

GRACECHURCH

A CHRISTIAN REFORMED CONGREGATION



Benvenuto di Giovanni, Single Leaf from an Antiphony:
Initial H[odie nobis] with The Nativity, 1471

Dec. 6, 2020

Prelude

Call to Worship

Song

“With Joy I Hear My Friends Exclaim”

LUYH #66, vs. 1, 3 & 4 - PSALM 122

With joy I heard my friends exclaim:
“Come, let us in God’s temple meet.”
Within your gates, O Zion blest,
shall ever stand our willing feet.

They come to learn the will of God,
to pay their vows, God’s grace to own,
for there is judgment’s royal seat,
Messiah’s sure and lasting throne.

For Zion’s peace let prayers be made;
may all that love you prosper well!
Within your walls let peace abide,
and gladness with your children dwell.

(Refrain):

*Come, let us go to the house of the Lord.
Zion, sing; sing out your peace and joy.*

Words: Psalter, 1912, alt.; ref. Hal H. Hopson © 2008 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

God Greet Us; We Greet Each Other

Song

“Oh Shepherd, Hear and Lead your Flock”

LYUH # 64 - PSALM 80

O Shepherd, hear and lead your flock,
as lambs we crave your care;
what strength on earth approaches yours,
what mercies can compare?
Restore, O God, your favor, the radiance of your face
to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

Our selfish prayers deserve God’s wrath,
our pride, a sudden burst;
we have but stones to serve as bread,
and tears to quell our thirst.
Restore, O God Almighty, the radiance of your face
to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

God’s lineage, like a vine,
once spread and flourished in the land;
but now the vineyard fails, the fruit
lies withered in the sand.
Restore, LORD God Almighty, the radiance of your face to
lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

Words: Michael Morgan © 1999, 2011 Michael Morgan, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Song

“The Love of God”

(Lehman/Nehori)

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell
The guilty pair bowed down with care
God gave His Son to win
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin

Chorus:

*O love of God how rich and pure
How measureless and strong
It shall forevermore endure
The saints and angels song*

Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky

Chorus

CCLI Song # 18448

Frederick Martin Lehman | Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai

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Advent Candle

Song

“You are the King of Glory”

(Loden/ Loden)

You are the King of Glory.
You are the Prince of Peace.
You are the Sun of Righteousness, with
healing in your wings.

Angels bow down before You.
Worship and adore.
You are the Lord of Heaven and earth
Now and forevermore.
Hosannah Son of David.
Hosanna Prince of Peace.
Glory to God in the highest:
Jesus, Messiah, reigns.

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Prayer of Illumination

A Proclamation of the Gospel from Deuteronomy 7:1-11 and John 3:16-21

Pastor Perrin Werner

Deuteronomy 7:1-11

7 When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—² and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally.^[a] Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.³ Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons,⁴ for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.⁵ This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles^[b] and burn their idols in the fire.⁶ For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

[a] Deuteronomy 7:2 – The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the LORD, often by totally destroying them

[b] Deuteronomy 7:5 – That is, wooden symbols of the goddess Asherah

⁷The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

¹⁰But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him. ¹¹Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.

John 3:16-21

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Leader: The Word of the LORD!
All: **Thanks be to God!**

Song

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LUYH #175

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707, P.D.

Our Life Together (Announcements):

New Email - Please note Pastor Perrin Werner's new email address:
pastor_perrin@gracecrcigh.org

Sunday Worship –The Worship Team will be live-streaming the 9:30 A.M. service from inside, with limited access to the building. We will also broadcast from a short-range FM transmitter into the parking lot, or you can visit from the comfort and safety of your home at www.facebook.com/www.gracecrcigh.org/

Attendance – Please record your attendance with us, submit a prayer request, or simply ask a question using this [Contact Form](#) .

Mail-In Donations – You can mail checks to Grace CRC 3540 75th Street East, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076. If you would like to give to Grace Church online, visit https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/345761

The special offering for December will be for 360 Communities, whose staff and volunteers provide hope and support to more than 16,000 individuals each year with nine programs in over 40 Twin Cities locations, including a network of five food shelves, two domestic violence shelters, and two resource centers. With effective and holistic programming, 360 Communities leverages community partnerships, builds trusting relationships, and breaks cycles of violence and poverty by providing stabilizing resources such as safe shelter, healthy food, and housing support. <https://360communities.org/>

Kingdom Kids – Pastor Jane shares that a few families in the Kingdom Kids Bible Study would appreciate help with Christmas presents this season. Please designate your special gift to Grace Church with “Kingdom Kids.”

Virtual Narthex – Meet each other after the service on Zoom! **Mtg ID: 954 460 202, Passcode: 593616**

Alcoholics Anonymous – meets Sundays at 7:30 P.M.

Prayer & Conversation – Join in, Thursdays at 7:30 P.M. on Zoom!
Meeting ID: 721 899 027, passcode: 705095

Faithlife.com - Please search for “Grace Christian Reformed Church” in Inver Grove Heights, MN to join the church group!

Community Life Team - In lieu of meals after Dooley's surgery (scheduled for Dec. 29), the Community Life Team is helping with pre-op and post-op special dietary considerations. Please email Kelly Aukema at kaukema@gmail.com to find out how to help!

Christmas Eve Service - Would you like to read scripture, sing, or play an instrument for a pre-recorded Christmas Eve Service? Please contact Pastor Perrin Werner at pastor_perrin@gracecrcigh.org

Blood Drive - Please visit redcross.org and look up “Grace IGH” for the next Blood Drive on **Jan. 2, 2021**.

Prayer Requests - CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Please use this space to write down special prayer requests mentioned:

Congregational Prayer

Song

“Jesus Loves Me”

LYUH #709

Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

(Refrain):

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me—he who died
heaven’s gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.

Refrain

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, “Let them come to me.”

Refrain

Words: st. 1-2 Anna B. Warner, 1859, st. 3 David R. McGuire, 1971, P.D.

Benediction

We are grateful to God for the blessings of the lives and ministries of the people in our community. We celebrate milestones together!

Upcoming Birthdays:

Betty Weibel – Dec. 7	Gary Miller – Dec. 24
Emily Lynch – Dec. 9	Brianna Brown – Dec. 25
Sarah Markham - Dec. 18	Chris Beck – Dec. 26

Participating in the Worship Service today:

Piano: Laura Johnson, *Music & Liturgy:* Judy Gunnink,
Henry Gunnink and Rich Johnson

AV: Kelly Aukema, James Aukema, Garrett Aukema

Proclamation of the Word: Perrin Werner

Next week – December 13

Piano: Brian Aukema, *Music & Liturgy:* Ruthanne Crapo

AV: Kelly Aukema, James Aukema, Garrett Aukema

Proclamation of the Word: Perrin Werner

Council

Elders: Jim Lipscomb (president),

Wendy Huisken, Dan Crapo;

Deacons: Rick Huisken, Charlie Bloemendal;

Pastor: Perrin Werner.

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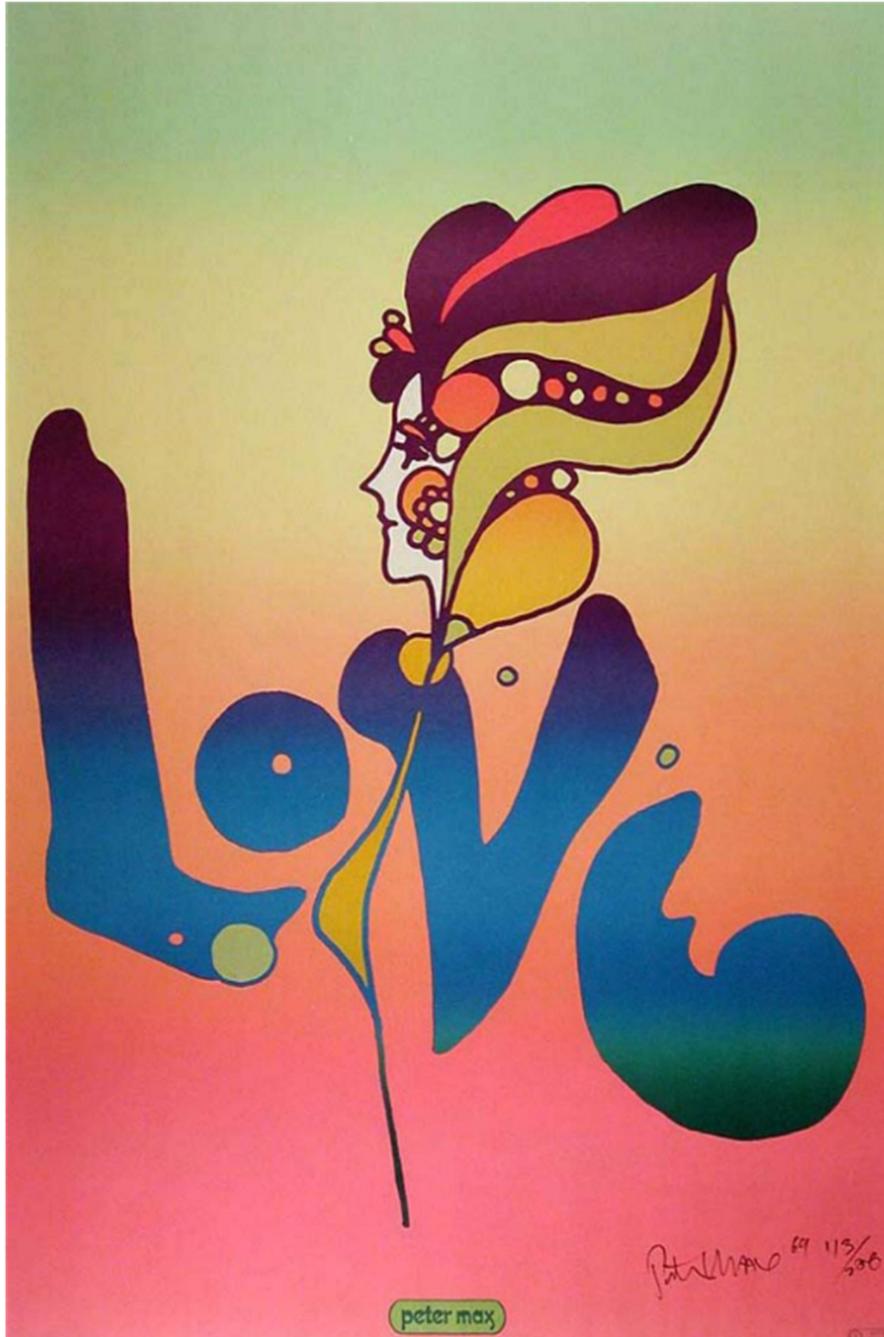
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Second Sunday of Advent – LOVE



Peter Max, *Love*, 1969

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