

# GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 23, 2007

8:45 a.m.



## GATHERING PRAISE

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE

*Dan and Nancy Cave*

*Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy*

Leader: Long ago the people were given a sign of God's love.

People: **"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him 'Emmanuel,' which means "God is with us."**

Leader: God's promise to us remains sure and true. God's Anointed One will soon walk among us, to lighten our darkness, to restore the joy of our salvation, to save us from our sins. God's love light shines into our hearts bringing hope, peace and joy!

*Light the Candle of Love*

All: **God of mystery, plant a stubborn hope deep in our hearts that we will be able to embrace the Christ-Child when Jesus is birthed anew in our lives. Help us accept your gifts of peace that we cannot begin to understand. Teach us your ways of joy and put your song of love on our lips. We pray in the name of Christ, Amen.**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

### PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

### CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

## BOWING BEFORE GOD IN 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Matthew 1: 18-25

### SERMON

**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

**CELEBRATION SONG**  
**BLESSING**  
**DEPARTING IN FAITH AND HOPE**

All songs projected by permission: CCLI # 945944

December 23, 2007

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

11:15 a.m.

Today we use *The Presbyterian Hymnal (blue)*

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHIMES**

**PRELUDE**

The Congregation Stands

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN #12 (stanzas 1, 2, 3 & 4)**

**People, Look East**

VALET WLL ICH DIR GEBEN

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*adapted from Psalm 80*)

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**People: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth! Stir up  
your might, and come to save us!!**

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**People: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom  
you made strong for yourself.**

Leader: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call  
on your name.

**All: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we  
may be saved!**

**GLORIA #579**

GREATOREX

The Congregation is Seated

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE**

*Kristen Waddell, Catie, Sarah and Vaughn*

*Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy*

Leader: Long ago the people were given a sign of God's love.

**People: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him  
'Emmanuel,' which means "God is with us."**

Leader: God's promise to us remains sure and true. God's Anointed One will soon walk  
among us, to lighten our darkness, to restore the joy of our salvation, to save us  
from our sins. God's love light shines into our hearts bringing hope, peace and joy!

*Light the Candle of Love*

**All: God of mystery, plant a stubborn hope deep in our hearts that we will be able  
to embrace the Christ-Child when Jesus is birthed anew in our lives. Help us  
accept your gifts of peace that we cannot begin to understand. Teach us your  
ways of joy and put your song of love on our lips. We pray in the name of  
Christ, Amen.**

*Choir: Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,  
Where evil is banished and faith takes the day,  
A babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.  
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Our Lord, Emmanuel, forgive us when our shadowed lives dim your Love Light; when the tinsel of Christmas means more to us than your truth; when our hearts of stone resist the pain and brokenness around us; when we care more about what is under the tree, than the deep woundedness of your creation.**

**Have mercy on us, Healing God, so we may tear down the walls we have built to keep your love away; so we may seek your justice for our sisters and brothers; and, so our hearts may become cradles for your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

*A Time for Silent Prayers of Confession*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Leader:** Rejoice, People of God, and hear the good news that is made known to all people: Christ Jesus was born to save us from our sins.

**All:** **In Christ Jesus our sins are forgiven!** Glory and praise to the only wise God, who has poured divine love into our hearts. Amen.

The Congregation Stands

### HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #12 (stanza 5)

**People, Look East**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**Leader:** May the joy of the Lord be always with you all!

**People:** **And also with you.**

*(The people greet fellow worshippers with the peace of Christ)*

The Congregation is Seated

### GATHERING HYMN #37 (stanza 1)

W ZLOBIE LEZY

**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

### CHILDREN IN THE CHANCEL

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

**Isaiah 7:10-16**

### READING FROM THE EPISTLES

**Romans 1:1-7**

### ANTHEM O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. by Patrick Liebergen

### READING FROM THE GOSPELS

**Matthew 1:18-25**

### SERMON

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

The Congregation Stands

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**The Apostles' Creed (traditional, hymnal, p. 14)**

The Congregation is Seated

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**The Lord's Prayer** (...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us)

**Choral Response Emmanuel** **Bob McGee**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**Offertory Sentence**

**Offertory African Noel** **arr. by Patrick Liebergen**

The Congregation Stands

**Doxology #592** OLD HUNDREDTH

**Prayer of Dedication**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN # 602**

**Song of Zechariah** MERLE'S TUNE

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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**WELCOME VISITORS:** In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to worship today. Please sign the friendship pad during the announcements so that we may have a record of your presence today.

**SALT SHAKER DINNERS:** Don't forget to sign up for these dinners. We enjoy wonderful food and great fellowship. Deadline is December 30.

**FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** The exterior doors of the main building will be re-keyed to match the exterior doors of the new addition shortly after January 1. The Committee is presently in the process of issuing new keys to the Elders, Church Staff, School personnel, and designated Church committee members. If you are not one of the above listed groups and would like to have a key, please leave a note in the Property Committee box located in the Church office. To offset the cost of obtaining duplicate keys, there will be a small fee charged for the new keys. This fee will be waived if you have Church duties that require you to have entry to the buildings. Present key holders are advised to retain their old keys since it provides access to several other areas in the building.

**A REMINDER ABOUT FINANCES:** 2007 is quickly drawing to a close. If you made a monetary pledge to the church's general fund for the current year, please make every effort to pay your pledge in full by the end of December. Also, for those who made a pledge to the Building Fund 3 years ago, please remember that 2007 is the final year to complete payment of these pledges. This is a very critical time for church finances as we close out 2007 and seek to begin 2008 on as strong a financial base as possible. Grace Presbyterian Church greatly appreciates all of you who so faithfully support the church's ministry with your giving.

**Grace Presbyterian Church welcomes Linda Cole as our new Administrative Assistant.** She will be working 20 hours per week and her tentative work schedule will be - Monday: 9 am - 1 pm, Tuesday: 10 am - 2 pm, Wednesday: 1 pm - 5 pm, Thursday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm and Friday: 9 am - 1 pm. Please note that the bulletin will be prepared on Thursday, so **all announcements to be included in the bulletin must be in to the church office by Thursday morning at 10:00 am.**

**Dear Grace Presbyterian Church—The Krech Family** thanks you for your prayers and loving support during the illness of our loved one, James Krech and for the beautiful music, the ample luncheon and the friendship and affection showed upon us.

**Thank you for all of your support** in the form of prayers, caring thoughts, cards, calls and food following John's surgery. Our Grace Presbyterian Church family is a blessing and has given us strength. **John & Rosemary Gordon**

## **Calendar of Events for Dec. 23, 2007 to Dec. 30, 2007**

### Sunday, December 23, 2007

8:45 am	Contemporary Worship
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:15 am	Traditional Worship
5:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal

### Monday, December 24, 2007

7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
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### Tuesday, December 25, 2007

MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Friday, December 28, 2007

8:00 pm	Youth Lock-in
7:30 pm	Choir Practice

### Sunday, December 30, 2007

8:45 am	Contemporary Worship
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:15 am	Traditional Worship
5:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal



## **IN SERVICE NEXT WEEK December 30, 2007**

Oversight Elders: Opening – Mark Gray, Closing – Sarah Pfaffenroth  
Hosts 11:15 a.m.: Sandy Kehrli, John Price, Harold Howard, Miree Pomeroy

### **THE SESSION (Our governing body)**

<b><u>Class of 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2010</u></b>
Dossett Foster, Session Clerk	Cathy Bendall	Bill Carroll
John Gordon	Joe Bishop	John Evans
Cathy Harris	Byron Graves	Mark Gray
Charlotte Hicks	Sandy Kehrli	Jean Markham
Sarah Pfaffenroth	Miree Pomeroy	Walt Schrimper
Jere Lawson	John Price	Jean Starnes

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Judith Reese – [jreese@grace-pres.org](mailto:jreese@grace-pres.org).  
Cell phone (901) 233-7813

Director of Music: Charlotte Eaheart Hicks, CCM – [chicks@grace-pres.org](mailto:chicks@grace-pres.org).

Director of Instrumental Music: Bob Vawter – [bvawter@bellsouth.net](mailto:bvawter@bellsouth.net)

Youth Director: Cristaldawn Perry – [revmission2002@yahoo.com](mailto:revmission2002@yahoo.com)

Children's Director: Betsy Bogen – [bbogen8960@comcast.net](mailto:bbogen8960@comcast.net)

Organist: Jean Jones – [jjones8960@comcast.net](mailto:jjones8960@comcast.net)

Nursery Attendants: Kathe Walker and Judy Thigpun

Church Administrator: Betsy Lewis – [blewis@grace-pres.org](mailto:blewis@grace-pres.org)

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