



Grace Episcopal Church Galena, Illinois

Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 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, <i>Celebrants</i>	* Robin French, <i>Music Director</i>
* Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell, <i>Presider</i>	* Nancy Cook, <i>Erben Organ</i>
* Rev. Diane Luther, <i>Deacon</i>	* Lynn Giles, <i>Vestry Coordinator</i>
* Steve Coates, <i>Lector</i>	* Charlotte Stryker, <i>Altar Guild, Greeter</i>
* Debbie Kallback, <i>Intercisor</i>	

We gather to worship

PRELUDE

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Dengler

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 third candle of Advent.
(*With the first two candles burning, the acolyte lights the third candle.*)

We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light.
The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

Priest: God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

People: **Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.
Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

THE LESSON

Lector: A reading from **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

PSALM 126 *(alternately by verse as directed by the lector)*

In convertendo

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,*
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,*
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,*
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves

THE EPISTLE

Lector: A Reading from **Thessalonians**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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

THE GOSPEL

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell

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: In the hushed anticipation of your coming, send us out as witnesses to your light, so all might believe through your son; that we may be ready for your coming, and eager to pray, saying: Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Intercessor: O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church and its leaders, especially today our newly elected bishop and our retiring bishop, Jeff Lee, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths. Come Lord Jesus,
and hear our prayer.

People: **and hear our prayer.**

Lector: Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall heal the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that righteousness and praise may spring up before all.
Come Lord Jesus,
and hear our prayer.

Intercessor: In your Kingdom, O Lord, those who have sowed with tears reap with songs of joy. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially, Nancy, and all who are on our prayer list; that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.
Come Lord Jesus,
and hear our prayer.

People: **and hear our prayer.**

Lector: In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those with whom we rejoice this week, especially for Matthew (Morel) and Max (Vollkommer) serving in the military; the birthdays of Jim (Berry) and Melody (Hendricks); 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? _____. Come Lord Jesus,
and hear our prayer.

Intercessor: In the fulness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer, especially those whose anniversaries of their deaths are remembered today and provide the oil of gladness to all who mourn. Come Lord Jesus,
and hear our prayer.

People: **and hear our prayer.**

Deacon: O Christ, come upon us and anoint us, that the brokenhearted would be healed, the captives would find liberty, your favor would be upon us all, and that you would hear our prayers; Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

CONFESSON 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 *Redeemer of the Nations Come* *Ambrose of Milan, trans. C. Price/Einsiedeln*

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

Redeemer of the nations, come; reveal yourself in virgin birth,
The birth which ages all adore, a wondrous birth, befitting God.

From human will you do not spring, but from the Spirit of our God;
O Word of God, come; take our flesh and grow as child in Mary's womb.

You came forth from the eternal God, and you returned to that same source.
You suffered death and harrowed hell, and reigned once more from God's high throne.

With God the Father you are one, and one with us in human flesh.
Oh, fill our weak and dying frame with godly strength which never fails.

Your cradle shines with glory's light; its splendor pierces all our gloom.
Our faith reflects those radiant beams; no night shall overcome it now.

All praise, O unbegotten God, all praise to you, eternal Word,
All praise, life-giving Spirit, praise, all glory to our God Triune.

This hymn is attributed to Ambrose of Milan (b. Treves, Germany, 340; d. Milan, Italy, 397), one of the great Latin church fathers. He is remembered best for his preaching, his struggle against the Arian heresy, and his introduction of metrical and antiphonal singing into the Western church. Ambrose was trained in legal studies and distinguished himself in a civic career, becoming a consul in Northern Italy. When the bishop of Milan, an Arian, died in 374, the people demanded that Ambrose, who was not ordained or even baptized, become the bishop. He was promptly baptized and ordained, and he remained bishop of Milan until his death. Ambrose successfully resisted the Arian heresy and the attempts of the Roman emperors to dominate the church. His most famous convert and disciple was Augustine. Charles Price, Episcopal priest, seminary professor, and member of the 1982 Hymnal committee, was the translator.

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.***

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

Gigue

J.B. Loeillet

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:

Havyk (Beauchamp), *Ruth (Beegle), Barb (Bolsen), *Bob (Burton), Buttell Family, *Bill (Calvert), *Nancy (Cook), *Kathy (Doig), Matthew (Dowe), *Renee (Dowe), *Al (Elsbree), Mary (English), Keith (Ferguson), Daney (Fitzpatrick), *Jennie (Fjelde), Martha (Furst), Bev (Getz), Susan (Haerle), *Barb (Hooper), Howell Family, Ginger (Komiskey), Alden (Kuntz), Verity (Liljedahl), *Alice Maffit, *Diann & *Robert (Marsh), *Mary (Nelson), Sarah (Newton), *Bill (Norton), Maureen (O'Dea), Lisa (Prindle), Steve (Raiman), David (Schaller), Jason (Schaller), Gabriel (Serrano), Melody (Serwich), Stacia (Stroud), *Pat (Terry), *Tom (V.), Joe (Watts), Mina, Stanley, 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 birthdays of: *Jim (Berry) and *Melody (Hendricks); 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:

Amelia (Bryan), Leo (LeBron), Harold (Haman), Sadie (Barthell), George (Ryan) and Robert (Jessee).

ANNOUNCEMENTS for the week of December 13, 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 16th, at 7:30am in the church and online.

Wednesday Morning Study Group is Wednesday, December 16th, at 10:30am online.

Meditative Prayer meets Friday, December 18th, 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 20th, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:26-38
Romans 16:25-27 Canticle 3 or Canticle 15
 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020 CALENDAR

December 6th, 13th & 20th	Advent Eucharist 10:30am
December 20	Longest Night Service 7:00pm
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Christ Mass 5:30pm

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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
Richard Luther Treasurer

Anita Sands (2018-21) Tony Packard (2018-21) Charlotte Stryker (2019-22)
Elizabeth Ludescher (2019-22) Nancy Cook (2020-23) Eric Kallback (2020-23)

Lynn Giles Jr. Warden
Diann Marsh Clerk

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