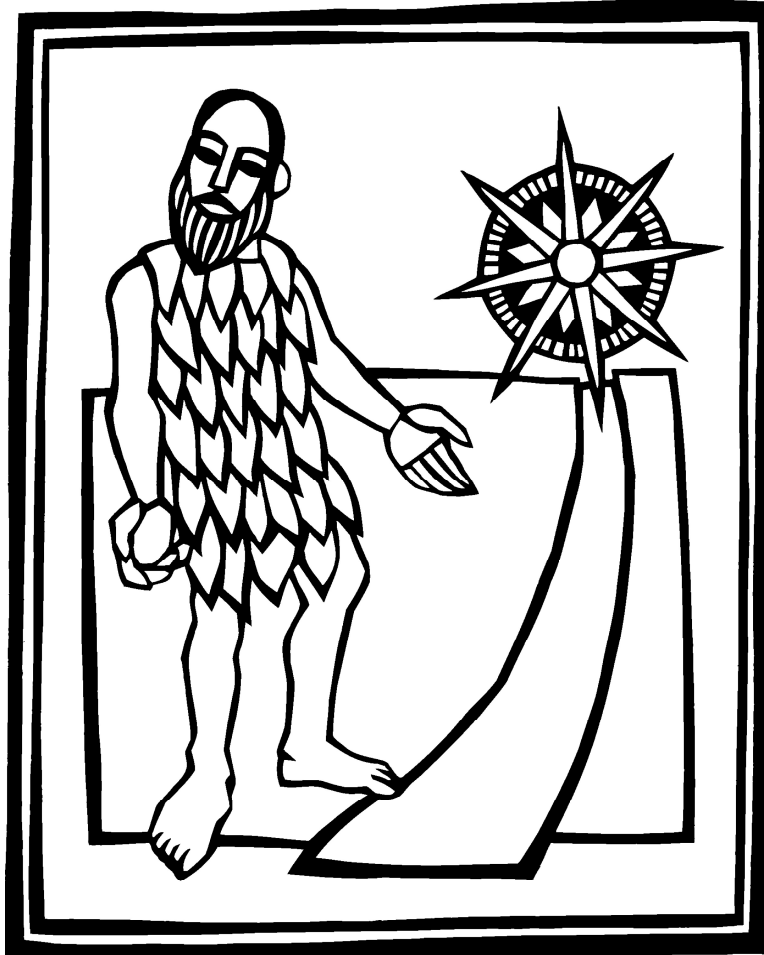


3rd Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022—8:30am



Grace Lutheran Church

521 Providence Road
Chesapeake, VA 23325
757-420-4704

www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org



<https://linktr.ee/gracelutheran>

Pastor—The Rev. Leslie D. Weber (she/her/hers)
Minister of Music—Morgan Hatfield (they/she)

Our Mission Statement:

We are a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

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Page numbers (p.) are in front half of the hymnal.
Hymn numbers (#) are in back half of the hymnal.
Everyone is invited to join in **bolded responses**.
+ Please stand as you are able.

+ **Gathering** +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”
arr. by Phillip Keveren

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

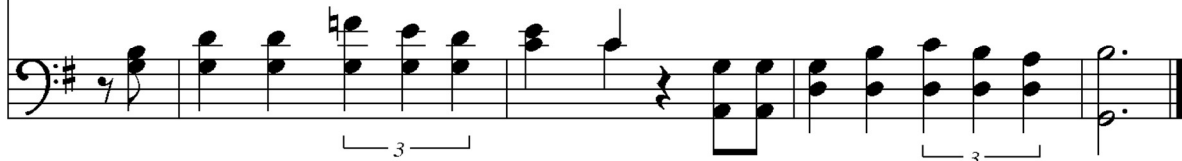
“He Came Down” ELW #253 v.1-3



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



- he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;



Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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+ Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings, **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

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+ Gathering Song

“We Will Wait”

We will wait with ever watchful eyes.
We will wait with ever serving lives.
We will wait with ever open hearts. We will greet You.

We will greet You with ever thankful tears.
We will greet You with ever lessening fears.
We will greet You with ever hopeful joy. We will welcome You.

Refrain: We will welcome You! We will sing!
We will welcome You! We will sing!

We will welcome You as prophesied.
We will welcome You into our lives.
We will welcome lessons that you teach. We will sing for You.

We will sing while we wait here on earth.
We will sing to greet You at Your birth.
We will sing to welcome You, the gift. We will follow You.

David Lee Brown Julie Hennies Larry Olson © 1992 Dakota Road Music

+ Prayer of the Day

ELW p.19

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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+Word+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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Second Reading

James 5:7-10

A reading from James.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+ Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.
Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.
Those who follow me will not walk in darkness.
Those who follow me will have the light of life.

Larry Olson © 1990 Dakota Road Music

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+ Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Young at Heart Message & Sermon

The Rev. Harry Griffith

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+ Song of the Day

“Messiah”

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

Refrain: Messiah, come and be our King.
 Messiah, come and be our King.

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

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.

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+ Nicene Creed

ELW p.104

With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who 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.

* universal

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+ Prayers of Intercession sung refrain: “Come by Here” TFF #43
As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for
a world that yearns for new hope.

Refrain: **Come by here, my Lord, come by here; come by
here, my Lord, come by here; come by here, my Lord,
come by here; O Lord, come by here.**

Traditional

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the
global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We
pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA
Global Mission.

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we
have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities
and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living
things may breathe, drink, and praise you.

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and
oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or
persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us
pray for our enemies.

Refrain

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in
distress because of worry, illness, or loss, especially those listed on
our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (*pause
for names*). Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue
teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep
others safe.

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with
all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look
with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of
your everlasting promises.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit,
gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your
children. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

Refrain

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+ Peace

+Meal+

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Thank you for supporting the mission of the church as you are able! Electronic donations can be made at

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611.

*Checks can be also be sent to church:
521 Providence Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23325*



+ Offering Prayer

Please stand as you are able.
Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

+ Great Thanksgiving

p.152

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

+ Thanksgiving at the Table

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+ Lord's Prayer

ELW p.154

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.**

+ Invitation to Communion

Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Notes about Communion Distribution at Grace

When we're gathered around the table, there is enough food, drink, blessing, space and time for all to share in Holy Communion! GLC practices Eucharistic hospitality since we trust that God welcomes all who come to the table where Christ is both host and meal.

*Wine (red) and grape juice (white) are distributed in individual cups.
Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

If you prefer to stay in the pew, there are prepackaged kits (wine, juice, and gluten free options) available at the sanctuary doors. If you prefer not to receive the wafer and wine/grape juice, you may kneel or stand at the rail with arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing.

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Communion Song

“All Is Ready Now”

Quietly into the stable where the Savior sleeping lies,
We can go for all are welcome: shepherd, angel, poor and wise.
What we have we bring and offer, earthly gifts for Child divine,
Giving that which we were given, fruits of harvest, bread and wine.

‘Cross the threshold of creation, Jesus comes to dwell with us,
As he was in the beginning, evermore God’s gift of love.
Now he calls us to the table, gift of love to bleed and die;
Manger here becomes an altar, stable Lamb is sacrificed.

Now enthroned as king of heaven, blazing glory like the sun:
In his hands are pow’r and justice, on his lips are peace and love.
As our gifts are turned to ashes, falling down in awe we bow,
Empty handed we adore him “Come, for all is ready now.”

Jay Beech © 2001 Jay Beech - Baytone Music

+ Sending +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Announcements

+ Sending Song

ELW #267(see next page)

+ Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872