

The Savior King
ADVENT SEASON 2023



WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH!

VISITING GRACE?

It's great to have you here today, and we'd love to connect with you! Visit graceinracine.com or scan the QR code on the next page to let us know you visited, ask questions, submit prayer requests, or indicate an area of Grace Church that is of interest to you.

Stop by the Welcome Table outside the sanctuary, we'd love to meet you!

If you have something that is weighing you down today, please come down front after service and we will pray with you. You can also share your request on the connection card and our prayer team will lift your need up to the Lord.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

Featuring Peter Arteché and Paul Durbin

PRAISE

Welcome Isaac Miller, Director of Care Ministry
Call To Worship [Psalm 5:11-12](#)
["O Come All Ye Faithful \(His Name Shall Be\)"](#)

RENEWAL

Advent Reading: [Jeremiah 31:15-17](#) The Greenwald Family
["O Come O Come Emmanuel"](#)

PROCLAMATION

Reading of the Word [Matthew 2:13-23](#)
Prayer of Illumination
Preaching of the Word Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

Silent Reflection
["How Deep The Father's Love For Us"](#)
["Hark The Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven"](#)
Benediction

*The sanctuary will continue to be used for prayer and reflection following the service. We invite you to come down front if you have a prayer need.
Head to the Commons for fellowship after service.*

CARE MINISTRY

PRAYER FOR HEALING & RECOVERY

Please pray for healing and recovery for those hospitalized or recently discharged: Vickie Haddad

CARE RESOURCES

Stop by the Care Group wall for a variety of resources on topics such as:

- When Bad Things Happen
- Counseling Children Through Grief
- Broken Relationships
- Anxiety and others

We are here to walk alongside you in all seasons in life. Scan the QR code to share your care needs with us or look for Isaac Miller by the Care Group wall.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We want to uphold you in prayer during times of need:

- Fill out a connect card online or from the seatback in front of you.
 - Come down front after service Sunday morning and we will pray with you.
 - Email prayer@graceinracine.com.
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CELEBRATE RECOVERY (CR) Meets Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Loft. CR is a safe place to find support if you are struggling with a difficult season of life. CR is not just for addicts; it is for all of us who need to go deeper in Christ when life gets hard. Don't struggle alone - please join us for hope and encouragement every Tuesday evening. Contact Gabe Stalker at celebratercovery@graceinracine.com

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

LAST WEEK

Attendance: 667
Giving: \$23,751

2023 GIVING

Year to Date: \$1,567,596
+/- Budget: -\$84,433

SERMON REVIEW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are for *after* the sermon and can be used for Life Group discussion, one-to-one discipleship, or personal reflection and application.

This week, we look at a darker element of the Christmas story that significantly contrasts with the joyous elements of the holiday that we are familiar with. It's the story of Herod's plot to kill the child and God's divine intervention in guiding Joseph to Egypt and eventually Nazareth. This is more than an isolated event, Matthew cites Old Testament scripture to show us that something larger and of ancient days is at work in God's plan.

Discussion Questions

1. In the story from the passage last week (2:1-12), what do the varying responses of the characters involved in the birth of Jesus teach us about Christ? What do they teach us about our response to Christ?
2. At the angel's instruction, Joseph, Mary and the child flee to Egypt to escape Herod. Why is Jesus in Egypt so significant? How does the Old Testament inform our understanding of its significance?
3. In verse 16, we read of Herod's slaughtering of children. Why do you think Matthew chose to include this event in his gospel? How does including this dark moment in history affect our understanding of the Christmas story?
4. Matthew quotes Jeremiah 31:15 in regards to Herod's evil act. Take a broader look at all of Jeremiah 31. Knowing the context of this verse, what is Matthew saying by including it?
5. Jesus eventually ends up in Nazareth. What do we know about Galilee and Nazareth? Why is it significant that Jesus grew up there?
6. What does this passage tell us about the nature of God's saving work for us? What does it teach us about God's character?

FAMILY MINISTRY

Children are welcome in our worship service, and we highly encourage their participation throughout the entire service. However, we do offer the following for kids birth - 4th grade:

NURSERY & PRESCHOOL

Sunday school is available during the entirety of the worship service for children aged birth – Kindergarten. Children ages 2 - Kindergarten will also have an age-appropriate Bible lesson each week.

WORSHIPERS IN TRAINING (WIT)

Children in 1st-4th grades are welcome to participate in “Worshippers in Training” which meets during the second half of our worship service (children are dismissed before the teaching portion of worship).



PARENTING WORKSHOP

TOPIC: TALKING ABOUT SEX WITH YOUR KIDS

Saturday, January 13th // 9am - 11am

Parents today face the challenge of raising their children in a sex-saturated world. This seminar will take you through practical tips of how to talk and walk with your child in the midst of this hyper-sexualized world. We will be talking about what to do and what not to do when talking to your kids about sex. The aim of this seminar is to help you think about these conversations and how you can have them in a way that demonstrates grace and hope with your kids and points them to our compassionate Savior. This workshop is for parents of young children, elementary kids, teens, and college students. Parents who do not regularly attend Grace Church are welcome to attend, so feel free to invite your friends! This seminar is based on Eliza Huie's book "Raising Kids in a Hyper-Sexualized World". Each household who registers for the seminar before January 7, 2024 will receive a free copy of the book to take home after the workshop.

Childcare is available at a limited capacity and will be available on a first registered basis.

GRACE HAPPENINGS

SENIOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday, December 14th // 12pm

Those age 55+ are invited to join us for a time of food, Christmas carols & fellowship.

WOMEN'S GATHERING

Saturday, December 16th // 9am

Ladies, take a break during the busy holiday season and join us for God's word, connecting with others, great food, and worshipping with Christmas carols!

Topic: *Do You Need a Little Peace?*

Speaker: Karen Sytsma

Scan the QR code to RSVP.

NEWCOMER GATHERING

Sunday, December 17th // 11am

If you are new to Grace Church and would like to know a little bit more about us, we would like to invite you to our Newcomer Gathering. This will be a time for you and your family to grab a bite to eat, meet a few of the staff, and hear a little about the vision of Grace Church.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

A cheerful “Good Morning” and a warm smile is all that’s needed to greet people as they come to service on Sunday morning. Serving as a Grace Greeter is also a great way to meet and connect with others at Grace! Scan the QR code to let us know you’d like to become a greeter!

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

December 24, 9:30am

Join us as we celebrate the coming of Christ to the Earth on Christmas Eve morning. Stay after for fellowship, tasty treats, cookies & cocoa.

Please bring a dozen a cookies to share.

Invite cards are available at the Info Center to pass along to others.

VISIT THE BOOKSTALL

End of year clearance sale!

Help us clear some room for new 2024 inventory by picking up some great books at deeply discounted prices!

Need Christmas Gift Ideas?

Stop by the BookStall and browse the books and journals offered or pick up a gift certificate.

CARING FOR GRACE FAMILIES

If your family is experiencing financial challenges and would be blessed by assistance with your Christmas dinner, fill out a Connect Card, write “Christmas,” along with your name, address & phone number and drop it in the offering box. Contact Pam: 262-632-2111 pnichols@graceinracine.com.

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24th // 9:30am

Join us as we celebrate the coming of Christ to the Earth
on Christmas Eve morning.

Stay after for fellowship, tasty treats, cookies & cocoa.



Scan here for all
of the Worship
Guide links!

TO KNOW CHRIST
AND TO
MAKE CHRIST KNOWN



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