

# GRACE NEWS

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DECEMBER 1 | 2024

Grace members and friends,

Our sermon text from Luke's gospel (Luke 21:25-28) is about what is commonly referred to as the Second Coming of Christ. It is also known in Scripture as "the great and terrible day of the Lord" and in theological circles as the Parousia. Christians believe and confess that Jesus will come again to the earth. How much time we spend thinking about it, discussing it, or focusing on it depends largely on denomination. It also depends upon where we are in history. As Luke was writing this gospel, the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem had just occurred. This was a cataclysmic event that signaled the beginning of the end for those who lived at that time.

Scripture tells us precious little about the Second Coming and the end times of history. It most certainly does not tell us when it will happen. Cosmic signs will appear, but they have always appeared. In 1982, the planets around the sun were in perfect alignment. This was sure to be the dawning of a new age, at least for all of us who grew up in the 60's and 70's singing songs from the musical Hair. The truth is that no one knows when it will be. Even Jesus said he did not know the day or the hour, only his Father in heaven knew when it would be.

With so little detail about the Second Coming, with no knowledge about when it will be, and with it taking so very long after the first coming, what's the big deal? Should we be worrying about it or talking about it at all? Yes, I believe we should live expectantly for the day of Christ's second coming, just as we live expectantly for the celebration of Christmas, the anniversary of his first. We long for His appearing because He is our hope!

Join us this **Sunday at 9am and 11:05am** as we talk about hope and worship God enthusiastically.

Your pastor and friend,

*Tracey*



## UPCOMING SERMONS

- December 8      Are You Anxious? Peace Is Coming!  
December 15     Are You Stressed? Joy Is Coming!  
December 22     Do you Long for Love? Love Is Coming!  
December 24     Do you Long for the Light? The Light of the World is Here!

## Get Involved at Grace

### Family Gateway

We still have a few families that need to be adopted! Please scan the QR code, and bring Christmas to a Family Gateway family.

Family Gateway is a Dallas organization which serves homeless families with children. Grace has been supporting the Family Gateway families at Christmas for 10 years and this year we have once again committed to adopt 50 families. If you adopt a family you are being asked to purchase at minimum, two unwrapped gifts for each child in your adopted family from their wish list, and please help support their caregiver, by purchasing a Walmart gift card(s). If you choose to support the caregiver with more than \$25, please purchase multiple \$25 cards. A sign-up genius form will allow you to choose your family, and then the children's wish list(s) will be emailed to you.

You can use this qr code or find a copy of it on the table beneath the fantasy football standings. Please return gifts by 11AM on Saturday, Dec. 14. Location for drop off is the bride's room closet. Please remember when dropping off your gifts, you are asked to take a picture of your gifts and text a copy to Ann Boles.



### Sounds of Christmas Concert - December 8

Make plans to attend our annual Sounds of Christmas concert on Sunday, December 8 from 6-8pm. Our adult, youth, and children's choirs have been working hard to present a wonderful evening of music to fill your hearts for the Christmas season. Invite your friends and family to join you.



# Hygge

[Hoo-guh] noun, Danish

An atmosphere of warmth, well-being and coziness, when you feel able to enjoy simple pleasures and being in the moment. Where everyone is welcome.

When hope, peace, joy and love are in the atmosphere.

Hygge is the lifestyle by which the Danes survive a long, dark winter. And this Advent, it is how we at Grace Presbyterian Church make it to Christmas and prepare to welcome Jesus. The principles of Hygge are:

**Presence:** Be here now. Turn off the phones.

**Togetherness:** Build relationships and stories. “Do you remember the time when we...?”

**Equality:** “We” over “me.” Share the tasks and airtime.

**Peace:** Worry doesn’t add one day to our lives.

**Harmony:** We like each other.

**Pleasure:** Chocolate, cookies, cakes, candy, music, games, gifts, play outside.

**Gratitude:** Take it in. Don’t take this good meal, time together, or anything for granted.

**Shelter:** This is your tribe. This is a place of peace and security.

**Comfort:** Get comfy. Take a break. It’s all about relaxation.

**Light:** Create a welcoming atmosphere. Light candles.



Our plan during Advent worship is to bring these ideals found in Scripture into our gatherings and lives so that when Jesus arrives, we are not clinched tightly just trying to survive the dark and cold, but ready with open minds, soft hearts, and joyous spirits.

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| December 1  | Drink a hot chocolate in the Narthex while enjoying art created by Courtney Hitt.                                       |
| December 8  | Bring a sweet treat to share while enjoying the art created by Bryan Haworth.   |
| December 15 | Bring a can of soup, a hat or gloves to share with those who may be cold this season and enjoy Kay Stahler’s paintings. |
| December 22 | Help yourself to a cinnamon roll in the Narthex and enjoy the many quilts our talented quilters make.                   |



## Women of Grace Christmas Party - December 2

All of the women of Grace are invited to our annual WOG Christmas party this Monday, December 2 at the home of Kris Turner (4520 Reunion Dr. Plano, TX 75024) We will be having an ornament exchange again this year. If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped ornament to the party.

It is not too late to RSVP by checking your connection card this Sunday, or use the email link in your newsletter email. We look forward to celebrating the season together. If you have any questions please reach out to Laurie Kneeland at coffeela@yahoo.com.

## Christmas Eve Worship - December 24

We will have two worship services this Christmas Eve at Grace. Following the family worship, you are invited to join us in the narthex for cookie decorating.

December 24 - 2PM

Family Worship Service

December 24 - 7PM

Candlelight Worship Service

## Christmas Day Fellowship - December 25

Pastor Tracey and Jack have invited anyone who would like to share Christmas fellowship to an open house at their home on Wednesday, December 25 from 5-8PM. **If you are planning to attend, please check your connection card** this Sunday

## Christmas Season Worship

Please take note that we will be having combined worship on Sunday, Dec. 29 and Sunday January 5. Mark your calendars today!



## Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) - New

If you are 70 1/2 or older, the church is eligible to receive QCDs directly from your IRA account. A QCD distribution is non-taxable and counts toward your current year Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). While the church cannot provide professional tax advice, you may contact John Moody, Director of Finance, john@gracepc.org or 469.429.6808, for additional information or to answer questions. One site to learn more about QCDs can be found by clicking on the link in your newsletter email: *How to take qualified charitable distributions (QCD) | Vanguard*.

## Prayers are being Answered!

Your Prayer Team meets every Sunday in MB2 to pray over the prayers that have been shared with us. We meet at 4 PM, if you would like to have personal hands-on prayer, or wish to join us. If you would like to receive a list of the prayers weekly, send a message to Mike Shaw at broncosrbest@verizon.net to be added to our efforts to connect to the Lord and the community. Every week, God responds and answers.

- John Blacklock was in church last Sunday and is doing well!
- Klingman's have found a nanny!
- Jessica (Dick and Kay Anthony's granddaughter) came through her surgery with good initial results!

## Young Adults

Young adults, please plan to join us for a special Christmas celebration after worship on Sunday, December 15th at 12:15 p.m. We will meet for lunch and fellowship at Velvet Taco (5013 W Park Blvd, Plano, TX 75093). If you would like to know more about the Young Adult Ministry at Grace PC, please contact Pastor Wilson at wilson@gracepc.org.



# Children & Youth Ministries

## **Advent Wreathmaking - December 1**

All children, youth and their parents are invited to come to the youth room on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 10AM to make your Advent Wreath. All supplies will be provided. We look forward to sharing this special Advent tradition with all of our families.

## **Youth Christmas Party - December 21**

This year, the youth will be celebrating Christmas together by eating dinner out at Mesero in Legacy West followed by a movie and treats back in the youth room. We need an exact number in order to make dinner reservations, so if your youth is planning on attending the Christmas party, please let us know on your connection card. Thanks!

## **Sunday School Christmas Party - December 22**

Our children's and youth Sunday School classes will meet together in the youth rooms on Sunday, December 22 during the 10AM Sunday School hour for games and food.

## **Save the Date for SHYC - January 24-26**

The senior high youth of Grace Presbytery gather each year for SHYC – a high energy weekend of challenging theme presentations, thought-provoking and encouraging small groups, music, worship, and of course, energizers.

Senior High Youth Connection (SHYC) is planned by a special team of adults and youth from across the presbytery in partnership with the Austin College ACTivators and takes place at Austin College.



# Family Ministries

Join us this Sunday, Dec. 1, at 10am in the youth room to make your family Advent wreath.

## Children's Sunday School - 10AM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
Preschool	CE 211	Helen Blacklock & Lorna Little
Kindergarten - 1st	CE 212	Mark Ellis & Xenia Gross
2nd - 3rd grades	CE 214	Brad Boles & David Hurwich
4th - 5th grades	CE 216	Liz Urech & Eme Thomas

## Youth Sunday School - 10AM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
Middle School & High School	CE 200- CE203	Jack Davenport, Austin Nichols, Bryan Raaum, Teri Waite

## Godly Play - 11:15AM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>
Godly Play	CE 213 (Godly Play Worship Center)



# Want to Sing or Ring?

## Choirs

### **Sanctuary Adult Choir**

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30pm

Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

### **Exultation Choir**

Youth choir for grades 6 – 12

Sundays, 4:00 – 5:15pm

Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

### **Voices in Praise (VIPs)**

Children's choir for grades 2 – 5

Sundays, 4 – 5pm

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

### **Cherub Choir**

Children's choir for PK thru 1st gd.

Sundays, 4 – 5pm

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

## Handbell Choirs

### **Grace Notes**

Advanced adult  
handbells

Sundays, 5:45 – 7:15pm

Room: Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

### **Agape Bells**

Beginner adult handbells

Sundays, 4:15 – 5pm

Room: CE204-205

Katie Schnittker, Director

### **Credo**

Youth handbells

Sundays, 2:45 – 4:00pm

Room: Sanctuary

Katie Schnittker, Director

### **Carillon Ringers**

Children (Grades 3-5) Handbells

Sundays, 3 - 4pm

Room CE204/205

Michelle Rutherford & Hannah  
Allen, Directors

Feel free to contact any of the ensemble directors for more info  
we would love to have you!

Hannah Allen – Children's Choirs, [hannah@gracepc.org](mailto:hannah@gracepc.org)

Michael King – Exultation, Grace Notes, Sanctuary Choir, [michael@gracepc.org](mailto:michael@gracepc.org)

Katie Schnittker – Credo Director, Agape Bells Director [katie.schnittker@gmail.com](mailto:katie.schnittker@gmail.com)

Michelle Rutherford – Carillon Ringers Director, [mmrutherford1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmrutherford1@sbcglobal.net)





# Want to Learn?

**Children's School Year  
Sunday School  
10AM**

**Youth School Year  
Sunday School  
10AM**

## **School Year Adult Sunday School - 10am**

Bible Boomers

Koinonia

Trinity

Visions of Faith

Word of Life

Wheelus Hall

CE204/205

MB2

MB3

MB4

## **Weekly Bible Study Opportunities**

Mon. PM Men's Bible Study, 7-9PM

MB4

Mon. Blue Angels, 12-1:30PM

MB2

Tues. AM Women, 10-11:30AM

MB2

Wed. AM Women of Wonder, 10:30AM

MB4

Thurs. PM Generations of Grace Women's, 7PM

MB2

Fri. AM Men's Bible Study, 8-10AM

MB2

Every Other Sat. Men's Bible Study, 8:30-10:30AM

MB2



# Calendar

## **NOVEMBER**

- 28 Happy Thanksgiving - church office closed
- 29 Church Office Closed
- 30 Advent Decorating, 9AM

## **DECEMBER**

- 1 First Sunday of Advent
- 1 Contemporary Worship, 9AM
- 1 Sunday School for All, 10AM
- 1 Traditional Worship, 11:05AM
- 1 Godly Play, 11:15AM (Godly Play Worship Center, CE213)
- 1 Credo Bell Rehearsal, 2:45PM (Sanctuary)
- 1 Carillon Ringers Rehearsal, 3PM (CE204/205)
- 1 Agape Bell Rehearsal, 4:15PM (CE204/205)
- 1 Cherub Choir Rehearsal, 4PM (CE215)
- 1 Exultation Choir Rehearsal, 4PM (Sanctuary)
- 1 Voices in Praise Rehearsal, 4PM (CE215)
- 1 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 1 Grace Notes Rehearsal, 5:45PM (Sanctuary)
- 2 Blue Angels Bible Study, 12PM (MB2)
- 2 Cancer Support Group Meeting, 12PM (Zoom)
- 2 Tom McClellan's Memorial Service, 2PM
- 2 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 2 Zoom book Study, 7PM (Zoom)
- 2 Women of Grace Christmas Party, 7PM (Turner's)
- 3 Women's Tuesday AM Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 3 Nurture Council Meeting, 1:30PM (MB2)
- 3 Evening Prayer Group Meeting, 7PM (Parlor)
- 3 Dayschool Committee Meeting, 7PM (Zoom)
- 3 Deacon Meeting, 7PM (CE204/205)
- 4 Career Transitions Support Group, 9AM (MB2)
- 4 Women of Wonder Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB4)
- 4 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 7PM
- 5 Generations of Grace Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 6 Men's Friday AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
- 7 UTD Concert, 7:30PM

