



*H*ELD BY
HUMAN
HANDS

To Know Christ &
To Make Christ Known

G graceinracine.com
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Advent in the Epistles

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

["Come Adore The Humble King"](#)

Welcome

Alex Picchietti

PRAISE

Call To Worship

["Joy To The World \(Joyful Joyful\)"](#)

["The First Noel \(Born Is The King\)"](#)

RENEWAL

Advent Prayer: *Peace*

Dean & Shari Blake

"Christmas Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)"

PROCLAMATION

Reading of the Word

[2 Corinthians 8:1-15](#)

Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of the Word

Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

The Lord's Supper

Clint Klepp, Elder

["Come Adore The Humble King"](#)

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: Caren Larsen, Roger Prucha

On the passing of Carol Meissner, our love and sympathy to her daughter, Luann (Bill) Menke, and granddaughter, Rachel Menke.

Our heartfelt love, sympathy, and prayers to Jennifer & Paul Durbin on the passing of Jennifer's brother, Mike Buck.

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 "Worshippers 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.

The second week of Advent is often associated with the idea of peace. As we continue to anticipate “God With Us” by exploring what the New Testament epistles say about the incarnation, we as believers, can rejoice and rest in the peace that comes only through the generosity of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. What does our culture often mean when they talk about “Christmas spirit” and claim that “it is better to give than to receive”? What does this passage show us that our culture often misunderstands about generosity?
2. How did the Lord Jesus become poor in order to make us rich (v. 9)? How does this new richness enable us to be generous to others?
3. Verse 5 says that the churches “gave themselves first of the Lord and then by the will of God.” Why does the order of this giving matter? How might getting this order right and getting this order wrong look like in our lives?
4. How does 2 Corinthians 8 encourage us to pursue generous living not just at Christmas but throughout every day of the year? If we are enabled to be generous through the generosity of God toward us, is generosity ever completely beyond our means (v. 3)?
5. In what areas do you struggle to *receive* grace and generosity? How does 2 Corinthians 8 equip you to be a better receiver of grace both from God and from others?
6. In this passage we see the gospel as a beautiful picture of generosity. Who is someone in your life who is in need of the generosity of the gospel? How does this passage equip and encourage you to generously share the gospel with others during this season of giving?

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

[2 Corinthians 8:9-15](#)

Pastor Mike Matheson

RICHES TO RAGS

Next Week: Third Sunday of Advent // [Galatians 4:1-7](#)

About the series art:

Joyful Christmas by Viggo Johansen (1891)

This is a depiction of the artist’s family, singing carols on Christmas Eve, 1891. The only light in the room is provided by the many candles on the tree.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

LAST WEEK

Attendance: 632

Giving: \$14,020

2025 GIVING

Year to Date: \$1,780,515

+/- Budget: \$-161,385

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.

Visit The Bookstall

Looking for meaningful gifts for the children in your life? Stop by and browse our wide selection of children's books perfect for Christmas giving.

GRACE HAPPENINGS

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

A total of **\$28,984** was collected and will be designated to:

Globally: The INN (International Neighborhood Network)

Locally: Grace Local Partner HALO (The Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization)

NEWCOMER GATHERING

Postponed

The Newcomer Gathering that was previously scheduled to take place today, December 7th, has been postponed to **Sunday, January 11th**.

This is a time to learn more about Grace and meet some of the staff & Pastors. Stop by the Welcome Table or scan the QR code for more info.

ENLIVEN SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 11 // 12pm

All those age 55+ are invited to come for food, fellowship and a message. We will provide the main dish of pasta and meatballs. Scan the QR code to RSVP.

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.

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!

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.

CARING FOR GRACE FAMILIES

If your family is experiencing financial challenges and would be blessed by assistance with your Christmas 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.



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