ordination to the priesthood; our Outreach partners Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico; the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission; all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors. Others? ____.

Raise up into your glorious eternal presence those who have died, especially Theodore (Menegas), Florence (Stellenberg), Elizabeth (Marten) and Abby (Martin). Others? ____.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

People: for your love is established forever.

Deacon: Holy One, let your Word of perfect love cast out all fear. for the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages is now disclosed; guide us that we may joyfully bring about the obedience of faith to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

(Stand or kneel as able)

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: *Amen.*

(Stand as able.)

We share the Peace of Christ

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

We share the ministries of the Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

ANNIVERSARY/BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase;
bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand;
comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful;
raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding
abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

For those who have received the consecrated wafers and communion items, you may prepare your worship area as the priest prepares the table.

PRESENTATION HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Baring-Gould/Pettman

As the hymn is played, and the altar is prepared for Communion, you may reflect on these words:

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

“For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say— “Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

*The Reverend **Sabine Baring-Gould** was an Anglican priest, hagiographer, antiquarian, novelist, folk song collector and eclectic scholar. His bibliography consists of more than 1,240 publications. He is remembered particularly as a writer of hymns, the best-known being "Onward, Christian Soldiers"¹ and "Now the Day Is Over". He regarded his principal achievement to be the collection of folk songs that he made with the help of the ordinary people of Devon and Cornwall.*

The hymn played today is Baring-Gould's paraphrase of a Basque carol. The words of stanzas 1-3 describe the Annunciation scene, Gabriel's message to Mary and Mary's reply. The fourth stanza is a Christmas message: "Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem!"

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP Eucharistic Prayer D

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

(Stand or kneel as able.)

Presider and **People:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

Presider: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.
Amen.

Presider and People: We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you,
Lord our God.

Presider: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and forever. **Amen**

Presider: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider: The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

People: Lord, unite us in this sign.

FRACTION

Presider: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION MUSIC

For those who do not have the consecrated wafers, you may say this prayer as others receive.

PRAYER FOR WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO SHARE COMMUNION

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

-- The Prayer Book for the Armed Services

Presider: Let us pray:

Celebrant and

People: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
You have graciously accepted us as living members
Of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
And you have fed us with spiritual food
In the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
And grant us strength and courage
To love and serve you
With gladness and singleness of heart;
Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

Canticle of the Turning

R. Cooney/Star of the County Down

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn.*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone
Let the king beware for your
Justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never eat
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!*

THE BLESSING

Presider: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your Path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among You, and remain with you always.

People: *Amen.*

Deacon: Go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol/Hayes

The flowers today are given by the Altar Guild.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers are Requested: *Please include the following concerns during worship today and throughout the week:*

Cycle of Prayer:

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and for our companion Parishes: Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeffrey, our Bishop and all members of Grace Church.

We pray for those who are sick or in need:

*Ruth (Beegle), *Bob (Burton), Buttell Family, *Bill (Calvert), *Nancy (Cook), *Kathy (Doig), Matthew (Dowe), *Renee (Dowe), *Al (Elsbree), Keith (Ferguson), *Jennie (Fjelde), Susan (Haerle), *Barb (Hooper), Howell Family, Ginger (Komiskey), Alden (Kuntz), Verity (Liljedahl), *Alice Maffit, *Diann & *Robert (Marsh), *Mary (Nelson), Sarah (Newton), *Bill (Norton), Lisa (Prindle), David (Schaller), Jason (Schaller), Gabriel (Serrano), Melody (Serwich), *Pat (Terry), *Tom (V.), Joe (Watts), Mina, Heather (H.), David (J.), Kathie (O.) and Bruce (W.)

We give thanks for the many blessings we have received:

Max (Vollkommer) and Matthew (Morel) serving in the military; the birthday of: *Carl (Davis); our Outreach partners: the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission and all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors.

We pray for those who have died, including and the anniversary of the deaths of:

Theodore (Menegas), Florence (Stellenberg), Elizabeth (Marten) and Abby (Martin).

ANNOUNCEMENTS for the week of December 20, 2020

Zoom Poetry Meeting

A Zoom Poetry group is meeting at Grace Church on Mondays at 2:00pm. If you are interested, write Carol Poston at poston@sxu.edu or call her at 815-777-0220 to receive the link to the meeting.

Mid-Week Eucharist is this Wednesday, December 23rd, at 7:30am in the church and online.

Wednesday Morning Study Group is Wednesday, December 23rd, at 10:30am online.

Meditative Prayer meets Friday, December 25th, at 9:00am online. You are welcome to join, and gentle guidance will be provided for those unfamiliar with this practice.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
for Sunday, December 27th, 2020
First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 John 1:1-18
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020 CALENDAR

December 20th Advent Eucharist 10:30am
December 20 Longest Night Service 7:00pm
December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Christ Mass 5:00pm

Music Copyright Information

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grace episcopal church
galena, illinois

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, Bishop of Chicago
The Very Rev. Gloria G. Hopewell, D. Min., Rector
The Rev. Linda Packard, Priest Associate
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Nancy Kenney, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Greg Serwich	Sr. Warden	Lynn Giles	Jr. Warden
Richard Luther	Treasurer	Diann Marsh	Clerk
Anita Sands (2018-21)	Tony Packard (2018-21)	Charlotte Stryker (2019-22)	
Elizabeth Ludescher (2019-22)	Nancy Cook (2020-23)	Eric Kallback (2020-23)	

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