



*Beauty Without Regret*, by Makoto Fujimura

# “Liturgy in Blue” Service

December 6 | 11am | Grace Mills River

**For those who mourn, and those who would  
bear them up—in the hope of the Incarnation**

[GraceMillsRiver.org](http://GraceMillsRiver.org)

O Come Let Us Adore Him—Even in Lament  
A Liturgy in Blue, Service of Lament

**To listen from your car, tune your radio to 88.5FM.**

“...faith is a ‘walking in darkness,’ and not a theological solution to mystery.” - Flannery O’ Connor

**Prelude: “I Heard The Bells”**

**Welcome:**

Pastor Patrick Lafferty

**Advent Monologue: “He’s not here, is He?”** written by Katie Winkler

**Advent Reading: Luke 2:8-14**

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

**Call to Worship:**

Liturgy from *Every Moment Holy*

Leader: Christ Our King, our world is overtaken by unexpected calamity, and by a host of attending fears, worries, and insecurities. We witness suffering, confusion, and hardship multiplied around us, and we find ourselves swept up in these same anxieties and troubles, dismayed by so many uncertainties.

**All: Now we turn to you, O God, in this season of our common distress.**

Leader: Be merciful, O Christ, to those who suffer, to those who worry, to those who grieve, to those who are threatened or harmed in any way by this upheaval. Let your holy compassions be active throughout the world and in our church family even now— tending the afflicted, comforting the brokenhearted, and bringing hope to many who are hopeless.

**All: Use even these hardships to woo our hearts nearer to you, O God.**

Leader: Indeed, O Father, may these days of disquiet become a catalyst for conviction and repentance, for the tendering of our affections, for the stirring of our sympathies, for the refining of our love.

**All: We are your people, who are called by you, we need not be troubled or alarmed. You are the King of the Ages, O Christ, and history is held in your Father's hands. Inhabit now your church, O Spirit of the Risen Christ. Unite and equip your people for the work before us even as we worship.**

**Song: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent**

Andrew Kerhoulas, Melissa Beggs

Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
And with fear and trembling stand  
Ponder nothing earthly minded  
For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth  
Our full homage to demand

King of kings yet born of Mary  
As of old on earth He stood  
Lord of lords in human vesture  
In the body and the blood  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spread its vanguard through the sky

As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away

At His feet the six winged seraph  
Cherubim with sleepless eye  
Veil their faces to the Presence  
As with ceaseless voice they cry  
Alleluia alleluia alleluia  
Lord Most High

CCLI Song # 2131182, Gerard Moultrie | Lani Smith, CCLI License # 405123

**Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel**

Andrew Kerhoulas, Melissa Beggs

O come O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path to misery

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!

CCLI Song # 31982, John Mason Neale | Thomas Helmore, CCLI License # 405123

## **Old Testament Reading: Psalm 42:1-6, NRSV**

“As the deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When shall I come and behold the face of God?  
My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me continually, “Where is your God?”  
These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng,  
and led them in procession to the house of God,  
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,  
a multitude keeping festival.  
Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.”

## **Sharing Our Laments**

**Message: Adoration Weeps, Too**

Pastor Patrick Lafferty

**Central Text: John 11:1-37**

## **Praying Our Laments**

*You are invited to come forward and ask for prayer from elders and members of our prayer team, who will be masked and seek to honor social-distance even as they hear from you and pray for you.*

**Response: Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1**

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

**All: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

## Song: O Come All You Unfaithful

Andrew Kerhoulas, Melissa Beggs

O come all you unfaithful  
Come weak and unstable  
Come know you are not alone

O come barren and waiting ones  
Weary of praying  
Come see what your God has done

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

O come bitter and broken  
Come with fears unspoken  
Come taste of His perfect love

O come guilty and hiding ones  
There is no need to run  
See what your God has done

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

He's the Lamb who was given slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace for those who believe  
He's the Lamb who was given slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace for those who believe

So come though you have nothing  
Come He is the offering  
Come see what your God has done

Christ is born Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

CCLI Song # 7160115, Bob Kauflin | Lisa Clow, CCLI License # 405123

**Benediction: From *The Worship Sourcebook***

May the love of God the Father, the faithful creator,  
The peace of Christ, the wounded healer,  
And the joy of the comforting Spirit,  
The hope of the Three in One  
Surround and encourage you today, tonight, and forever.  
Amen.

*Let us agree  
for now  
that we will not say  
the breaking  
makes us stronger  
or that it is better  
to have this pain  
than to have done  
without this love.*

*Let us promise  
we will not  
tell ourselves  
time will heal  
the wound,  
when every day  
our waking  
opens it anew.*

*Perhaps for now  
it can be enough  
to simply marvel  
at the mystery  
of how a heart  
so broken  
can go on beating,  
as if it were made  
for precisely this—*

*as if it knows  
the only cure for love  
is more of it,*

*as if it sees  
the heart's sole remedy  
for breaking  
is to love still,*

*as if it trusts  
that its own  
persistent pulse  
is the rhythm  
of a blessing  
we cannot  
begin to fathom  
but will save us  
nonetheless.*

—Jan Richardson, “A Blessing for  
the Brokenhearted”

## Praying for One Another

We want to pray for you! Please share your requests with our prayer team, church leadership, or Grace family. Email your prayer requests to [PrayForThisGMR@gmail.com](mailto:PrayForThisGMR@gmail.com).

## Additional Sermon Resources

Visit [GraceMillsRiver.org](http://GraceMillsRiver.org), click on Media, then Sermons & Resources to listen to past sermons and study additional resources related to the sermon topic, available on the website each week.



## CONTACT US

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**NEEDS/PASTORAL CARE:** All requests will be responded to promptly and confidentially. To communicate a need, please call 828-891-2006 or indicate the need for pastoral care online on the Contact Us page.