



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship November 30, 2025 9:30am
First Sunday of Advent

Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

SONG TO GATHER

“Make Room”

Casting Crowns

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY

**"While we are waiting, come.
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come."**

(repeat 3 times)

(After the candle is lit.)

All: Come, Lord Jesus. Teach us to walk in your light and live as people of hope.

*SONG OF PRAISE

“O Come, Emmanuel”

Paul Baloché

CALL TO CONFESSION

In days to come, Isaiah tells us, nations will stream to the mountain of the Lord, learning God's ways and walking in God's paths. But Jesus also tells us that no one knows the day or the hour when God's kingdom will break in among us.

So we wait — sometimes well, sometimes not. We wait with longing, with questions, and with the truth that our hearts are not always prepared. Trusting in the God who comes to meet us with mercy, let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our past, our present, and our promised future, we confess that we do not know how to wait well. We hurry through our days, distracted by worry and consumed by what cannot save us. We grow weary of seeking peace, and instead we sharpen our words like swords and let fear guide our steps.

You call us to walk in your light — to stay awake, to be ready — but we drift toward complacency and despair. Forgive us. Turn our hearts toward your mountain of peace, that we may learn your ways again. In your mercy, teach us to wait with hope, to watch with courage, and to walk in your paths of justice and joy. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news: The One who comes is faithful. The One we wait for is already at work among us. In Christ, light breaks into our darkness and peace meets us on the road. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven — set free to wait well, to watch for God's coming, and to walk in the light of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE 110

"Love Has Come"
(verse 3)

**Love has come and never will leave us.
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you God on high!**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: **And also with you and all others!**

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 2:2–5

Nathan Littlejohn

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

SONG TO REFLECT

"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"

Matt Papa

*Come behold the wondrous myst'ry in the dawning of the king.
He the theme of heaven's praises robed in frail humanity.
In our longing in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.*

*Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, he the perfect son of man.
In his living, in his suff'ring, never trace, nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law in him we stand.*

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, Christ the Lord upon the tree.

*In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory; grace unmeasured, love untold.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 24:36–44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Quick! Look Busy!”

Rev. Karen Wright

SONG OF PEACE

“Gabriel's Message”

as recorded by Matt Maher

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God; preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Advent Song”

by the Porters Gate

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG TO SEND

“Emmanuel”

John Mason Neale
and Steve Angrisano

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org

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