

BLESSING

those in darkness, joy to those who can find no joy, magic to a world steeped in realism. Go with the songs of angels in your ears, and the love of God in your hearts. Go and spread the word— the babe of Bethlehem is born for all. Rise up and go in peace wherever the Holy Spirit leads you, for the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Thanks be to God. May the light of Christ lead us forevermore.

SENDING HYMN Silent Night 281

Please remain seated for the Postlude

Worship Servants

Assistant	Deacon Brigitte McKenzie
Reader	Anita Walper, Pr. Jim Hill, Barb S., Anne Weicker
Greeters	Barb Smart and Anne Weicker
Counters	Anne Weicker & Barb S.
Altar Care	Barb Smart, Anita Walper
Musician	Seoyoon Lee

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church, ELCIC A Reconciling In Christ Congregation

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**You are CREATED by God, LOVED just as you are and
we WELCOME you**

**We are delighted you are here today to share in worship!
Please sign our guestbook if you are a visitor.**

*We acknowledge and thank the Lkwungen and WSÁNEĆ Peoples,
also known as the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities,
for allowing us to live, worship, work and play on their ancestral lands*

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024 SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER Pastor Linda Douglas



Prelude

WELCOME and GREETING

Welcome to this most magical night when angels and shepherds mingle and the birth of a baby changes the world.

We come to celebrate with joy and wonder.

Celebrate the light that shines all around us.

We will sing and praise our most wondrous God.

Let us kneel before the Christ child, who makes God's promises come true.

O Come let us adore him!

HYMN O Come All Ye Faithful 283 (vs. 1,3,4)

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY - CHRIST CANDLE

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the land give praise, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for the Lord is coming! (*The advent wreath and Christ Candle are lit*)

The Christ Candle shines, giving us hope, peace, joy, and love to carry into the world.

Christ comes to make all things new! We prepared him room, and we are opening to Christ, the light of the world.

HYMN (Kindle Advent Candles Vs. 5) *See Insert*

GREETING

Christ is born! Alleluia! May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you

HYMN: Joy to the World

267 (vs 1,2,4)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray Creator God, By your greatness you became small, by your power you became powerless, by your limitlessness you became limited. Through the birth of your son, we can live in your light that shines on a world transformed by the limitless power of your love. **Amen**

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

READING 1 (Hope in the Messiah)

Isaiah 9:2-5

The worlds were yet unborn.

The stars did not yet shine.

When the Dream began.

God's Dream of Love,

God's vision of hope,

Was and is and will be.

When the dream began,

Light entered in,

And Salvation was born

Alleluia!

HYMN: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (1,4)

282

Kindle Advent Candles

CRANHAM

Elana Keppel Levy, 2024

Gustav Holst, 1906

1. Kin-dle Ad-vent can - dles. Hope will be re - newed. Dreams may fade from
2. Kin-dle Ad-vent can - dles. Peace will be re - stored. Clash - es serve the
3. Kin-dle Ad-vent can - dles. Joy will soon re - bound. Lost in rifts of
4. Kin-dle Ad-vent can - dles. Love en-dures through all. Hate brings flee - ting
5. Kin-dle Ad-vent can - dles. Jes - us lives to - day. Christ, who shaped the

vi - sion: pur - pose un - pur - sued. Though it seems re - lent - less
sche - mers: vic - tims' cries ig - nored. Scars ap - pear a - round us
numb... shame, hid - ing from the crowd. Will we find be - long - ing
pow - er. Love's a real curve - ball. Cher - ish - ing each oth - er
Cos - mos, joins those born of clay. Oh, that we might hold... him

Mis - er - y and loss. God will do a new thing: Swift and soft.
Can they e - ver heal? We must walk a new path: Make peace real.
if they see our face? See, we are God's chil - dren. Claimed in ho - ly grace!
Heav - en comes to earth. Sa - cred trans - for - ma - tion Brings re birth.
Our E - man - nu - el! He is with us al - ways: All shall be well.

PEACE and OFFERING (May be left on the plate at the back)

The light and hope of Christ lives in each of us. The Peace of the Christmas Child be with.

And also with you

Let us greet each other as a sign of God's peace, love forgiveness and grace. *(Please share a gesture of peace with those around you)*

OFFERTORY: What Child is This 296

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your greatest gift— your very Word come to earth, to live with us and through us; you have filled us with your grace and truth— your holy child sent to free us from our bonds. How can we repay such divine generosity?

Receive our thanks and praise. As you have given to us, so now we share your gifts and your grace with a world in need. May our offering help bring your light and love to those who still wander in darkness. Amen.



READING 2 (Coming of the Messiah)

Isaiah 9:6-7

The dream of expectancy

This design of tenderness

Is God's vision for us

The dream is of love.

The design is of salvation

And we have seen it

For before all worlds

And proceeding from all time

Is God's dream for us

Alleluia

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 1, 4) 279

READING 3 (Christ the Eternal Word)

John 1:1-5

God's dream is a Word,

The Word which brings joy

Is and was and will be

This Word brought Light,

A Splendour beyond imagining

Which is God with us.

This Word is ours,

Our source of Life

Which God gives to us all

HYMN: Once in Royal David's City (1,2,3) 269



READING 4 (The Birth in Bethlehem)

Luke 2:1-7

When the Dream begins,
Light enters in,
 And Salvation is born
God's Dream of Love,
 God's Vision of Hope
Creates new life.
 Worlds are spinning,
And stars are shining
 At God's dawning!
God's dream of love
 God's vision of hope
 Christ the Saviour is Born!
Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime 284

READING 5

Luke 2:8-14

The dream continues
Christ enters in
 And salvation is born
God's dream of love
 God's vision of hope
Seeks all people
 The worlds spin on
The stars shine in glory
 It is the generation of the Dream!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Saviour is born!
 Blessed are we who can see the wonder and mystery of
 Emmanuel, God's dream for us!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

HYMN: Angels From the Realms of Glory 275

READING 6 (The Shepherds Worship)

Luke 2:15-20

HYMN: Go Tell It On the Mountain 290

Sermon

HYMN: Good Christian Friends Rejoice 288

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Holy Jesus, we pray**Be born in us tonight**)

We pray in the name of Jesus, our light, our life, and our hope,
 who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer (Tune: 270 Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

God our Father, God of fame
 hallowed be your holy name;
 Everywhere your kingdom come,
 far away from here at home;
May we to your will comply
As the angels do on high;
 Grant that we, our sins forgiv'n
 Follow in the way of heav'n
 Grant that we, our sins forgiv'n
 Follow in the way of heav'n.

May we, even at our worst,
 Show forgiveness shown us first.
 Guard us from the tempting devil,
 and deliver us from evil.
Yours the kingdom so sing we,
Pow'r and glory ever be.
 Unto you while ages run.
 Yea, Amen! So be it done!
 Unto you while ages run.
 Yea, Amen! So be it done!