

# *Grace* Covenant Church

**“To the  
Praise  
of  
His  
Glorious  
Grace”**

**Ephesians 1:6**

## Welcome to Grace!

May God bless you this morning as we worship Him together! We extend a special welcome to those who are with us for the first time and are glad you are here!

**Nursery service** is available for children ages 3 and under. The nursery is located on the northeast corner of the main level. Go through the double doors across from the Sanctuary into the Fellowship Hall, then through the double doors on the far side of the hall to the right.

**Restrooms** are located in the office wing on the east side of the Sanctuary (access at end of narthex).

Blue **Communication Cards** are available on the back table in the Sanctuary to help us connect with our **visitors and newcomers** and receive **updates and requests for information or prayer** from any who have need. Please place completed forms in the basket on the back table.

**Classes** for all ages to help us grow in Christ begin at **9:30 a.m.** on Sundays. Please use the east entrances or the kitchen entrance from the north lot if able to avoid distracting our hosts as they worship. After our classes and before worship, please join us for **refreshments** and catch up with everyone **in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:30 a.m.**

\*You are invited to stand as you are able for starred parts of the service.

# **The Promised Champion**

## **November 30, 2025**

Gathering Time

Welcome

Piano Prelude (*please be seated and prepare for worship*)

\*Call to Worship

Luke 2:8-14

\*Opening Hymn

*Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
You who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
You have seen His natal star:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

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\*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn of Praise

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly 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.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in Him  
From Satan's pow'r and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:  
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

## Preparation for Confession

Romans 3:10b-20

There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes. Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

## Private Confession of Sin

### Declaration of Grace

Romans 5:18-21

### \*Hymn of Gratitude

*What Child Is This*

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,

Where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through;

The cross be borne for me, for you:

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mary.

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## The Community of Grace

Offering (*see community page for electronic giving options*)

\*Offertory Response

*Gloria Patri*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

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\*Prayer for God's Blessing

Sermon Series: In the Fullness of Time, God sent His Son

Sermon Text: Genesis 3:14-4:1

"The First Promise of Christ" - Pastor Todd Bowen

\*Hymn of Response

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee,  
Dayspring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to Him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end;  
By His life He brings us gladness,  
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
This the Everlasting Wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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*From The Trinity Hymnal*

\*Benediction

# Grace Covenant Church

A Congregation of the *Presbyterian Church in America*

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## Our Mission

Grace Covenant Church exists to *glorify God*

- ✚ By **exalting Him** in true worship,
- ✚ By **equipping His people** for ministry, and
- ✚ By **extending His kingdom** in  
Central Nebraska unto the ends of the earth.

## Our Identity

***We are Evangelical*** (from *euangelion* in New Testament Greek – “good news”). We believe the Gospel, the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, God’s revealed and authoritative Word. The Gospel is central among the themes of Scripture, and is to be central in the worship, life, and ministry of our church.

***We are Reformed***. We hold to the great Biblical truths that were recovered in the Protestant Reformation. Our understanding of these truths is summarized in our doctrinal standards, the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*. These truths are important in the teaching and leadership of our church.

***We are Presbyterian***. Our church is governed by elders (*presbuteros* in New Testament Greek), who shepherd and lead the congregation, and deacons, who serve in the areas of finances, property, and ministries of mercy. Our understanding of these Biblical offices and other matters of church government and worship are summarized in the *Book of Church Order* of our denomination, the *Presbyterian Church in America*.