Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Patricia C. Gwinn | Music Director: Emery Schramm | Handbell Director: Bev Stabler
AV: Jenna Banks | Ushers: Gordon Gilles, Grant Banks, Lee McLaughlin, Billy Forrester

A special thank you to the Grace Covenant Handbell Choir for
the sharing of your musical gifts and offerings this morning!

Upcoming Events

November 29th at 11:30 AM - Children's Sunday School
December 1st at 9:30 AM - Prayer Ministry
December 2nd at 5:30 PM - Handbell Choir Rehearsal
December 2nd at 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal
December 3rd at 8:00 AM - Men's Bible Study
December 6th at 9:15 AM - Adult Sunday School
December 6th at 10:30 AM - Holy Communion Worship Service
December 6th at 11:30 AM - Children's Choir Rehearsal
December 6th at 11:30 AM - Children's Sunday School
December 6th at 11:30 AM - Youth Group

The Session

Janice Tucker - *Administration*
Stephanie Norton - *Christian Education*
Carolyn Tucker - *Congregational Care*
Melinda Dumpert - *Fellowship*
Gordon Gilles - *Finance*
Steven Huskey - *Missions/Outreach*
Barry Graden - *Property*
Sarah Lasitter - *Worship*
Lisa Johnson - *Clerk of Session*

Save the Date!

December 20th at 10:30 AM- *Unfolding Mystery:* A Christmas Cantata by Emery Schramm
Join us during worship to hear the Nativity told through song by our wonderful chancel choir, special guest singers, a guest pianist, and a string quartet.

December 24th at 5:00 PM- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
All are invited to join us on Thursday, December 24th at 5:00 PM in the Sanctuary to celebrate the birth of Christ through song, scripture, and prayer, concluding in a candlelight singing of "Silent Night."

739 N. Main Street, Mauldin, SC 29662 Phone: (864) 288-3951 gracecovenantmauldin.com

Grace Covenant
Presbyterian Church
First Sunday of Advent



Welcome to Grace Covenant

Grace Covenant is a neighborhood church living to be God's voice of hope in the world. We seek to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, to live with humility and gentleness, and with patience and love for one another. Our greatest aspiration is to make Christ's example of love real for all our neighbors.

Order of Service for the Worship of God

November 29, 2026

Prelude *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* Arr. Lamb
The Grace Covenant Handbell Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission *Thornwell Offering* Steven Huskey

Introit *"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us* WACHET AUF

Lighting of the Advent Candle *The Candle of Hope* Sedryn Aldrich and Noah Pinkerman

The world has known its share of long nights—nights when the road ahead is hidden in darkness, when hope seems distant, and the only prayer we can manage is, "Lord, let morning come."

And yet, Scripture assures us that God meets us even there—in the shadows of our uncertainty, in the depths of our longing—promising that darkness will not have the final word. The dawn is coming.

Today, we light the Candle of Hope—a small but steadfast flame, reminding us that even the deepest darkness cannot overcome the light of God.

We light this candle as a prayer for all who struggle to hope, for all who wait in darkness, and for a world longing for peace. May the light of God's hope find them, and find us, even now.

Come, Lord Jesus. Kindle hope within us. Open our eyes to your coming light and make us bearers of your light in the world. Amen.

✞Hymn No. 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

Corporate Prayer of Confession

We confess, Surprising God, that our sense of anticipation has been dulled. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, and seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Forgive us. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come… (silent prayers of confession)

Word of Grace

Hear the good news! The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end, so that we may be made blameless when Christ comes again.

Our future awaits in hope. We will walk in the light of God's grace. Alleluia and Amen.

✞Choral Response *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

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.

Time for Children

Children preschool age through 5th grade are invited to the chancel area at this time. Children four and younger may then go to the nursery; children five and older are to return to their seats and are encouraged to remain with us for worship.

Anthem *Awaken and Prepare Us* Mark Hayes

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24–37

Sermon *Holy Darkness, Holy Light*

✞Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Arr. Austin
The Grace Covenant Handbell Choir

✞Choral Response *Advent Doxology* IRBY

Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon born Son.
Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the God-head. Three in One.
Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!

✞Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

✞Hymn No. 350 *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* KEEP YOUR LAMPS

✞Charge and Benediction

Postlude

✞*Please rise in body or in spirit*