

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Setting VIII

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Zachary W. Johnson, Pastor

Donna Menzies, Assistant to the Pastor, Visitation & Spiritual Care

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Bob Menzies, Organist

Michelle Tune, Soprano

Anita Mork, Assistant Minister

Natalie Russell, Lector

Order of the Liturgy

Prelude "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" arr. Paul Manz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.



Hill Ave Grace
Lutheran Church

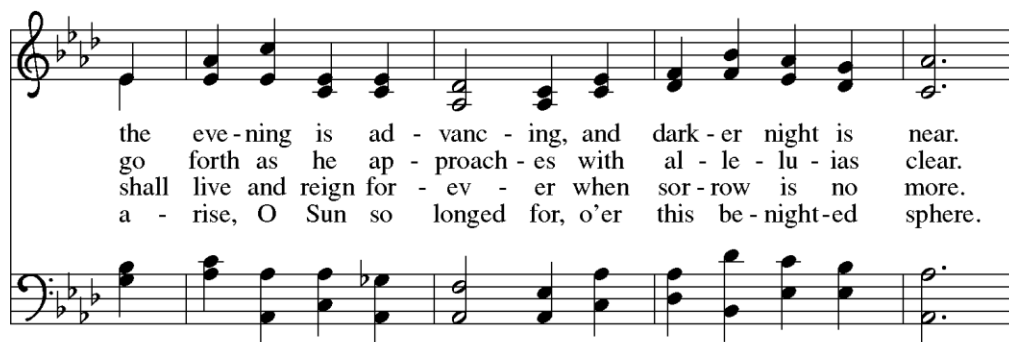
OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

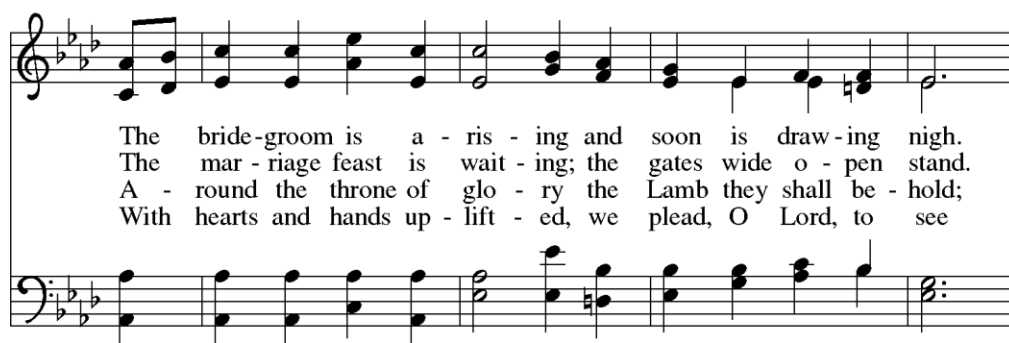
ELW 244



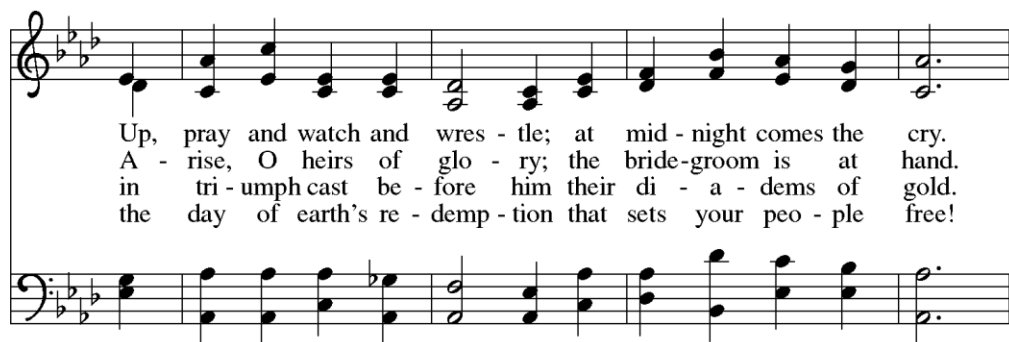
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ; the love of God; and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

ADVENT HYMN OF PRAISE: *Everyday God**Congregation - sing at bold print*

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Earth's creator,</i> Everyday God <i>Loving Maker</i> O Jesus <i>You who shaped us</i> O spirit, <i>Recreate us,</i> Come be with us.</p> | <p><i>God of laughter,</i> Everyday God <i>God of sorrow,</i> O Jesus, <i>God of shelter,</i> O Spirit, <i>Strong and patient,</i> Come be with us.</p> | <p><i>Alleluia,</i> Everyday God <i>Now and always,</i> O Jesus, <i>Alleluia,</i> O spirit, <i>Through the ages.</i> Come be with us.</p> |
| <p><i>In your presence,</i> Everyday God <i>We are gathered.</i> O Jesus, <i>You have called us,</i> O Spirit, <i>To restore us,</i> Come be with us.</p> | <p><i>Word of gladness,</i> Everyday God <i>Word of mercy,</i> O Jesus, <i>Word of friendship,</i> O Spirit, <i>Word of challenge,</i> Come be with us.</p> | <p><i>Bernadette Farrell</i> <i>Restless is the Heart</i></p> |
| <p><i>In our dreaming,</i> Everyday God <i>In our daring.</i> O Jesus, <i>In our searching.</i> O Spirit, <i>In our sharing,</i> Come be with us.</p> | <p><i>Our beginning,</i> Everyday God <i>Our Unfolding,</i> O Jesus, <i>Our enduring,</i> O Spirit <i>Journey's ending,</i> Come be with us.</p> | |

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.***Lighting of the Advent Candle***

ADVENT HYMN**“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”****ELW 240***Congregation sings verse 1 & 2 only*

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10 *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

¹To I you, O LORD,
I lift I up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be I put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph I over me.**

³Let none who look to you be I put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame I who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your I ways, O LORD,
and teach I me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your I truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all I the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- I sion and love,
for they are from I everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and I my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- I ness, O

LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- I right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners I in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- I ly in justice
and teach the low- I ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast I love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your I testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”***ELW 490**

Congregation sings verse 1 only

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
comes full homage to demand.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Zach Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY

People, Look East

ELW 248

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with "Hear us, O God" The assembly responds with "Your mercy is great."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The presiding and the assembly share a virtual sign of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

All speak the prayer together.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word...We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

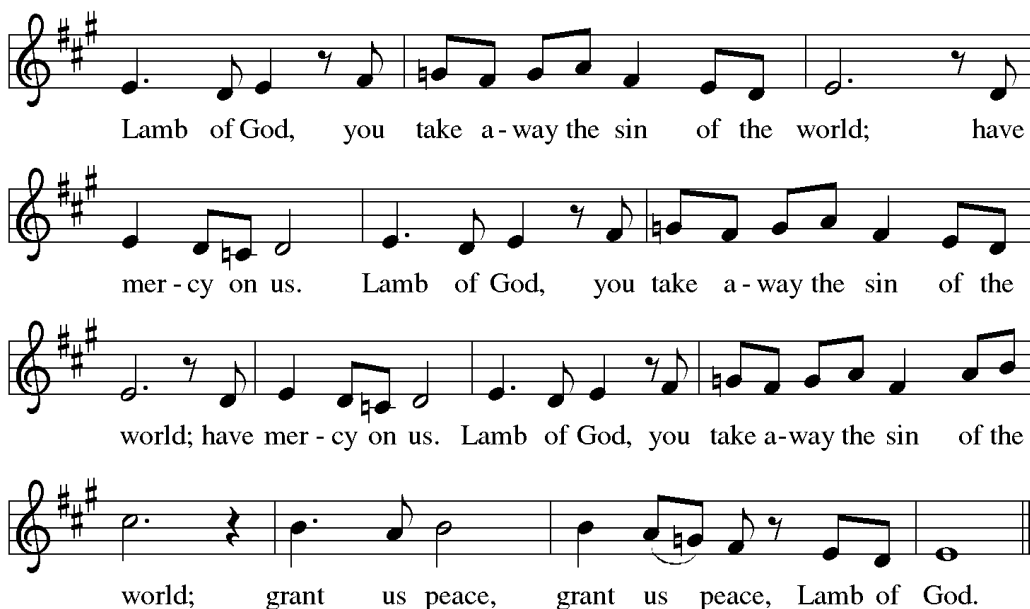
Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours...one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are invited into a time of reflection before they receive communion. During this time, you may prepare your hearts to receive the sacrament. Once ready, you may commune yourself and those around you with the bread and wine/grape juice. A representative from each household may say the following—bread: **“The body of Christ given for you.”** Wine/grape juice: **“The blood of Christ shed for you.”***

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep in his grace, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All speak the prayer together.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

ELW 436

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
 Music: WACHETAUF, Philipp Nicolai
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Wake, Awake”

arr. David Cherwien

This week’s altar flowers are given by Steve and Sue Rose, in celebration of 39 years of marriage, our children, and for all of God's blessings.

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| Calendar This Week | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Today | 10:00 AM | Virtual & In-Person Worship |
| Wed 12/1/2021 | 10:00 AM | Bible Study in the Chapel |
| Wed 12/1/2021 | 7:00 PM | Mid-week Advent Service – Virtual and In-Person |
| Thurs 12/2/2021 | 7:00 PM | Virtual Bible Study |
| Fri 12/3/2021 | 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM | Pastor Zach’s Office Hours |

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Sat 12/4/2020 | 9:30 AM | Food Shelf Open |
| Sun 12/5/2021 | 10:00 AM | Virtual & In-Person Worship |
| Sun 12/5/2021 | after Service | Advent Event in the Quad |

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will be having **Christmas Eve service** in-person and online at 5pm on the 24th, so please mark your calendar! If you are interested in doing some special music for the half hour prior to the service, please talk to Doug and let him know what you'd like to do, be it singing or performing.

Advent is coming, and Hill Avenue Grace is partnering with **Door of Hope** to bring Christmas joy to unhoused children! You can support the program in **two ways**:

Between **now and December 5th**, you can purchase gifts for the children and bring them unwrapped to the donation bin in the narthex. There is no shopping list - get creative! Door of Hope has given us some guidance: no books, please. And please consider buying toys that would appeal to older children and teenagers, such as footballs, basketballs, sports items, Bluetooth speakers, advanced Lego sets, board games and video games, skateboards and makeup kits, nail polish sets, fuzzy scarves and socks, spa items such as bath bombs, and gift cards. If you need a reminder of who to shop for, please take one of the paper ornaments from the display in the narthex.

Additionally, we're running a craft table at the children's carnival on **December 11th**. The event will run from **10 AM - 3 PM** and take place at the Summerkids Camp in Altadena -- 3697 N Fair Oaks Avenue. If you're free even for an hour or two that day and interested in volunteering, please reach out to the church office or Angela!

angela.laurel.jorgensen@gmail.com

This year's **Stewardship drive** is underway. Please help us prepare our 2022 budget by completing the pledge card sent to you via email or regular mail and return it in the offering plate or sending it to the church office. We also have blank pledge forms in the narthex along with envelopes so you can complete one today and drop it in the offering plate. Thank you for your continued support of this special place we call HAGL!!

After service on **December 5th** we will be doing a project for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, signing Christmas cards. The cards will be shared with those homebound, in the community and those far away. This project is encouraged by the ELCA. Please help us sign the cards to share Christ's love!

For our **Advent event** this year we will be doing something different after church on Sunday, **December 5th** in the quad. We will have music, sing some carols, and we are looking for folks to participate in the program! You could sing a song, read a poem, do a short skit, anything

you or your family would like to do. Contact Fred or Anita to sign-up, or put your name on the sheet after service. We hope it will be a fun afternoon spent together! Bring your lunch or get something nearby!

Our former member **Stephanie Ybarra (Biles)** entered the church triumphant on October 7, 2021. The Celebration of Life for Stephanie will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 1:00 pm here at Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church. Her husband Juan, daughter Gianna and sister Jennifer Biles Jackson are happy for members who knew Stephanie or her parents, Barbi and John Biles to attend. Pr. Garry Mohr will officiate the service. The family is planning a "cookie/punch/coffee" reception afterwards in the gym.

In lieu of flowers, the family would love for you to make a donation in her name to her favorite charity... Priceless Pets Rescue, <https://pricelesspetsrescue.org/donate/>
Priceless Pets, 15350 Fairfield Ranch Rd., Suite I, Chino Hills, CA 91709

Poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service have been ordered to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! Plants are \$15 per plant. You can put your check in the offering plate, or mail your check to the office, with "Poinsettias" in the memo line. Complete the form on the last page of the bulletin or call or email the office at office@hillavenuegrace.org and let us know if the poinsettia is in memory of, in honor of, or dedicated to anyone, and that sentiment will be included in our virtual Christmas Eve service bulletin.

Join us this Sunday at 10 am for our Virtual Worship via Zoom!

Check in a few minutes early and hear prelude by Grace! You may also join us on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing your faces and worshipping together!

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Sundays at 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95007590439?pwd=M2NmMUZCZzhMOUY0SG8xeHpzcU5RUT09>

Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

Passcode: worship

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,95007590439#,,,,*4584517# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,95007590439#,,,,*4584517# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

Passcode: 4584517

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As we have resumed Sunday services in the sanctuary, we ask that you follow these guidelines to ensure safety for everyone.

1. We ask that everyone wear a mask while in the sanctuary, including during worshipping and singing.
2. We will enter the church through the glass doors on Hill Avenue.
3. Pews will be marked off to allow for distancing.
4. There will be a 1-way flow in the church: we enter through the center doors of the narthex and exit the church down the side aisles. If you need to leave during the service, exit down the side aisles and return down the center aisle.
5. Upon entering the narthex, you will receive hand sanitizer and a smile from the volunteer at the door.
6. You may leave your offering in the plate inside the narthex.
7. Pick up a communion set at the table and then proceed into the sanctuary. There will be 3 options for communion: bread and wine, bread and juice, and gluten-free bread and wine. Only take one set for yourself. Wait for communion instructions before opening the packet.
8. Please bring a copy of the bulletin with you to church. You may also use your phone or tablet.

If you have any questions, please see one of our happy volunteers on the front patio, in the narthex, or in the sanctuary. As we transition from virtual to in person worship, we appreciate your help in continuing to wear masks for the time being, with the health and safety of all in mind. As Pastor Zach said, this isn't forever!

The service will still be available on Zoom and Facebook Live for those who prefer to remain at home. If you have questions, please let our church office know. We look forward to actually seeing you at church this Sunday!

ALTAR GUILD ANNOUNCEMENT

It is time to begin thinking about decorating our sanctuary for Christmas!

If you wish to purchase a poinsettia plant, please complete the following form and place it **AND your check** (made payable to Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran) in an envelope.

You can mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

Please earmark all checks for **POINSETTIAS**. The cost per plant this year will be \$15.00.

Please complete the following form and turn it in by **SUNDAY, December 19th**.

That is the absolute deadline. Thank you!

I am donating \$_____ for the following:

In memory of:

In honor of:

In thanksgiving for:

Other:

Given by: (Please list names as you want them to appear in the bulletin)

Envelope Number _____

