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GraceFallsChurchVA



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Grace Falls Church

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

The Season of Advent is the four weeks leading to Christmas. During Advent God's Word prepares us to welcome the Savior of the Nations at Christmas once again, and to prepare to welcome him at his Second Coming. This year Grace's Midweek Advent theme is "Advent Amid COVID-19." Tonight, we focus on the historic Advent theme of "Rejoice." Given that we are in a global pandemic; that millions of people in our country are out of work; that there are heightened political and racial tensions in our nation; and that individuals are dealing with all kinds of personal suffering and problems, it might seem as if this Advent season we will have to forego the theme of "Rejoice." Is there anything to rejoice about? Yes, there are many reasons for us to rejoice in God! Tonight, we have some before us. We rejoice in the promises of God. We rejoice in the hope of God. And we rejoice in Jesus our Savior! And so, let us rejoice!

INVOCATION

Pastor Kevin: In the name of the Father and of the Son (✝) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor Kevin: Christians throughout the world right now are celebrating the season of Advent. Believers are preparing their hearts for the coming Savior. We wait in patient expectation for Christmas and for the Second Coming of Jesus. We rejoice to experience Jesus' coming!

Congregation: Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
found on page 4

We Rejoice in the Promises of God

Pastor Kevin: "Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus..."

Congregation: "...because he will save his people from their sins." *Matthew 1:21*

Pastor Kevin: The Bible has been given to us by God so that we can hear his words, know his will, and trust what he has done for us throughout history. When we go back to the beginning of the whole story, we see that we have disobeyed the God who created us to love and serve him.

Congregation: There is no one who does good, not even one. *Psalm 14:3*

Pastor Kevin: However, God does not treat us as our sins deserve. Instead, he promised to send a Savior who would take away the sins of the world. He sent reminders of this promise to his people revealing more and more over time. God promised Adam and Eve:
Congregation: **“I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”** *Genesis 3:15*

Pastor Kevin: He reminded Jacob:
Congregation: **“All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”** *Genesis 28:14*

Pastor Kevin: Many years later, the prophet Isaiah told Israel exactly how this Savior would come:
Congregation: **“Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”** *Isaiah 7:14*

SOLO “Come, Jesus Holy Son of God”

We Rejoice in the Hope of God

Pastor Kevin: Throughout the Old Testament, people waited patiently and expectantly for the Messiah’s first coming.

Congregation: **I lift up my eyes to the mountains—Where does my help come from?**

Pastor Kevin: My help comes from the LORD,
Congregation: **The maker of Heaven and Earth.** *Psalm 121:1-2*

Pastor Kevin: As God’s people waited, God preserved their hope in the Savior he promised would come.
Congregation: **We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.** *Psalm 33:20*

Pastor Kevin: Hope filled the hearts of Zechariah and Elizabeth when Gabriel came to them and promised that their son, John, would prepare the way for the Messiah. Zechariah sang to the LORD:

Congregation: **And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare a way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.** *Luke 1:76*

SOLO “Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song)”

We Rejoice in Jesus the Savior!

ADVENT MESSAGE Advent Amid COVID-19: Rejoice! Isaiah 9:1-7

Pastor Kevin: In Christ, all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form. *Colossians 2:9*

Congregation: There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:5

Pastor Kevin: When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:4

Congregation: Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

ADVENT BLESSING

Pastor Kevin: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as your trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Congregation: Amen.

HYMN

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

15

4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; "Christ is
 2 Lo, the Lamb, so long - ex - spect - ed, Comes with
 3 That, when next he comes with glo - ry And the
 4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the

Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -

near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He may shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -

last - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

works of dark - ness; You are chil - dren of the day."
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n,
 with his mer - cy, And with words of love draw near.
 last - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

“SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME”

[Verse 1]

Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

[Verse 2]

Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh,
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

[Verse 3]

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned,
Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!

[Verse 4]

From the Father's throne he came
And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell --
High the song of triumph swell!

[Verse 5]

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.

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