



GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Welcome & Preparation: Tom Ayres

Call to Worship: Psalm 95

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

All: Let us come before him with thanksgiving, and extol him with music and song.

Leader: For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hands are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

All: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Song of Worship: Hail To The Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!

He comes with comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong.
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in His sight.

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth.

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!

The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.
His Name shall stand forever, That Name to us is Love.

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!

Prayer of Adoration: (Concluded by all saying the Lord's Prayer)

Our 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. 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.

Silent Praise & Thanksgiving:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 107:1-9 Korey Tietjen

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!
For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Songs of Worship: **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!
Shall come to thee, O Israel!
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our Heavenly Father A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises All you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas All others doth deface
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born

To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,
Him all the hosts of heav'n.

His Name shall be the Prince of Peace,
Forevermore adorned,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The great and mighty Lord.

His pow'r, increasing, still shall spread,
His reign no end shall know,
And justice guard His throne above,
And peace abound below.

To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The mighty Lord of heav'n.

Advent Candle Lighting: The Moore Family (Gus, Dawn, Mina, Katherine, and Margaret)

Children's Dismissal & Announcements: Fill out our [Connection Card](http://www.gracehamptons.org/connect). www.gracehamptons.org/connect

- **Congregational Prayer Gathering.** TODAY, after the worship service.
- **GraceYouth Senior High Gatherings.** The 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 7PM. High school students are invited to the Middlekauff home for some great times and Bible discussion. For more information, contact Lesley Middlekauff (lesleym@gracehamptons.org).
- **Ladies Bible Study.** Tuesdays, 9AM. Dive into God's Word and enjoy weekly fellowship! For more information, contact Lesley Middlekauff (lesleym@gracehamptons.org).
- **GraceYouth Group Gathering.** Wednesdays, 6:30PM-8PM. We will gather at the church for some fun times and good Bible conversations. Invite your friends for a great time! For more information, contact Lesley Middlekauff (lesleym@gracehamptons.org).
- **Christmas Carol Bingo.** Sunday, December 8th, 1:45-3PM. Come join us for a fun visit as we lead Christmas Carol Bingo for the Hamptons Center Nursing Home residents. For more information, contact Lesley Middlekauff (lesleym@gracehamptons.org).
- **SecondSaturdaysOut!** Saturday, December 14th, 5:30PM-9:15PM. To register your child(ren), visit gracehamptons.org/secondsaturdaysout or on the Grace Church app. To volunteer, email Sally Spanbush (sally@gracehamptons.org) or sign up on the Grace Church app.
- **Christmas Party at the Middlekauffs'!** Sunday, December 15th, 5PM. You are invited to a Christmas Dinner Party at the Middlekauffs'! Come enjoy a wonderful meal, great company, and lots of Christmas cheer! You can come for the whole night or just stop in for a bit. Bring your spouse, friend and neighbor!
- **Christmas Eve Service.** Tuesday, December 24th, 5PM. Join us for a special service of joy and singing!
- **The Retreat's Adopt-a-Family.** We are partnering with The Retreat again this year in their Adopt-a-Family program. We will be raising money to buy gift cards for families so they can purchase gifts and necessities for their families. Please consider giving to this important work. We will be collecting money until December 17th. You can give online: gracehamptons.org/giving. Click "Donate", then choose "2024 Adopt-A-Family" as your fund. You can also give cash or a check with "The Retreat" on the memo line or envelope.
- **Little Free Pantry.** Our LFP gets regular and consistent use and so our supplies are once again severely depleted. Please consider donating items to help us regularly re-stock the pantry. Visit gracehamptons.org/LFP to find our [Amazon link](#) to order supplies and have them shipped straight to Grace Church!

Offertory: *To give via text, text the word "GIVE" to [833-892-6212](tel:833-892-6212). First time givers will have to fill out a short form with billing information. After the initial setup, giving is as easy as sending a text message.*

Prayer of Confession:

Lord God, we have given more weight to our successes and our happiness than to your will.
We have eaten without a thought for the hungry.
We have spoken without an effort to understand others.
We have stored up treasure on earth instead of stewarding what you entrust to us.
We have kept silence instead of telling the truth.
We have judged others, forgetful that you alone are the Judge.
We have acted rather in accordance with our opinions than according to your commands.
Within your church we have been slow to practice love of our neighbors.
And in the world we have not been your faithful servants.
In all these actions and more, before you and our fellow man, we have profaned your holy name.
Forgive us and help us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Private Confession:

Words of Encouragement: Daniel 9:9, 18

To the LORD our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him.... O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.

Prayer of the People: Adriana Pariz

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Sermon: *God's Will: Rejoice, Pray, Give Thanks*

Rev. Mark Middlekauff

Congregation Thanksgiving and Sharing:

The Lord's Supper:

Hymn of Response: **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Dismissal:

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All: Hallelujah, Amen!