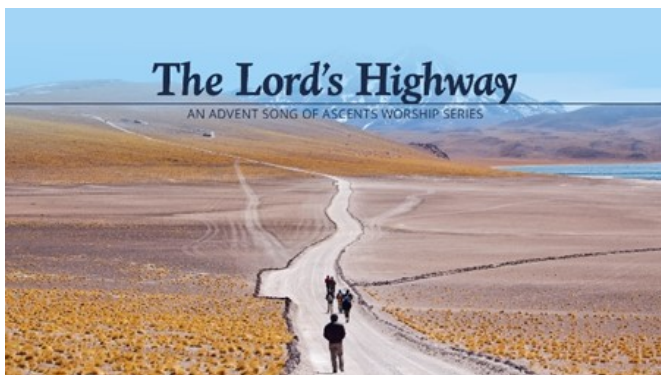


## **Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church!!**

Sunday – December 11, 2022 – 9:00 am



**Meditation Verse:** : *“A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Lord’s Highway.”* – Isaiah 35:8a

### **Grace United Methodist Church**

P.O. Box 265 | Piedmont, SD 57769

(605) 787-4858 | [www.gracepiedmont.com](http://www.gracepiedmont.com)  
[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  
Office Administrator  
Children’s Ministry  
Youth Ministry  
Financial Administrator  
Custodian  
Digital Campus Host  
Audio/Visual  
Lay Leader  
Pianists

John Britt  
Phyllis Stevens  
Kelly Carter

Cindy Puckett  
Barb Walker  
Kristin Britt  
Steve Hilton  
Mike Marsland  
Lisa Teachout  
and Julie Marsland

## Order of Worship

### \*Welcome and Opening Prayer

#### Advent Candle Lighting:

Reader One: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

**Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.**

Reader One: The Psalmist says "Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!"

**Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.**

### \*Advent Song -Verses 1, 2, and 3

#### Call to Worship:

**Leader:** We gather and invite the Lord Jesus to be among us today.

**People: Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come soon.**

**Leader:** The glory of God shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

**People: Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come soon!**

**Leader:** Sing aloud, waste places of Jerusalem! Sing to the God who gives courage and strength.

**People: Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come soon!**

**Leader:** You who are unsure of what you believe, or whether you believe at all: listen! You who are weighed down by thoughts of

failure, or feelings of grief: listen! You whose hearts are heavy, whose problems seem insurmountable: listen! Soon God's salvation will come; God's deliverance will be revealed. For a woman shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel: God with us.

**People: Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come soon!**

\*Opening Hymn:

- #218 - It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

\*Passing of the Peace

Scriptures: Psalm 146:5-10 and Isaiah 35:1-10

Kids Message

Message: "The Lord's Highway"

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

- Song: No Longer Slaves

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

\*Closing Songs:

- The Summons

- Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)

\*Announcements

\*Blessing

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

### **GPS – Grow, Pray, Study**

- 1) **Grow.** Think through your journey of faith. When has the Lord opened your eyes or ears... or brought life in your season of dryness or...?
- 2) **Pray.** Who do you know this holiday season that may be more open to an invite to worship, especially on Christmas Eve? Pray for the words to speak to them.
- 3) **Study.** Read Psalm 80:17-19 as a proclamation of faith. As we lean into Christmas, how can these words lead and guide you?

## Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-16      Matthew 1:18-25  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19    Romans 1:1-7

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

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

"Give You a Sign" - Walking with Matthew we see that he is more than a bystander. He is one who had to choose to allow God to be in control. This choice is a hard one for most of us to make. It is righteousness that guided Joseph to continue to choose Mary, to remain faithful to the covenant, to stand as a sign of love. In Isaiah, the king wants to avoid the sign, wants to maintain the status quo. God will not be deterred. God says, no, there will be a sign – a virgin who will give birth. The sign will be Immanuel, God with us.

## **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 – 6:00 PM – Grace Small Group – Fellowship
- 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.

If you could help wrap the gifts that have been collected for the families of the valley it would be greatly appreciated.  
Basement of the Catholic Church 9:00am December 15<sup>th</sup>.

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!!**