

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 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 has need. Please place completed forms in the basket on the back table.

Please help us observe the policy of our hosts by refraining from bringing food or drink into the Sanctuary except for water and the needs of small children.

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

The Great King

December 21, 2025

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

*Call to Worship

Luke 2:8-15

*Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb:
Very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn of Praise

See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw

See Him lying on a bed of straw:
A drafty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the Babe she bore,
The Prince of glory is His name.

Chorus

O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord of love again:
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when He came.

Star of silver sweep across the skies,
Show where Jesus in the manger lies;
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise,
To see the Savior of the world!

(Repeat Chorus)

Angels sing again the song you sang,
Sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
Sing that Bethl'em's little Baby can
Be the Savior of us all.

(Repeat Chorus)

Mine are riches from Your poverty,
From Your innocence, eternity;
Mine, forgiveness by Your death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.

(Repeat Chorus)

Preparation for Confession

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

Matthew 1:20-23

*Hymn of Gratitude

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

All my heart this night rejoices as I hear far and near
Sweetest angel voices.

"Christ is born," their choirs are singing
Till the air ev'rywhere now with joy is ringing.

Forth today the Conqu'ror goeth, Who the foe, sin and woe,
Death and hell, o'er throweth. God is Man, man to deliver;
His dear Son now is One with our blood forever.

Shall we still dread God's displeasure,
Who, to save, freely gave His most cherished Treasure?
To redeem us, He hath given His own Son from the throne
Of His might in heaven.

He becomes the Lamb that taketh
Sin away and for aye full atonement maketh.
For our life His own He tenders;
And our race, by His grace, meet for glory renders.

Hark! A voice from yonder manger,
Soft and sweet, doth entreat: "Flee from woe and danger.
Brethren, from all ills that grieve you,
You are freed; all you need I will surely give you."

Come, then, banish all your sadness,
One and all, great and small; come with songs of gladness.
Love Him who with love is glowing;
Hail the star, near and far light and joy bestowing.

Dearest Lord, Thee will I cherish,
Though my breath fail in death, yet I shall not perish,
But with Thee abide forever
There on high, in that joy which can vanish never.

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The Community of Grace

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

*Offertory Response *Come, Thou Almighty King* (v. 2)

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend.
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

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*Prayer for God's Blessing

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

Sermon Text: Micah 5:1-5a

"A Great King from a Little Place" - Pastor Todd Bowen

*Hymn of Response *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.

A Helper just He comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord abide!
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new & nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
Until the glorious crown be won.

By Georg Weissel & Catherine Winkwork; Words & Music: Public Domain; 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*.