

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

The period of prophecy... was the announcement of the promises.

The only Son of God was to come to humankind, to take humanity to himself, and, through what he took, to become man. He was to die, rise again, ascend to heaven, sit at the right hand of the Father, and fulfil among the nations what he promised. After the fulfilment of his promises among the nations, he is to fulfil [his] promise to come again. Then, he will come to demand what he has previously given, to separate the vessels of wrath from the vessels of mercy, to repay the wicked as he has threatened, and the righteous as he has promised.

The whole of this was to be prophesied, was to be announced beforehand, was to have its future coming declared. It was not to come suddenly and strike terror, but was to be believed and awaited.

St. Augustine of Hippo

~ "On Psalm 109:1-3"

DECEMBER 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME

We are glad you decided to come and worship our God and Father through his Son Jesus Christ by His Spirit with us today! We are a mission church of the Presbyterian Church in America, with deep roots in the reformed catholic¹ tradition. Our mission is to glorify and enjoy God through faithful worship and proclamation of the Gospel, and our goal is to embody the love of God in Christ through our words and deeds, including practical, generous acts of love and service.

We want you to feel welcome, and we've prepared this guide to help you enter body and soul into worship. We deeply believe that worship is not just watching and listening; we are called to be active and engaged in the dialog between the covenant God who speaks and his people who respond. Please note:

- the words of Scripture are in *italics*,
- **boldface type** indicates congregational participation,
- words in *red* are guides to what's happening, and
- the † symbol means everyone stands, as able.

We have coffee and snacks in the fellowship hall following worship. We hope you will stay for a while so that we can get to know one another a little bit.

If you would like to seek prayer or physical help for any need; if you have questions about anything you have heard or about

- who Jesus is,
- what he has done, or
- why that matters;

or if you would simply like to connect with our pastor, feel free to reach out after the service, or email Pastor Frank at gracepreswt@gmail.com.

gracepcawatertown.org

¹We are catholic Christians because we are in communion with that Church from which the Gospel is spread throughout the world (St. Augustine, 2nd Homily on 1 John).

LORD'S DAY DIVINE SERVICE

The Welcome and Announcements

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

~ Isaiah 40:5

The Prelude

*Take a moment to prepare in silence for worship
and to pray for God's assistance to worship him rightly.*

GOD CALLS US | WE GATHER TOGETHER AND PRAISE HIM

The Apostolic Greeting

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

† The Call to Worship

Psalm 80:1-7

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,

Amen!

The LORD be with you!

And with your spirit!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Let us worship God.

† The Hymn of Praise, p. 10

The Song of Mary: Luke 1: 46-55

† Please stand, as able

†The Opening Prayer

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises: We your people and all the earth rejoice in the hope made manifest in the Savior's first coming. We look forward with longing to his return at the end of time when he shall judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth, and all things will be restored in your Kingdom of peace, happiness, and salvation. Prepare our hearts even now to receive him when he comes, and keep us safe for him in the way of truth, who together with you and the Holy Spirit are Lord forever and ever. **AMEN.**

O LORD AND RULER of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come, and redeem us with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

†The Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

GOD CLEANSSES US | WE CONFESS OUR SINS

The Call to Confession

Today is the day of grace, and to those who will hear, the LORD says,

Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Joel 2:13

The Confession of Sin, *in unison*

O most great, most just and gracious God: You are of purer eyes than to look upon iniquity, but you have promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all who repent and believe in him. We confess that we have sinned and come short of your glory. We have neglected and abused your worship; we have dealt unjustly and unlovingly with our neighbors; we have not sought first your Kingdom. You have revealed your wonderful love to us in Christ and offered us pardon and salvation in him, but too often we have turned away, running instead into temptation, and the sin we should have hated, we have committed. Forgive us, we pray...

Take a moment of silence to confess your particular sins to God through Jesus Christ our Advocate and Shield who sits at the God's right hand.

The Proclamation of Forgiveness

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...
1 Timothy 1:15-16

The Prayer for Grace, *in unison* Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the U.S.

Let us lift up our hearts to God in heaven.

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

Let us pray together to the Lord:

Arise, O Lord, we beseech you, and show us quickly the power of your glorious salvation; that we, being redeemed from our sins, and delivered out of the hands of our enemies, may be enabled to serve you without fear, in holiness and righteousness before you, all the days of our life; through the mediation of you Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. AMEN.

GOD CONSECRATES US | WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND OFFERING

The Offering Prayer and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

GOD SPEAKS TO US | WE HEAR IN FAITH

The Scripture Readings for the Third Sunday of Advent

The Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 11:1-5*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

† The Gospel Reading: *John 5:25-29*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Hymn, p.11

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

The Sermon Text: Revelation 22:6-21

The Prayer for Illumination

The Sermon

GOD COMMUNES WITH US | WE EAT AND DRINK
WITH THE LORD AND ONE ANOTHER

The Invitation to the Meal and Fencing of the Table

†The Hymn of Preparation, p. 12

We Long to See You

†The Confession of Our Faith, p. 13, *in unison*

The Nicene Creed

†The Passing of the Peace

1 Corinthians 6:11; Romans 5:1

You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

†The Words of Institution

Mark 14:22-25

† **The Prayer of Humble Access**, *in unison* *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1552

We do not presume to come to this your table, O Merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord who ever loves to show mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his cup, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. AMEN.

The Prayer of Consecration *The Savoy Liturgy of Richard Baxter* (1661)

The Serving of the Elements

Brothers and sisters, lift your eyes from the visible elements and lift up your heart to heaven, where Christ is now, seated at the right hand of the Father, from where he will come again to complete our redemption. In him alone are all the promises of God fulfilled and all Spiritual blessings found.

Come to the Table now in joy of heart, in Spirit-wrought unity, in holy love, and partake of the Feast of Christ, giving thanks for the great love that God has shown us.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

† **The Hymn of Response**, p. 14 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

The Prayer of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer, *in unison*

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. GOD COMMISSIONS AND BLESSES
US | WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD*

† Closing Hymn, p. 14

May the Grace of Christ our Savior

† The Song of Simeon, p. 14, *in unison*

Luke 2:29-32

† The Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

† The Benediction and the People's Amen

Revelation 22: 12-13; Numbers 6:24-26

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

So be it! Come, Lord Jesus!

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. AMEN.

Sermon Notes

Revelation 22:6-21—The End of the End

The Song of Mary: Luke 1: 46-55

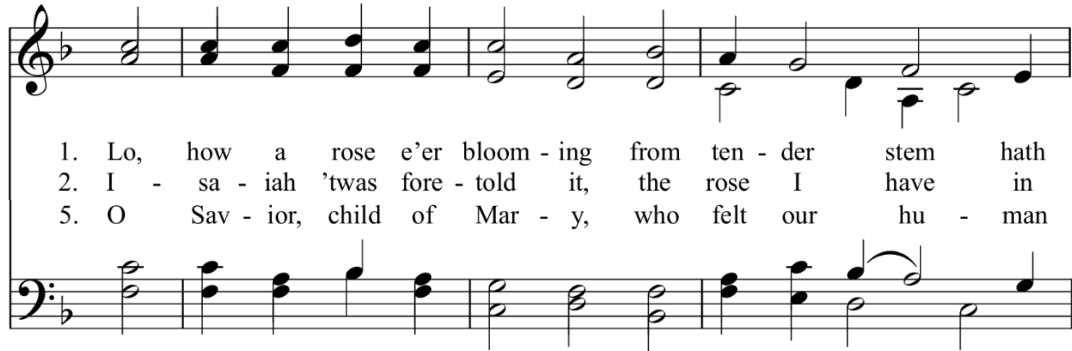
1. My soul doth mag - ni - fy the LORD; re - joic - ing
 2. All ag - es now shall call me blessed; the might - y
 3. He hath dis - played his right arm's strength. Scat - tered the
 4. The hun - gry he hath filled with good; the rich he

in his ho - li - ness; for he hath looked with
 one hath strength - ened me. Through - out all gen - er -
 proud in their con - ceit. Ex - alt - ed now the
 sent emp - ty a - way; as once he prom - ised

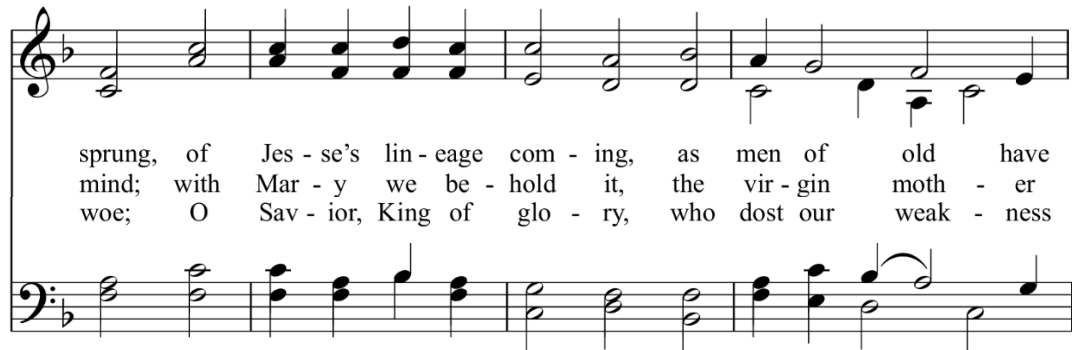
fa - vor on his ser - vant in her low - li - nes.
 a - tions now them that fear him will have mer - cy.
 hum - ble, meek, put down the might - y from their seat.
 A - bra - ham and his off - spring for - ev - er more.

5. All glory to the Father, Son,
 and to the Holy Spirit be.
 As from the first it was, is now,
 and will be for eternity.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



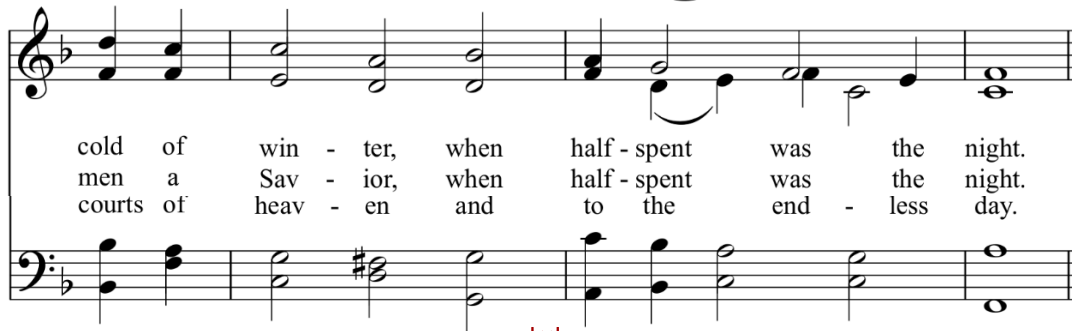
1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in
5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as men of old have
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who dost our weak - ness



sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright, a - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right she bore to
know, bring us at length, we pray, to the bright



cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

We Long to See You

The image shows a musical score for the song "We Long to See You". It consists of three staves of music in the key of E major (indicated by three sharps: F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The second staff begins with a measure rest labeled '3', indicating a pickup or continuation from a previous page. The third staff begins with a measure rest labeled '6'. The lyrics are written below the notes, and guitar chords are written above the staff lines.

E C#m A Esus E
Al - migh - ty God we long to see You.

3 E C#m A B B7 E
O - pen our hearts and make them pure. Spi - rit we wash our

6 A Esus E E/G# A E/B B E
hands in mer - cy; come teach our souls to love Your truth.

The Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE IN one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

AND IN one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;

Who for us, and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

And he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

AND WE BELIEVE IN the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son
together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;

AND WE BELIEVE IN one holy catholic and apostolic Church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

AND WE LOOK for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1. Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
2. Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
3. Yea, a - men! Let all a - dore thee, high on



fa - vored sin - ners slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty. Those who set at
 thine e - ter - nal throne. Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 pow'r and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia!, Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing
 own: O come quick - ly, O come quick - ly



Al - le - lu - ia! God ap - pears on earth to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 O come quick - ly Al - le - lu - ia! Come, Lord, come!

May the Grace of Christ our Savior

1. May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the
2. Thus may we a - bide in un - ion with each

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics provided for two different versions of the song.

Fa - ther's bound - less love, with the Ho - ly Spir - it's
oth - er and the Lord, and pos - sess, in sweet com -

The second system continues the melody from the first system, with lyrics for the continuation of the hymn.

fa - vor, rest up - on us from a - bove.
mun - ion, joys which earth can - not af - ford. A - men.

The third system concludes the hymn with a final cadence and the word 'Amen'.

The Song of Simeon – Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. AMEN.

*We are God's people.
We proclaim Christ,
who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
In him we are
Taught by the Truth and
Liberated by the Life to
Walk in the Way.
The goal of our instruction is love
for God and neighbor
that flows from a pure heart and
a clear conscience and
a sincere faith.*



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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