

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 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

Grace Lee, Organist

Michelle Tune, Soprano

Karen DeGilio, Assistant Minister

Sue Rose, Lector

Order of the Liturgy

Prelude

Grace Lee

WELCOME

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

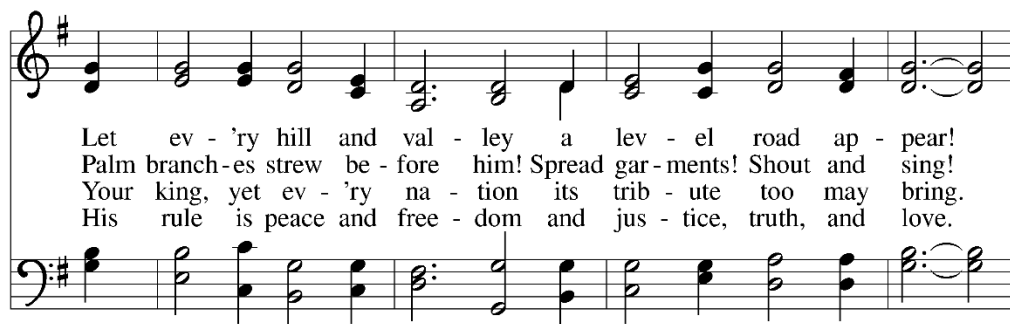
OPENING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

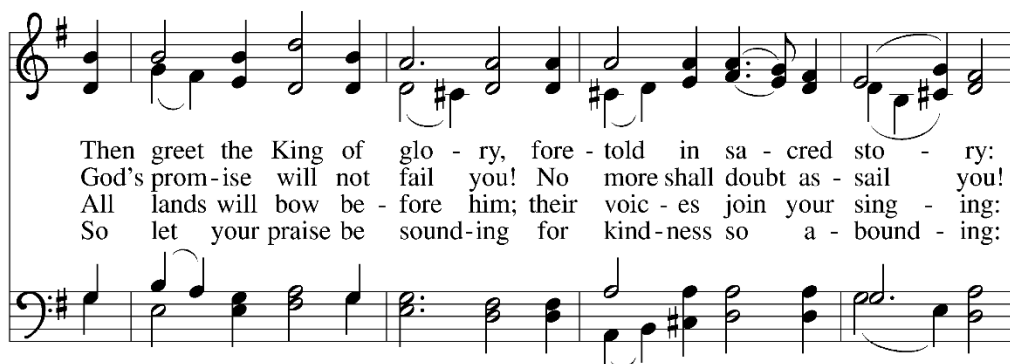
ELW 264



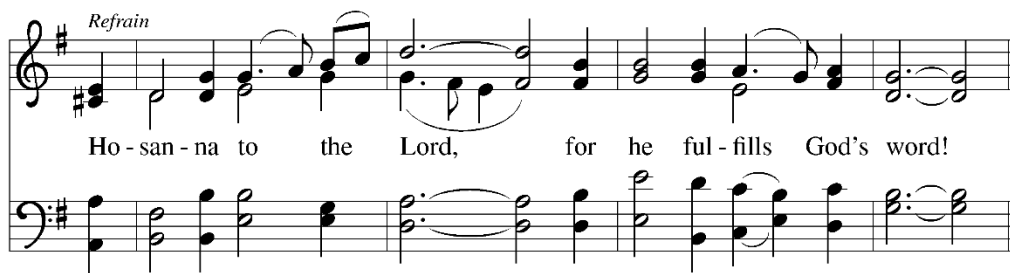
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. 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 257***Congregation sings verse 3 & 4 only*

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

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

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight— indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79 *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the ^l God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ^l set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a ^l mighty Savior,
born of the house of your ^l servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us ^l from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of ^l all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy ^l to our forebears,
and to remember your ^l holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our ^l father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our ^l enemies,
**free to worship you ^l without fear,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days ^l of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ^l the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- ^l pare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge ^l of salvation
by the forgiveness ^l of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion ^l of our God
the dawn from on high shall ^l break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ^l ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the ^l way of peace.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

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 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

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

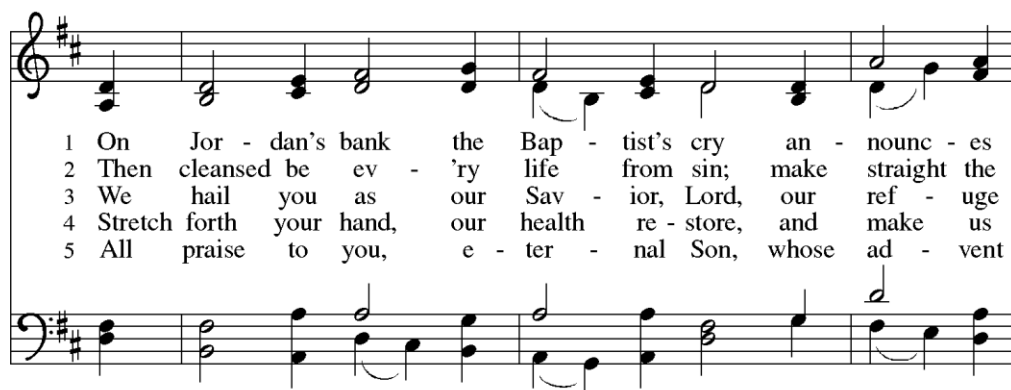
SERMON

Pastor Zach Johnson


HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

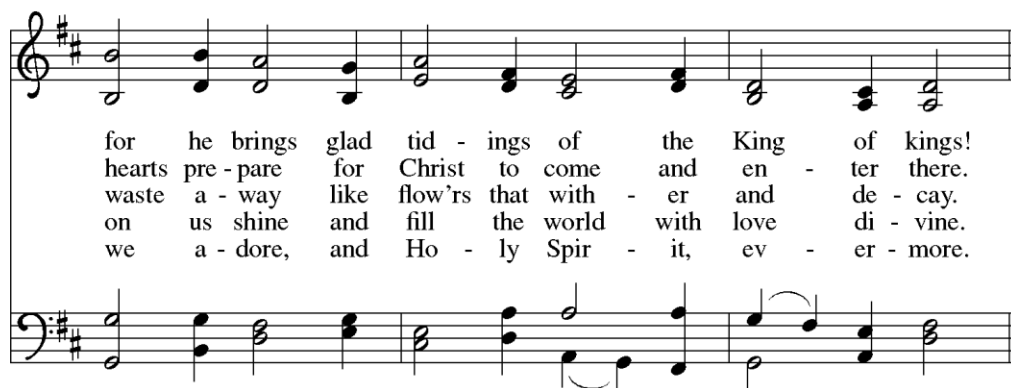
ELW 249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

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.

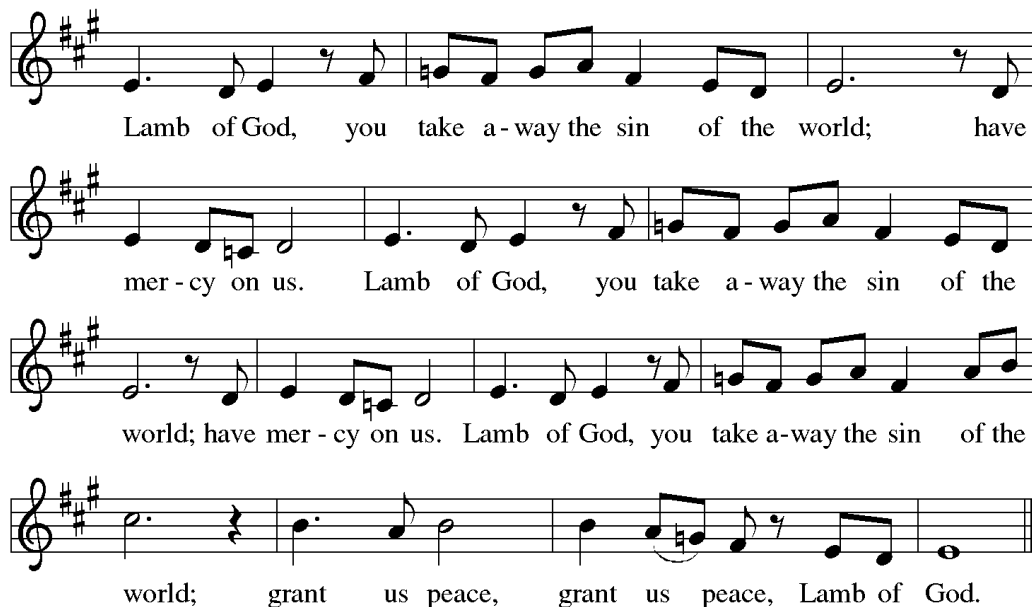
Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**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**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus****ELW 254**

1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Grace Lee

This week's altar flowers are given by the flower fund, to the Glory of God.

+++++

Calendar This Week		
Today	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship
Today	After Service	Advent Event in the Quad
Tues 12/7/2021	7:00 PM	Virtual HAGL Support Group
Wed 12/8/2021	10:00 AM	Bible Study in the Chapel

Wed 12/8/2021	7:00 PM	Mid-week Advent Service – Virtual and In-Person
Thurs 12/9/2021	7:00 PM	Virtual Bible Study
Fri 12/10/2021	9:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Pastor Zach's Office Hours
Sat 12/11/2021	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open
Sat 12/11/2021	11:00 AM	Stephanie Ybarra Memorial Service
Sun 12/12/2021	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will be having **Christmas Eve service** in-person and online at 5 PM 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 here, 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**:

You can purchase gifts for the children and bring them unwrapped to the donation bin in the narthex by Sunday **December 5th**.

Additionally, we're running a craft table at the children's carnival on **December 11th**. The event will run from **11 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 **today, 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. 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.

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 _____

