

*The Savior King*  
ADVENT SEASON 2023



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# WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH!

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## VISITING GRACE?

It's great to have you here today, and we'd love to connect with you! Visit [graceinracine.com](http://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.

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## TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

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### PRELUDE

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

### PRAISE

Welcome Rachel Menke, Director of Children's Ministry  
Call To Worship [Psalm 86:8-10](#)  
["Joy To The World \(Joyful Joyful\)"](#)

### RENEWAL

Advent Reading: [Micah 5:2-5a](#) The Wiese Family  
["O Little Town Of Bethlehem"](#)

### PROCLAMATION

Reading of the Word [Matthew 2:1-12](#)  
Prayer of Illumination  
Preaching of the Word Pastor Mike Matheson

### RESPONSE

Communion  
["Behold Our God"](#)  
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.*

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# CARE MINISTRY

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## PRAYER FOR HEALING & RECOVERY

Please pray for healing and recovery for those hospitalized or recently discharged: Merlin Ganrud, Kristen Schaefer

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### 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.

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### 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](mailto: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 [celebraterecovery@graceinracine.com](mailto:celebraterecovery@graceinracine.com)

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## ATTENDANCE & GIVING

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**LAST WEEK**  
Attendance: 615  
Giving: \$43,559

**2023 GIVING**  
Year to Date: \$1,622,911  
+/- Budget: -\$79,1761

## 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 cover a passage that almost everyone has a passing familiarity with, “The Visit of the Magi”. What is truly notable about this story though, is the contrast in reactions to the newborn king. While it is certainly good news for the wise men, it is something altogether different for Herod. This pushes us to consider our own response to Jesus.

### Discussion Questions

1. The text last week was an examination of Joseph. What made his obedience so notable? Why did Matthew cite Isaiah 7?
2. Wise men from "the east" came to Jerusalem to look for Jesus and worship him. Why does Matthew see the need to include where they are from? What do you know about "the east" from Old Testament history?
3. Consider the response (or lack of response) of Herod, the chief priests, and the scribes on hearing what the wise men were telling them. Why is their response significant? What should be their response?
4. When the wise men saw the star, it says that they "rejoiced exceedingly with great joy". How does this challenge us as we think about our worship? When we consider our own heart in regards to gathering together and worshiping, would you characterize it as joyful?
5. Read 1 Kings 10:23-25 and Isaiah 60:4-6. What do the gifts that the wise men brought say about Jesus?
6. How does this story encourage us to share Christ with the people in our lives? In what way does it give us hope?

## SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Pastor Mike Matheson

WHEN STARS ALIGN

Next Week: [Matthew 2:13-23](#)

## 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

### THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Thank you to all who generously donated to our annual thanksgiving offering which is designated to The International Community Center in South Milwaukee and to World Help to provide relief for those affected by the war in Israel.

Over \$17,700 was collected!

### MISSION PRAYER HOUR

Homeschooling, chocolate business & cooking classes in Kyrgyzstan!

December 4 // 7pm // Room A29

Hear updates on how new Kyrgyz believers are raising their children to know Christ through Christian homeschooling, and how others are making Christ known using a chocolate business and cooking classes in Kyrgyzstan. After each update we will spend time praying for them. All are invited to attend!

### SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS

#### LUNCH

Thursday, December 14th // 12pm

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

### NEED CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS?

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

### 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 worshiping 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.

### 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.

## *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



graceinracine.com  
262.632.2111  
3626 State Road 31, Racine, WI 53405