

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.

Need a Bible? Stop by the Welcome Table outside the sanctuary, we'd love to get one to you and also 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

PRE-SERVICE

["Joy To The World \(Joyful Joyful\)"](#)

Welcome

Pastor Chris Amundson

PRAISE

Call To Worship

[Psalm 24:7-10](#)

["The First Noel"](#)

RENEWAL

Advent Reading: [Isaiah 40:1-5](#)

The Tartar Family

["O Holy Night"](#)

Baptism of Edward Piotrowski

Craig Vaughn, Elder

["Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery"](#)

PROCLAMATION

Reading of the Word

[Matthew 3:1-17](#)

Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of the Word

Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

["Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"](#)

Communion

["Joy To The World \(Joyful Joyful\)"](#)

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: Keith Heapes, Vickie Haddad

On the passing of Marsha Weeks, our heartfelt love, sympathy, and prayers to her family and friends.

On the passing of Jack Hesse, we extend our deepest sympathy and love to his son, Steven (Kathleen) Hesse and grandson Stephen (Lindsey) Hesse and family.

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.

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 celebraterecovery@graceinracine.com

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

LAST WEEK

Attendance: 665

Giving: \$40,976

2023 GIVING

Year to Date: \$1,608,572

+/- Budget: -\$66,125

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.

We have now reached a point in the book of Matthew where we see Jesus as an adult for the first time. But chapter 3 doesn't begin with Jesus immediately. We are first made privy to the ministry of John the Baptist, who is the one sent before Christ to prepare the way. Between John's work, the appearance of religious leaders to the scene, and the actual baptism of Jesus, Matthew 3 is a passage that is full of examples that give us a greater understanding of our Lord and the work he was sent to do.

Discussion Questions

1. We have now been in Matthew for a couple of weeks, what are some overall themes and ideas that you see repeating in this book? Has there been anything that you have learned that you didn't know before?
2. John begins his preaching in the wilderness of Judea. Given who John is, why is this setting for his ministry surprising? Given what we've learned so far in Matthew, why is it not?
3. In what way is John's ministry preparing the people for the coming of the Lord?
4. Take a look at verses 7-10. Why does John refer to the religious leaders as a 'brood of vipers'? What is John's message to them?
5. In verses 13-17, a grown Jesus appears for the first time in this gospel. Why is John taken aback by Jesus' command to baptize him in the river? How does it alter John's expectations of what Jesus had come to do?
6. What is the significance of the presence of the Trinity when Jesus comes up out of the water? How do the words of the Father give us confidence in our salvation?

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).

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Parents please make a note of our Children's Ministry holiday schedule.

We pray that you will take these opportunities to celebrate the birth of our Savior together as a family and with our church family!

IG-Nite Christmas Break	Christmas Eve Service	WIT Holiday Break
NO IG-Nite: 12/20, 12/27 & 1/3 IG-Nite Resumes 1/10/24	December 24, 9:30am No Children's Ministry offerings for any age. Enjoy service as a family!	No WIT : 12/24 & 12/31 WIT will resume on 1/7/24

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

NEWCOMER GATHERING

Today! // 11am // Room B60

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.

MISSION PRAYER HOUR

December 18 // Room A29

All are welcome to come pray for our global field workers and the nations where they serve.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Serve as a greeter on Christmas Eve and throughout the year! 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.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Harvest Outreach food pantry has a need for canned fruit and spaghetti sauce! Drop items in the bins in the entryways.

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!

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.

SCAM EMAILS

It has been brought to our attention that some of you have recently received an email that appears to be from Pastor Mike where he is asking to meet with you, or for you to send him gift cards or money. We want to take this time to assure you that neither Pastor Mike, nor any member of our staff, will ever send an email to you asking for money or gift cards.

When you receive an email of this nature, please check who sent the email. If it did not originate from a graceinracine.com email, it is **NOT** from a staff member at Grace Church. If you receive an email of this nature, and you aren't sure if you should trust it, please call the church office and we'll help you determine if the email is legitimate or not.



Scan here for all of the Worship Guide links!

A banner for a Christmas Eve Morning Worship Service. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with a bokeh effect of light spots. The text is centered and reads: "Christmas Eve" in a large, white, serif font, followed by "Morning Worship Service" in a smaller, white, cursive font. Below this is a dark brown horizontal band containing the date and time: "Sunday, December 24th" and "9:30 am" in a white, serif font. At the bottom of the banner, the text "There is a hope. There is a light. His name is Jesus Christ. He is the Savior King." is written in a white, cursive font.

Christmas Eve
Morning Worship Service

Sunday, December 24th
9:30 am

*There is a hope. There is a light.
His name is Jesus Christ. He is the Savior King.*

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.

We will not have childcare, enjoy service together as a family.

TO KNOW CHRIST
AND TO
MAKE CHRIST KNOWN



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