Held by Human Hands
Advent in the Epistles
To Know Christ &
To Make Christ Known
graceinracine.com
262.632.2111
3626 State Road 31,Racine, WI 53405

WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH

VISITING GRACE?

It's great to have you here today, and we'd love to connect with you! Stop by the Welcome Table outside the sanctuary where you can receive a Bible if you need one, ask any questions about Grace, and take home a gift. Visit graceinracine.com or scan the QR code on the next page to fill out a Connect Card online.

If you have something that is weighing you down today, please come down front after service and we will pray with you. You can also share your request on the connection card and our prayer team will lift your need up to the Lord.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE

"The First Noel (Born Is The King)"
Welcome — Paul Vnuk

PRAISE

Call To Worship — Isaiah 9:6-7
"O Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)"
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

RENEWAL

Advent Prayer: *Joy* — Matt & Laura Hagemann
"Christmas Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)"

PROCLAMATION

Reading of the Word — Galatians 4:1-7
Prayer of Illumination
Preaching of the Word — Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

Silent Reflection
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/King Of Heaven"
Commissioning of The G Family
Benediction

We invite you to stay after the service for fellowship.
Refreshments are available in The Commons.
Our Prayer Team is available in the front of the sanctuary.

CARE MINISTRY

Please pray for healing and recovery for those hospitalized or recently discharged: Ann Richow, Laverne Jorgensen, Shirley Blair

PRAYER REQUESTS

We want to uphold you in prayer during times of need:

- Fill out a connect card online or from the seatback in front of you.
- Come down front after service Sunday morning and we will pray with you.
- Email prayer@graceinracine.com

We have a dedicated prayer team that prays over each request. Additionally, our staff meets each week to pray over all of the needs of our congregation.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY (CR)

Meets Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Loft.
CR is a safe place to find support if you are struggling with a difficult season of life. CR is not just for addicts; it is for all of us who need to go deeper in Christ when life gets hard. Don't struggle alone - please join us for hope and encouragement every Tuesday evening.
Contact Gabe Stalker at celebraterecovery@graceinracine.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children are welcome in our worship service, and we highly encourage their participation throughout the entire service.

Follow-Along Sheets: Stop by the Info Center for an activity sheet for your child's use during the service.

Scribble Paper: Paper is available in the pews for doodling & coloring. *Please refrain from use of the Connect Cards for doodle purposes.*

NURSERY & PRESCHOOL

Sunday school is available during the entirety of the worship service for children aged birth – kindergarten. Children ages 2 - kindergarten will also have an age-appropriate Bible lesson each week.

WORSHIPERS IN TRAINING (WIT)

Children in 1st-4th grades are welcome to participate in “Worshipers in Training” which meets during the second half of our worship service (children are dismissed before the teaching portion of worship).

SERMON REVIEW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are for *after* the sermon and can be used for Life Group discussion, one-to-one discipleship, or personal reflection and application.

As we move into the third week of Advent, we continue to see what the New Testament epistles have to say about the incarnation of Jesus. Interestingly, in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatian church, where he is emphatic about living in the truth of the crucified Christ, he takes a turn in chapter four to also recognize the importance of the incarnate Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you tend to think of time? What are circumstances that often make you feel as if time has slowed down or sped up?

2. What is the difference between a slave and a son/heir both in their relationship to the master and the benefits they receive? In what ways does Paul say that they are the same? How should moving from slave to son/heir affect the way we live and worship?

3. What is meant by *"the fullness of time"* (v. 4)? How does this connect to *"the date set by his father"* (v. 2)?What is Paul saying had to be fulfilled or done in order for it to be the time for Christ to become incarnate? (See also Galatians 3; Romans 3:19-20)

4. What does it mean that Jesus was born *"under the Law"* (v. 4) and why does it matter? According to this passage, what significance does Jesus having a physical family play on him bringing sinners into his spiritual family?

5. Where in this passage do you find the distinct persons of the Trinity? How do they work together to bring people into the family of God?

6. What is a situation in your life in which you are struggling to trust God's timing? How does this passage help you to trust God more?

7. Look up the lyrics to *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."* Where do you see the lyrics of this carol reflecting the truth of today's passage? Sing the song together as a group or family in response to God and encouragement to one another.

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Galatians 4:1-7

Pastor Mike Matheson

THE FULLNESS OF TIME

Next Week: Fourth Sunday of Advent // Hebrews 1:1-14

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

LAST WEEK
Attendance: 779
Giving: $49,235

2025 GIVING
Year to Date: $1,829,750
+/- Budget: $-172,150

ADVENT SEASON

Longest Night Service: Sunday, December 21 // 6pm
Join us for a unique service where we acknowledge that this world isn't perfect and can be difficult to endure at times. Even in the hardships, we cling to the hope of the gospel and find peace in the love of a God who sent his son to rescue us from this fallen world.

Christmas Eve Service: Wednesday, December 24 // 3pm
Join us on Christmas Eve for our traditional Christmas Eve service. Sing Christmas songs, hear a brief message, sing *"Silent Night"* by candlelight and celebrate the arrival of *God With Us*! Stay after for cookies and cocoa.

Invite someone to join us!
Stop by the Info Center for invitations to our Christmas services to share with those in your life as you walk through the discipleship steps of *engage* & *explore*.

Help serve cookies & cocoa: Help us spread holiday cheer! We are looking for volunteers to serve cookies and cocoa after Christmas Eve service. It's a fun, easy way to bless hundreds of people! Scan the QR code or contact Laura at: info@graceinracine.com for more information.

Advent Playlist
Scan the QR code for our Advent playlist on Spotify.
Enjoy these songs as you move through the Advent season and wait upon the arrival of our Savior.

Christmas Gifts at The Bookstall
Looking for gift ideas? We have books for the youngest and oldest on your list. Stop by and we'll help you pick something out.

GRACE HAPPENINGS

PLEASE JOIN US

The G Family Commissioning
Sunday, December 14
Join us during the service as we commission the G Family for long-term service in Central Asia. Afterward, head to The Commons for cake and to offer words of encouragement. They depart after Christmas!

MISSIONS PRAYER HOUR

Monday, December 15
7-8pm // Room A29
Come join us as we pray for Tom Mauer as he prepares to leave for the mission field in South Africa. Coffee and kringle will be served.

STUDENT MINISTRIES: BLAZE

Pod Night!
Wednesday, December 17
Scan the QR code for the listing of locations for the upcoming Pod Night. Pod Nights are a time for students and leaders to connect outside of regular ministry.

CARING FOR GRACE FAMILIES

If your family is experiencing financial challenges and would be blessed by assistance with your Chrismas dinner, fill out a Connect Card, write “Christmas" along with your name, address & phone number and drop it in the offering box.
Contact Pam: 262-632-2111
pnichols@graceinracine.com.

WE'RE HIRING!

Facilities Associate (Part time)
The part time Facilities Associate (FA) is responsible for the overall cleanliness, orderliness, and upkeep of church facilities to ensure they are presentable and functional for staff, members, and visitors. This includes performing routine and emergency cleaning, light maintenance, and assisting with special event setups. This job will require evening and weekend availability. Scan the QR code to apply & for more information.

GIVING STATEMENTS

These will be ***emailed*** to you in January. Please take time to verify your email address in the Church Center app. If you need help, call the church office.

GIVING ENVELOPES

2026 Giving Envelopes are available for pick-up at the table next to the Life Group/Care Group wall.
Questions: Contact Pam
pnichols@graceinracine.com
262-632-2111

Scan here for sign-ups, and more info on items listed in the Worship Guide.