

Grace Church in the Mountains

November 28, 2021 | 10:30 am

GRACE WAYNESVILLE

First Sunday of Advent

WELCOME! / ¡BIENVENIDOS!

We are honored by your presence as we gather as God's people to worship in the "beauty of holiness" through our ancient liturgy, contemporary prayers, and vibrant community.

Audio and visual aids, as well as "worship bags" for children, are available. Ask an usher for assistance.

Following the service, please join us in Thatcher Hall for coffee and fellowship.

The word "advent" comes from the Latin adventus meaning "coming" or "arrival." In Advent we both look backwards, remembering the birth of Jesus, and we look forward to Christ's coming again when the Kingdom of God is fully revealed on earth. The spiritual emphases of Advent—both joyful preparation, renewal, as well as repentance and judgement can feel a bit scattered.

Advent is part of the Incarnation/ Nativity cycle, one of two major feast cycles in the Church Year (the other being the Passion/Resurrection cycle). The Church did not settle on a unified approach to Advent until well into the sixth century. By that point, different geographical regions of the Church had developed distinct emphases that were combined to create the current Advent season. For example, in the Eastern Churches, Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus were considered the high point of this Cycle, Advent being viewed as a time for baptismal preparation. In Northern Europe, the emphasis was on preparing for Christ's return at the consummation of history, therefore the season was far more penitential, similar to Lent. In the churches around Rome and those influenced by it, such as the Church in England, the tone was celebratory. You can see the threads of each of these influences in the readings for the season and liturgical customs such as not singing the Gloria. Alleluia's, however, are permitted during the season. The multiple influences are also present in the options for the liturgical colors. Some churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, use purple, the same color that is used for Lent and emphasizing penitence. Of late, many Protestant denominations encourage using the color blue to distinguish Lent from Advent.

At Grace, we use a rich blue color to honor the multiple themes of Advent, incorporating both repentance and joyful preparation. Additionally, we have adopted the custom of lighting the Advent wreath at the beginning of each liturgy to mark our anticipation of the great Feast of the Nativity when the central white Christ Candle is lit. This custom developed first among Lutherans in 16th Century Germany and is now practiced around the world by both Protestants, Roman Catholics, and even some in the Orthodox tradition.

MISSION FOCUS 2021

Celebrating that Christ is all and in all

by

Seeking Inviting

Belonging Serving

Reverencing God's Creation

THE WORD OF GOD

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING & PRAYER *(Family comes forward to light the wreath)*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Presider says

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

(Be seated)

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

(A reading from the prophet Jeremiah)

¹⁴The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The LORD Is Our Righteousness.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

PSALM 25:1-9 *(spoken responsively by half-verse)*

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
**let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their
schemes.**

3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
**for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my
transgressions; *
**remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
**to those who keep his covenant and his
testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

(A reading from Paul's first letter to the church at Thessalonica)

⁹How can we thank God enough for you, given all the joy we have because of you before our God? ¹⁰Night and day, we pray more than ever to see all of you in person and to complete whatever you still need for your

faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus guide us on our way back to you. ¹² May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the same way as we also love you. ¹³ May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his people. Amen.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said:]²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. ²⁶ The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. ²⁷ Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.”

²⁹ Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God’s kingdom is near. ³² I assure you that this generation won’t pass away until everything has happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

³⁴ “Take care that your hearts aren’t dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don’t let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

(Be seated)

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *(please stand)*

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

+THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church (especially...), that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind (especially...); that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week with those who are celebrating life's milestones...(especially...); that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION *(kneel or stand)*

Presider: When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.** *Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Presider says

Friends, do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *(Hebrews 13:15, 16)*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Presider: All things come of thee, O Lord.
People: And of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you. *People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**
People: **And also with you.** *Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Presider: Lift up your hearts. *People:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power.... *The Presider continues...*

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us...*The Presider continues...*
And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 trespasses,

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & INVITATION

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION

Ushers will direct you forward to receive the body and blood. If you prefer a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available.

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITOR *(When scheduled.)*

Presider: In the name of our parish family, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that {N.} to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: **We who are many are truly one body, because we all share one bread and one cup. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER & BLESSING *(stand or kneel)*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Presider blesses the people.

DISMISSAL

Presider: As we await the coming of our Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

SERVING TODAY

Lectors/EMs 8:00 Mary Beth Dorgan/Lori Yerse, Bob Stambaugh
10:30 Kathleen Vogt/Jack Geist, Mary Lockey

Counters Kara Melius, David Nedved

Altar Guild Mary Lockey, Tiffany Plemmons, Janet Turley, John Culp

Ushers Chas Lawrence, Daniel Atterholt

Euch. Visitor Maureen Hunt visiting Katherine Calhoun

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members of Grace: Richard Truluck, Ray Escott, Rob Viau, Iris Durell, Carol Ploch, Betsy Stecher, Linda Sexton, Carol Feichter, Harriet Simmons, Betty Harrison, Vickie Pope; and our Homebound Members: Becky Prevost; Elizabeth Weber, Evelyn Overman, Charlotte Dickinson, Katherine Calhoun, & Charles Baker.

Friends of Grace: Chris Tidwell, brother of Clyde Austin; Richard Courtney, friend of Stephen Hattendorf; Susan Purvis, friend of Brian Schaefer; Taylor, son of Debbie and Alan Joyce; Cecilia Berg, mother of Diane Franklin; Gretchen Gorfine, friend of Georgia McManus; Debra & Jimmy Weems, sister & brother-in-law of Carol Linker; John Blount, cousin of Clyde Austin; Aaron Vaughen, son of Pam Vaughen; Mary, mother of BJ Minturn; Jason, son of Margaret Violet; Allen & Charles Davis, husband and son of Diane Davis; Fr. Matthew Venuti, son-in-law of Paula & Peter Welling; Joelle & Jeff Clark, friends of Karlinne Wulf-Lamphear & Ken Clark, her brother-in-law; Gary, cousin of Joyce Brooks; Roney Sutton, friend of Melissa VanNoppen; Paul Mehaffey, grandfather of Jesse Nelson; Debby Coughlin, sister of Dale McDonald; Kathy McNeil, former organist at Grace Church.

For those who have died Larry Green, friend of Stephen Hattendorf

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bill Smith whose private memorial service was held Saturday, November 27.

HAPPENING TODAY

Adult Formation in Thatcher and on Zoom: *All Creation Waits*. All ages are welcome to join members of the Creation Care Ministry in exploring the wise ways of our animal neighbors in practicing waiting, accepting darkness, and collecting themselves in stillness.

Lectionary Bible Study on Zoom (Open to All)

Children and Youth Programs: Little ones up to 2nd Grade meet in the nursery for Godly Play with Dawna Keilman. 3rd grade and up meet in the Martha's room for a Youth Hangout with Daniel Yeargin and Madison Owen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Advent @ Grace

- **Sundays @ 9:15 *All Creation Waits*.** All ages are welcome to join members of the Creation Care Ministry in exploring the wise ways of our animal neighbors in practicing waiting, accepting darkness, and collecting themselves in stillness. "This is a book about God, the God who comes, even in the darkest season, to bring us a new beginning."
- **Tuesdays @ 11:00 Formation, food and fellowship.** This is an opportunity for all with a study of the Holiday classic -A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens beginning November 30 at 11 o'clock. The study will last for around one hour followed by lunch (two soups each week along with bread and cookies). This is an opportunity to reflect on the holidays with some spiritual formation in the process. **Sign up required.** Visit the website or contact the church office. Questions? Contact Orion Davis 828.492.0013.
- **Advent at Home** Come hang out with the Art's Ministry on December 4th from 1-3pm to do some Advent Crafts! There will be some projects that you can take home for yourself, homebound members, as well as an opportunity to paint some ornaments for the flood victims in Cruso.

Creation Care Prayer is a new offering for the first Fridays of every month, beginning Dec. 3rd, 12:00 - 12:30, in the sanctuary. We are partnering with FUMC Creation Care to offer this lay-led prayer group, open to the community.

Responding through Grace: As of this week we have received 101 commitments of Treasure (budget) and 113 to Time and Talent. Last year we had 131 total pledging units. The Vestry uses these commitments of your treasure to put together the budget for 2022. If you have not yet made your commitment to Grace's ministry, visit our website: gracewaynesville.com/pledge-to-responding-through-grace-treasure.

Help bring "Goodwill Towards All": Sign Christmas cards with an encouraging line or message to our neighbors who are currently coping through challenging conditions. Your messages of hope will be delivered to folks who are struggling via Bethel House, Helping Hands, the Jail Ministry, EACH, REACH, Open Door, and LifeWorks! Pick up a package of Christian-focused Christmas cards (available at our "mailbox" in the alcove and in the church narthex), add a message of encouragement and sign your **FIRST** name; return signed cards by Sunday, December 12, to the DEPOSIT SLOT of our "mailbox" in the alcove or if the church is closed, push them to the very back of the parish P.O. mailbox) Questions? contact Diane at dmcollins0210@gmail.com

Donate Your Silk and Dried Flower Arrangements: the Flower Ministry is accepting donations of silk and dried flowers (individual flowers and/or arrangements) to rework and use throughout the church to keep flowers and arrangements on hand when needed for brightening up the long, cold days of winter. If you have any dried or silk flowers to donate, please put them in the blue donation box on the back deck. Questions. Email Jotur@aol.com or text 330-860-4279.

THIS WEEK* indicates all are invited

Tues., Nov. 30	11:00	Advent formation with Fr. Orion followed by soup/salad lunch* Deadline for eNews & bulletin announcements*
Wed., Dec. 1	Noon	Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer *
Thurs., Dec 2	10:00	Marthas Knitting Group via Zoom*
Fri., Dec. 3	Noon 1:30	Creation Care Prayer - Church* Group Spiritual Direction - Library (Cont'd on back)

Sat., Dec. 4	1:00	Christmas Craft Day*
Sun., Dec. 5	7:00	Taize Service*

GRACE CHURCH IN THE MOUNTAINS, EPISCOPAL

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Treasurer: finance@gracewaynesville.com

Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper: admin@gracewaynesville.com

Facebook.com/gracewaynesville • Instagram: @GraceChurchIM

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, Rector

The Revs. Orion Davis, Earle Pratt, & Harriet Simmons, Priest Associates

Virginia Moe, Music Director

Madison Owen, Director of Parish Programs

Andrea Croskery, Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper

Tony Caldwell, Sexton

Dawna Keilman, Nursery Supervisor

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Dale McDonald, Sr. Warden (2021)	Michael Lodico, Jr. Warden (2022)	Laura Armour (2023)
Lauri SoJourney (2021)	Patricia (Pat) Robinson (2022)	Kathie Johnson (2023)
Mary Lockey (2021)	Laurel Destry (2022)	Mariah Nehus (2023)

Gary Roberts & Walt Austin, Treasurers

Karen Morris, Clerk

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