

**PRAYER SERVICE  
DECEMBER 13, 2020  
THIRD 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 victory wreath  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
strengthen our hearts  
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may serve our neighbors in need.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

**+ 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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of  
your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 61:1-4, 8-11 +**

<sup>1</sup>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;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**+ PSALM 126 +**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**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."**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**+ SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 +**

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**+ GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28 +**

The holy gospel of John beginning at the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world.

Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship (*the congregation's worship leaders may be named*). Embed your word in their hearts.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm (*survivors of recent natural disasters may be named*). Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love (*especially Lucy, martyr of the church*). Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness.

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.**

+ HYMN +

*Messiah*

Verse 1

Someone's shouting from the desert  
Someone's shouting from the sea  
Someone's shouting from the mountain  
Someone's shouting from the valley

Chorus

Messiah  
Come and be our King  
Messiah  
Come and be our King

Verse 2

Someone's shouting from the city  
I am young I am cold  
Someone's shouting from the country  
I am lonely I am old

Verse 3

Someone's shouting I am broken  
Someone's shouting make me whole  
Someone's shouting come and change me  
Someone's shouting save my soul

Voices on this Hymn include: Kyle Fenner, Debbie Fuller, Victoria Fuller, Lynne Luetgen, Kathy Lumley, Pastor Tara Magoon, Lynda Martinez, Rachel Stewart

**Grace Lutheran Church  
Prayer Service for December 13**

**Assistant/Readers:** Dan Luetgen, Michael Zunino

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**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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Prayers of the Faithful for Week of December 13**

**TODAY we pray for:**

For all those suffering with Covid-19; Erica Lee Angelo, Genevieve Spence  
For the family and friends of Joe, who died December 7.  
Brian  
Pat Kizuka  
Polly Gillis  
Allen Whitley  
Kathy Long  
Louise Ench  
Christina  
Stacy Dambaugh and 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.

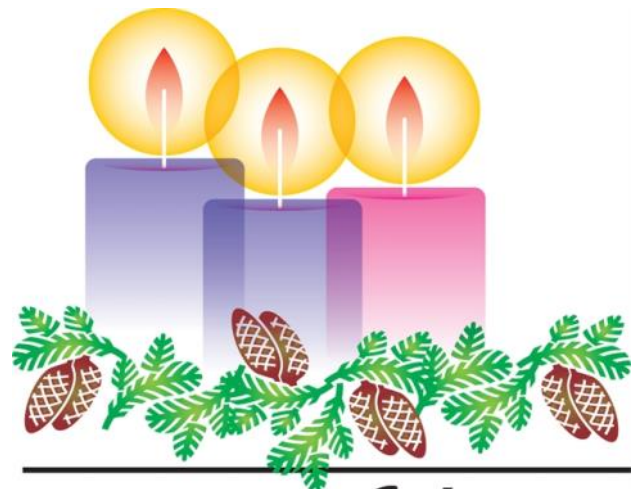
**WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:**

Clare Schoening, 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, 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 covid-19 virus.

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

## Every Sunday on Zoom at 10:00AM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?  
pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URINqK1pIUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URINqK1pIUT09)

Meeting ID: 843 3854 8999

Passcode: 799577



## Adult Education Opportunity

### *Anxious for Nothing – Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*

While initially produced in 2017, this Max Lucado video program is right on target for this year.

Titled “Anxious for Nothing – Finding Calm in a Chaotic World”, this is a series of five one-hour sessions. While there is some carryover from one session to another, each session is valuable on its own.

The program will follow the Sunday “Coffee and Connect” hour, using the same ZOOM link.

The first session was last Sunday, with the remaining sessions on December 13, December 20, January 3, and January 10. Please join us as you are able.



## 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](mailto: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!



### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Drive thru Holy Communion will be offered on Christmas Eve from 10am to 12 noon.

All are welcome,

Please remember to keep masks on as you drive up to receive.

Communion is offered by Pastor Tara Magoon in mask and gloves.

Communion elements are gluten free and either wine or grape juice. If you cannot receive either the bread or the wine, remember that Christ affirms his full presence in, with and under each element alone as well.

## 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
- **Alternative Gift Market** reach out to any of the sponsored ministries—internationally and locally—through AGM

### HILLTOP CHRISTMAS GIFTS

**Many, many thanks to you who have signed up for gifts for Hilltop children - all slots have been filled! Your generosity and quick response is greatly appreciated. Next step:** place the name of the child on the gift, and bring it to church on or before next **Sunday, December 20.**

There is a bin marked Hilltop Christmas gift donations in the library across from the Church Office.

Many thanks for your generosity.

Questions: Jane Foskett, [jandifoskett@aol.com](mailto:jandifoskett@aol.com), 302-239-4311

### ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Sunday, December 13, is the last day to purchase your Christmas gifts from Alternative Gift Market.

**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 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

Questions: Contact Nancy Goyda Phone: 302-235-7112  
Email: [ngoyda@comcast.net](mailto:ngoyda@comcast.net)

## Drive Thru Live Nativity

Grace is having a drive Thru Live Nativity on Saturday, December 19 at 5:00pm.

This ministry is offered to touch on Grace's valued tradition of a Live Nativity with the desire to keep each other healthy during the holiday season. Come and see the scenes of the Nativity.



EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS IN A  
SPECIAL WAY THIS YEAR!

# DRIVE-THRU LIVE NATIVITY!

Grace Lutheran Church  
2033 Graves Road  
Hockessin DE 19707

Saturday, December 19  
At 5:00pm

## 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=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URlNqK1piUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 3854 8999

Passcode: 799577