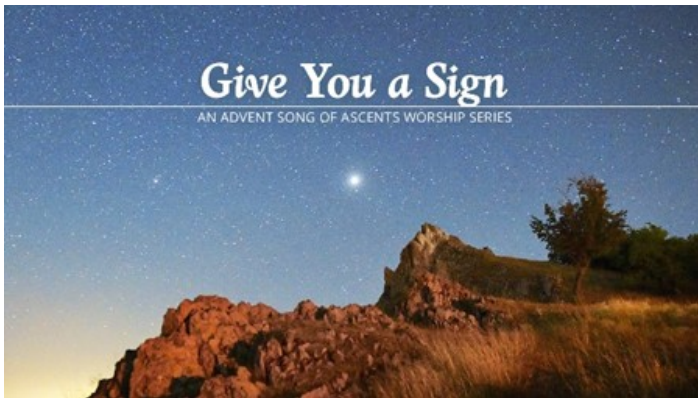


## Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church!!

Sunday – December 18, 2022 – 9:00 am



**Meditation Verse:** : *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.” – Isaiah 7:14*

### **Grace United Methodist Church**

P.O. Box 265 | Piedmont, SD 57769

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[gumc@midconetwork.com](mailto:gumc@midconetwork.com)

Pastor John Britt

(605) 787-2414 | [pastorjohnbritt@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjohnbritt@gmail.com)

Check us out on Facebook!

### **Church Staff:**

Pastor

John Britt

Office Administrator

Phyllis Stevens

Children's Ministry

Kelly Carter

Youth Ministry

Financial Administrator

Cindy Puckett

Custodian

Barb Walker

Digital Campus Host

Kristin Britt

Audio/Visual

Steve Hilton

Lay Leader

Mike Marsland

Pianists

Lisa Teachout

and Julie Marsland

## Order of Worship

\*Welcome and Opening Prayer

### Advent Candle Lighting:

Reader One: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel."

**Reader Two: God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.**

Reader One: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus."

**Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.**

\*Advent Song

### Call to Worship

Leader: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

**People: That sign is in the One to come – the One that God is sending.**

Leader: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.!

**People: And so we cry to the heavens in our distress. Our cries are heard! God is responding in love and hope.**

Leader: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

**People: Let us be ready to receive the blessed gift of the Savior. Amen**

\*Opening Hymns:

- #228 - He Is Born, the Holy Child
- #234 - O Come All Ye Faithful

\*Passing of the Peace

Scriptures: Matthew 1:18-25 and Isaiah 7:10-16

Kids Message

Message: "Give You a Sign"

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

- Song: Mary Did You Know

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

\*Closing Song:

- Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

\*Announcements

\*Blessing *(\*Please stand if you are able.)*

### **GPS – Grow, Pray, Study**

1) *Grow*. Think back to times when God has given (or tried to give) you a sign, a word, or a whisper to guide you. How did (or could've) growth come from these times when God reached out to you?

2) *Pray*. Who do you know that could use a little more God this week? Pray for God's guidance concerning how you could be that this week.

3) *Study*. Read Isaiah 9:1-7. How would these words encourage Joseph as he decided what to do with Mary and what to do when the "inn" refused them lodging? How do these words give you hope?

Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98

Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12)

John 1:1-14

To go a little deeper  
with these readings  
each day this week,  
please go to:  
[pastorjohnb.org](http://pastorjohnb.org)

### **Next Sunday's Message:**

On Christmas Eve we gather to celebrate the birth with a message called "Keeping Watch." The shepherds were busy keeping watch. The sky exploded – was the end at hand? No – fear not, there is good news. The glorious choir of angels called them to watch for and they made haste and came to see the child in the manger. Then, on Christmas Day, we will hear "The Yes/And of Jesus." First and foremost, this is the day when the distance between heaven and earth was removed and God set up camp among us; God moved into the neighborhood or "tented among us," which is what the Gospel of John says (John 1:14 – lived among us literally is tented in our midst). It is about the closeness of the living presence of God, incarnate in the one we call Jesus.

### **This Week at Grace:**

- Sunday – 8:00 AM – Adult Sunday School – Education Wing
- Sunday – 6:00 PM – Youth Group – Fellowship Hall
- Monday – 3:00 PM – After School Program
- Tuesday – 3:00 PM – Art with Heart
- Tuesday – 6:00 PM – Grief Support Group – Church
- Wednesday – 1:00 PM – Grief Support Group – Piedmont CC
- Wednesday – 4:00 PM – Blue Christmas
- Thursday – 5:30 PM – Men's Study – Fellowship Hall
- Friday – 6:30 AM – Women's Study – Fellowship Hall

### **Announcements:**

Our December Mission is our Piedmont Valley Schools.

Please consider signing up to serve on a Sunday morning. Simply choose a Sunday that is convenient for you and sign up on the sheets opposite the drinking fountains! Thank you for serving.

**May God Bless you throughout the coming week!!**