

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.

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

The Light of the World

December 14, 2025

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

*Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*Opening Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

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*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn of Praise *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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Entrance into Confession (Responsive Reading: 1 John 1:5-2:2)

Leader: This is the message we have heard from Him
and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is
no darkness at all.

People: **If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet
walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live
by the truth.**

Leader: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

People: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Leader: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

People: If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.

Leader: But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

People: He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

1 John 1:9

*Hymn of Gratitude

The Light of the World Is Jesus

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin;
The Light of the world is Jesus.
Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in;
The Light of the world is Jesus.

Chorus

Come to the Light, it shines for thee.
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me.
Once I was blind, but now I can see,
The Light of the world is Jesus.

No darkness have we who in Jesus abide,
The Light of the world is Jesus.
We walk in the Light when we follow our guide,
The Light of the world is Jesus.

Chorus

Come to the Light, it shines for thee.
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me.
Once I was blind, but now I can see,
The Light of the world is Jesus.

Ye dwellers in darkness with sin-blinded eyes,
The Light of the world is Jesus.
Go, wash at His bidding and Light will arise,
The Light of the world is Jesus.

(Repeat Chorus)

No need of the sunlight in heaven we're told,
The Light of the world is Jesus.
The Lamb is the Light in the City of Gold,
The Light of the world is Jesus.

(Repeat Chorus)

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The Community of Grace

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

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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*Prayer for God's Blessing

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

Sermon Text: Isaiah 9:1-7

"The Promised King" - Pastor Todd Bowen

*Hymn of Response

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!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,

To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

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,

Were precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth;

Before Him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;

And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blessed;

The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;

His Name shall stand forever—that Name to us is Love.

By James Montgomery & Samuel S. Wesley; 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*.