

## GROW

## NEW HERE?

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018  
9 & 10:30 A.M. TRADITIONAL

**Welcome**

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

*What Do You Want for Christmas?* - Angie Way, Interim Senior Pastor

The cry of Advent is: "Prepare the way for the Lord!" In this season of preparing for Christmas, how will you prepare the way for Jesus to be welcomed in your life?

## NOTES:

## FOLLOW ALONG

Bibles are available at the back of the worship space. Or, use your device.



### Here are three things you can do while you're here:

- Help yourself to **free coffee and cookies** in the Commons.
- **Stop by the big Orange Wall** for a free gift! You'll also find answers to any of your questions and other resources about our church family.
- If you're ready, let us know you were here by **going to [myorangewall.com](http://myorangewall.com)**.

## KIDS & STUDENTS

**HISKids PATHFINDERS** (for infants through age three) meets today in the Nursery.

**HISKids VOYAGERS, ADVENTURERS, & TRAILBLAZERS** (for **preschool through grade six**) generally meets weekly, except the first Sunday of each month, when all generations worship together.

**REFUGE & CONFIRMATION** (grades 7-12)  
gather weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Visit [gracepeople.church/refuge](http://gracepeople.church/refuge) for upcoming events.



## GIVING

- **Give online** at [gracepeople.church/give](https://gracepeople.church/give). Giving online is a convenient way to give, designate your gifts, and set up recurring gifts.
- **Checks or cash** can be placed in the offering basket as it passes during the designated time in the service. Make checks out to Community of Grace or CGLC.



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# Welcome

## WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

# WELCOME

to Community of Grace!

You are loved and welcomed in this place. Our love for you isn't based on what you've done in the past or where you've been previously that has brought you here today. Jesus' love isn't conditional either.

You are safe here. Take a breath and look around you. We may appear like we have it all together, but we struggle in some of the same areas as you. We are a community of grace, mostly because we all need a little grace and peace in our lives. Grace is here because Jesus is here.



## PROJECT HOME

[www.gracepeople.church](http://www.gracepeople.church)

Welcome & Announcements  
Commissioning of Jeanne Filkins  
*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* - Green Hymnal 34, sts. 1-4  
Confession & Forgiveness - Green Hymnal pg. 77  
Special Music - *Let Us All in God Rejoice* - Ken Berg  
Women's Chorale  
The Sharing of the Peace - Green Hymnal pg. 86  
Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reading - Isaiah 40:1-5 (Quest Study Bible pg. 1047)  
Gospel Verse & Acclamation - Green pg. 83  
Reading - Mark 1:1-8 (Quest Study Bible pg. 1463)  
Gospel Response - Green pg. 83  
Message - *What Do You Want For Christmas?*  
*Prepare the Royal Highway* - Green Hymnal 26

Apostles' Creed - Green Hymnal pg. 85  
Offering - *Round the Earth a Message* - Austin C. Lovelace  
Sanctuary Choir  
Offertory Response and Prayer - Green Hymnal pp. 86 & 87

**Communion**  
*(All are welcome at the table.)*

Words of Institution  
Our Lord's Prayer - Green Hymnal pg. 91  
Lamb of God... - Green Hymnal pg. 92  
*On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry* - Green Hymnal 36  
Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction  
*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* - Green Hymnal 34, st. 5  
Dismissal - Green Hymnal pg. 95



**COMING UP**



**Project Home**  
We have transformed our church building into an overnight homeless shelter, and we use faithful volunteers to care for and pour out love on families in need throughout December. Sign up and learn more at the display in the Commons.



**What Do You Want for Christmas? | Starts Today**  
This Advent we'll ask the question: What do you want for Christmas? We pray it will lead us to truly prepare our hearts to see past the tinsel and experience what Jesus wants us to receive. Advent devotionals will also be available today.



**Advent Services**  
On the Wednesdays of Advent (December 5, 12, and 19), at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, there will be Meditation Services to provide an opportunity for meditation on music, scripture, and prayer in the middle of the day.



**ROMEO & JULIET**  
*Retired Old Men Eating Out* happens the first Thursday of each month at Denny's Restaurant in Maplewood. *Just Us Ladies* will be *Informally Eating Together* at Manitou Grill in White Bear Lake on December 3. (Please sign up at the Information Desk.)



**Magnuson Bake Sale - December 16**  
The bake sale is back - one day only! Purchase some yummy holiday treats and support Magnuson Christian school all at the same time. Look for the tables in the Commons.



**Boy Scout Troop 112 Selling Wreaths Today**  
Troop 112 is at the main entrance selling wreaths for their fundraiser. Feel free to greet them and support their troop.



**Recycled Christmas Cards For Sale Today**  
A variety of Christmas cards (sets, postcards, etc.) are available for sale at the north end of the Commons today. Proceeds benefit missions.

Printed calendars and information on additional opportunities can be found at the Information Desk or at [gracepeople.church](http://gracepeople.church).

**GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION**

**CONNECT**

What do you want for Christmas? Is this an easy question for you right now or a hard one to answer? Why?

**LEARN & APPLY**

**Read Isaiah 9: 1-2, 6-7.** Why do you think the world needed God to send a Savior with these particular characteristics? What does this passage say both about our world's needs and about Jesus? Out of all these characteristics that God sends us, which one do you feel you need the most right now? Why?

**Read Isaiah 40:3-5.** What is the problem with the presence of mountains and valleys in this passage? What do they symbolize for you? What things are like mountains, what things are like valleys, and what things make the path seem crooked between you and God? In verse 5, what is expressed to be the goal of all of this?

Now, **read Mark 1:1-8.** In verse 4, what seems to need addressing in order to prepare the way for the Lord? In verse 8, John tells us that Jesus will open up a different kind of baptism for us. How might this verse connect to verse 5 in Isaiah 40? If Isaiah tells us the "what," what does Mark say about the "how?"

**Read John 14:1-6.** When Jesus has gone before us into death and new life, what does he now say about the "way?" Is this a way we need to prepare? Why or why not? What is in our power to prepare and what do you feel is Jesus' work alone?

How might you use your Christmas preparations this year to spiritually prepare as well? Share ideas together.

**PRAY**

Lord, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, help us find ways to prepare our hearts to truly receive anew the gift you give us in Jesus. Amen

This resource and more is always available at [gracepeople.church](http://gracepeople.church).