

**PRAYER SERVICE
DECEMBER 6, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



+ ANNOUNCEMENTS +

God loves you all the time
And all the time God loves you.

+ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH +

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

+ HYMN +

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

- 2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS +

Blessed be God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
✙ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

+ OPENING DIALOGUE+

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming
strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

+ FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11 +

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+ PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 +

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

+ SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a +

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+ GOSPEL: Mark 1: 1-8 +

The holy gospel of Mark beginning at the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’ ”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

+ THE MESSAGE +

+ PEACE +

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

+ APOSTLES' CREED +

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION +

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. We pray especially for . . . (*current local, national, or international issues of peace or justice may be named*). Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work (*especially Nicholas of Myra*). Make their generous lives an example for all.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER +

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

+ BLESSING +

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✝ now and forever. **Amen.**

+ DISMISSAL +

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra_al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y_el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Prayers of the Faithful for Week of December 6

TODAY we pray for:

Clare Schoening
Brian
For the family and friends of Mary Warren as they mourn her death
Pat Kizuka
Polly Gillis
Allen Whitley
Kathy Long
Louise Ench
Christina
Stacy Dambaugh, Tim Dambaugh & family
Gener Ernst
Sue, friend of JoAnne Deaton
Roger Camp
Krisida Alberto
Diane Kiefer daughter of Margie Betley
Barbara Hewlett, daughter-in-law of Kathy Long
Russ & Joan Snyder
- all in our hearts and minds today.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Scott, Chris, Denise, Clare Benz and Lynda Martinez, Barbara Lynn Grabher; daughter in law of Erika and Ed Burke, Kyle, Bill Smith; step-father of Rebecca Koreck, Lena, Leslie, friend of Diane Teig, Jack Baskow, Claudia and Geof Bromfield, Connie and family, Scott & Lia Wycoff, The Fenner family, John Worrell—brother in law of Bill Baur, Mike Goyda, Lis Verbeck, Lois Snyder

David & Angie Wasgatt, John Deaton, Joan Sandstorm, Delores Sipe, Doug Price, John Maurer, Bob Waller, Kent Hardel, Gretchen Platz, Ellen Hall, Nanci Hunsinger, Betty Magoon, Claire Schoening, Tyler, Bill Howerin, Marcia Burton, Gina Clay

For our bishops; Elizabeth Eaton, Bill Gohl
For the Dean of the Delmarva Conference; Barbara Melosh
For our staff; Pastor Tara, Susan Allen, Jordan Irazabal, Louis Jones
For leaders & congregations of the Delmarva Conference;
For all pastors and church leaders
For our country; the United States, leaders and citizens.
For all of our global neighbors, stricken by the corvid-19 virus.

**To request a prayer, or update prayers, please call the church office
(302-239-6481)
or email office@glcde.org.**



FAMILY PROMISE— Thank You

Grace's week supporting Family Promise ended on Saturday night, November 28.

Thank you to each of the members of Grace who prepared a dinner, baked cookies or made a financial donation to the program.

Once again our quilters made a quilt for each family member. Thank you, they were really pleased.

Because one of our families left the program midweek, we had a pre-ordered Thanksgiving dinner that was extra so we donated that dinner to Emanuel Dining Room.

Mary Howle

A Thank You from Education Ministry and Hilltop

We packed the food for the Hilltop Thanksgiving Food collection on Sunday the 22nd. Our family and the Taylor family (Kim, Adam, Sam, Ella) were able to sort the food and pack up baskets with complete Thanksgiving dinners. Some turkeys were donated and additional turkeys were purchased with donations. The Cub Scout Pack families also donated food.

In total we had 22 complete Thanksgiving meals and a couple of boxes of extras that went to LCS food pantry.

Thanks,
Amy Zunino

Every Sunday on Zoom at 10:00AM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?
pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URINgK1pIUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URINgK1pIUT09)

Meeting ID: 843 3854 8999

Passcode: 799577



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Rev. David Wasgatt, Pastor Emeritus

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian

2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, DE 19707 Office: 302-239-6481 Email: Office@gmail.com Website: glcde.org

Christmas Eve Virtual Candlelighting

Because our Christmas Eve services will be virtual this year, we would like to include a short slideshow of all of you holding a candle at home. It can be any kind of candle you have in your house! If you have multiple people in your household, please take a separate picture for each person - we want as many pictures as we can get. Pictures should be emailed to Jordan (jordan.irazabal@gmail.com) no later than December 19th at noon. We are very much looking forward to adding this into our service this year!



Opportunities to give back this season

There are so many opportunities to share of ourselves and our resources and information on these opportunities are in this newsletter but we wanted to share it in a condensed format so that you can look for where your interests and passions lie:

- **Hilltop Christmas gifts**—tradition at Grace for many years—shopping for children of Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood ministry
- **Mosaic** is the ministry partner for Rejoicing Spirits. This year, the annual drive for gifts and toiletries for Mosaic home residents in a sponsorship of gifts organized by Mosaic.
- **Alternative Gift Market** reach out to any of the sponsored ministries—internationally and locally—through AGM
- **Drive Thru Live Nativity**—we are working on a tentative plan for a socially distanced live nativity. If you would like to be a part of this ministry opportunity, please contact Pastor Tara.

Greeting Mosaic Friends!

Due to the global pandemic, we will be changing up our Holiday Angels and Toiletry Drive program in order to keep everyone safe including donors, volunteers, staff and the people we support. With this in mind, instead of adopting individuals for Christmas this year and getting items from a wish list, Mosaic will be ordering the gifts for each of the people we love and support. The gifts will be delivered safely by “Santa” to each of the homes.

Each person we support will be getting a Mosaic Tote Bag filled with wonderful goodies that are sure to keep them warm and toasty through the holiday and winter months. Each bag will cost \$25.

We have several ways for you to stay involved this year as a **Holiday Angel**:

1. **Sponsor** one or more people, by making your online donation of \$25 or more by using a credit card online at this link (<https://www.mosaicinfo.org/donate/>). Be sure to type DELAWARE CHRISTMAS in the comment box and select Delaware as the agency of choice OR if you would like to write a check please make the check payable to “Mosaic” and write “Christmas” in the memo line. The check can be mailed to Mosaic. Attn/ Angi McCloskey, 261 Chapman Road/ Stockton Suite 201, Newark DE 19702.
2. **Donate a gift card** in the amount of \$10 to one of the following restaurants; WaWa, Chick-Fil-A, Royal Farms, Friendly’s, Red Robin, Boston Market, 7-Eleven, McDonalds, Seasons Pizza or Pat’s. Gift cards can be mailed to Angi McClosky at address above.

Deadline for donations is next Saturday, December 12. Any Questions, please contact Angi at 302-379-5913 (cell) or angela.mccloskey@mosaicinfo.org.

A BIBLE STUDY WITH HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

7PM on Wednesdays during Advent; beginning December 2 on Zoom.

Join the study as members of Grace and Hope listen to and study the scripture that is interpreted through music in Handel's Messiah. We will be looking especially at those portions that address the feeling of Advent and Christmas. The leaders for this Study are Pastor Tara Magoon and Michael Mekailek, Hope's Director of Music.

Tara Magoon is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Handel's Messiah Bible Study

Time: Dec 2, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URINqK1pUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 3854 8999

Passcode: 799577



What is an Alternative Gift?

It's a more meaningful way to celebrate an occasion. So, this Christmas, instead of giving Uncle Harry a gadget, plant a tree or provide a book or a meal to honor his and Christ's birthday!

GRACE HAS A MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO GIVE ONE

Shop using our local market shopping list or our list from Alternative Gifts International. When we receive your order, we will give you cards for your gifts and inserts describing the program you are giving.

(Additional information about the Alternative Gifts International programs can be found by going to the website alternativegifts.org. Click on or touch GIFTING. There you can read about their causes.)

Fill it out the form (s) with the gifts you want to give. Write the number of cards and inserts you would like to receive. If you don't have a form, contact Nancy Goyda (number below).

Make a check out to Grace Lutheran Church with AGM in the memo line for the amount of the gifts. If you are using both lists, one check for the total amount will be fine.

Mail the list(s) and check to Grace Lutheran Church, 2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, DE 19707
Attention: Nancy Goyda

Once your order is received, you will be contacted about delivery options. Please include your email address, if you have one, to make contact easier.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Next Sunday, DECEMBER 13

Questions: Contact Nancy Goyda Phone: 302-235-7112
Email: ngoyda@comcast.net

The Need is Great

“Christmas won’t quite be the same this year.” There’s the understatement of the year! With COVID cases still on the rise, causing limits on family gatherings, and unemployment at levels not seen in over a decade, Christmas will be tough for many families this year. The hardship is especially troublesome in the Hilltop area of Wilmington where the economy is always tough. However, there is hope. The Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center is once again collecting Christmas gifts for some of the needy children who attend the Center. What’s unusual is the number of requested gifts is a bit higher than normal. So we who have been blessed with so much are being asked to dig a little deeper this year and see if we can’t help where help is needed so much.

Of the 135 children for whom Hilltop is providing gifts, Grace has volunteered to supply gifts for 20 children. That translates to 40 gifts – clothing items and a play item for each child.

Instead of a chart in the Narthex, as in previous years, with the names of children and the gifts they request, we will be using an electronic method. Please review the list and sign up to purchase new items, wrap them, place the name of the child on the gift, and bring it to church on or before **Sunday, December 20.** There will be a bin marked for Hilltop Christmas gift donations in the library across from the Church Office.

Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

Questions: Jane Foskett, jandjfoskett@aol.com, 302-239-4311

Access to the Sign up genius sight & 2020 Hilltop Gift list:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054badab29a2fc1-2020>

