



West Grove United Methodist Church

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet
300 North Guernsey Road
West Grove, PA 19390



Second Sunday in Advent

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2014

Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Ministry Opportunities

Pastor Monica

Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.

First-time visitor or member, let us know you were here!

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Karen Boyd

One: Listen to what the Lord our God says to us:

Many: "My hope for you is peace;"

One: "Salvation is my gift in every moment."

Many: See what the Lord our God reveals to us:

One: Righteousness is the path to the kingdom; faithfulness is the highway being built for us.

Many: Tell what the Lord our God asks us to speak:

One: Prepare God's way!

All: The Christ is coming to redeem us.

*Processional Hymn

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Hymnal No. 211

Vss. 1, 2, 6, 7

*Opening Prayer (Unison) by Maren Tirabassi

Karen Boyd

Gracious God,

**we hear the promise of the coming of Jesus
into a manger and into our hearts and home.**

Bless our Advent waiting;

fill our worship with anticipation of your love;

and dedicate us to prepare your way

by lifting up the valleys in our lives

and making smooth the rough places of others.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel – God with us, Amen.

*Passing of the peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

LISTENING AND RECEIVING

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Jones Family

Advent Wreath Litany

See Page 7

Advent Song "Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)"

TFWS No. 2090, Vs. 2

Moments for All Ages

Jamie Lindtner

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Karen Boyd

***Gospel Lesson**

Mark 1:1-8

Karen Boyd

***Response to the Lessons**

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

“A Voice Cries Out, Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Chancel Choir

Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #9 for Children’s Worship. Parents, please pick up your children immediately following the worship service in room #9.

Sermon

Not Home Alone!

Pastor Monica

RESPONDING

Hymn of Response

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Hymnal No. 223

Offering

***Offertory Response**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Hymnal, No. 221, Vs. 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.

Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Monica

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Please wait for the Ushers to guide you to communion.

Prayer After Receiving (Unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

***Hymn of Sending Forth**

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Hymnal No. 251

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

“Christmas Peace”

Chancel Choir

***Postlude**

** = Please stand as you are able* **Bold Print = Say in unison**

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Parents Night, Saturday, December 13, 4:30-7:30. Parents – Make a reservation and go to dinner without kids! Enjoy an evening on your own! We will watch your kids for you, and you can go on a date, Christmas shopping, the grocery store or take a nap! **Cost: a suggested donation of \$10 per child.** *Any money that is donated towards this event will be used to help offset the cost of the 2015 youth summer mission trip.* **We will feed the kids pizza, do some crafts, play games and watch a movie. Your kids will be safe and have fun, and you get to enjoy time away and relax for 3 hours! SIGN UP forms are available in the lobby.**

OPEN ~ GROW ~ SERVE

At West Grove UMC, we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith and serving our community and world in His name.

Welcome to worship on this second Sunday of Advent! We gather to anticipate the joy of God's coming — in Bethlehem, in our hearts and at the end of days. We invite you to inquire about our church's activities and ministries. If you have come as a guest, we hope that you'll leave as a friend and pray you'll be nourished in faith as you hear God's message for you today. We encourage you to join us again. Please honor us by signing the Friendship Pad. Our Welcome Center, located in the lobby, is a place where guests and new attendees can seek information about our church.

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Church Office: 610-869-9334—Our Website: [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)

***Please remember to mute your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary for worship.***

**ADVENT DREAMS:** Advent Dreams is a four-week long Bible study series exploring the four dream sequences in Matthew 1:18 to 2:23 that comprise the entirety of Jesus' infancy in Matthew's Gospel. Join us on **Wednesday mornings from 9:30—11:00 am., December 10, 17 and January 7.**

**CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE** will be up in the Narthex On November 30th. On the tree, there will be gift tags for families and individuals in need. Please prayerfully consider taking a tag and helping someone in need over this Christmas season.

**MOVIE-ING THROUGH ADVENT: WEDNESDAYS, 6-8 P.M. Join us for Potluck dinner and the full movie** that the upcoming Sunday's sermon will be based on. If you are able, you are invited to bring a dish to share. If you can't, no worries, come anyway! It is a potluck and there is always plenty to be shared! We will provide plates, utensils, drinks, and desserts. **Come one week, come all of the weeks!** Bring the family, bring the kids, invite your friends and neighbors! Pajamas for the kids are great, along with a comfy blanket and pillow! A short meditation will follow the movie. Join us as we prepare for Christ's birth and second coming with movies! **December 10<sup>th</sup>** – Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street; **December 17<sup>th</sup>** – It's a Wonderful Life! Invite your friends and neighbors!

**NEW SOUP SALE! DECEMBER 13, PICK-UP BETWEEN 2-4 P.M.** Sold for \$5.00 per quart with Decembers delicious choices being Beef Vegetable and Vegetarian Vegetable. A sign-up sheet is posted in the lobby.

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The 11:00 Worship Service is experiencing a shortage of nursery workers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amy Castaldi at 484-371-8121 or email her at [ahass17@hotmail.com](mailto:ahass17@hotmail.com).

**TRUSTEE SALE! Ariens ST7 Snow thrower or blower:** Pull rope start, Self propelled; 24" wide cut x 16" deep; 2-stage feed; Swivel shoot; Will accept \$275 or better (Note: new 2-stage snow blowers this size start at \$600). In January, the trustees will put this item on the open market if unsold. Please contact Vernon Ramberger, 610-869-3863 or John Boyd, 443-553-5000 if interested.

Once again, we will adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias, the beautiful Christmas season flower. Each plant will be in a 6 1/2" pot and **the cost is \$6.50 each.**

## POINSETTIAS



The order form below enables you to place a flower in the sanctuary in honor, memory or in celebration of a special person or event. Simply fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate **by Sunday, December 14** or into Donna Fackler's mailbox in the copy room.

Those who ordered flowers, and for whom they are ordered, will be **listed in the Sunday, December 21 bulletin**. All flowers will adorn the sanctuary until after Christmas. You may pick up your flowers during the week after Christmas or Sunday, December 28. Any flowers remaining after Sunday will be delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents. Thank you.

### Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Plants \_\_\_\_ x \$6.50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_ Total

(Please make checks payable to WGUMC with memo for "Poinsettias")

**Check One:** ☐ In Honor of: ☐ In Memory of: ☐ In Celebration of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# *Advent Wreath Litany*



Reader 1: “Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore on that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.” (Isaiah 52: 6-8)

Reader 2: Today, we remember the messengers of God, the angels who bring good news to God’s people, who remind us of God’s way of peace and path of salvation, who often catch us off guard when we are not expecting God. Angels are God’s messengers who share God’s presence and God’s way.

**People: Today, we give thanks for the angels and messengers among us, who bring us reminders of God’s way of peace, path of salvation, and way of joy as well as surprise us with the startling news that we are never alone.**

Reader (Child): On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of angels, who as messengers of God bring good news of God’s presence and way.

**Advent Song**      “Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)”      TFWS No. 2090,  
Vs. 2



## **Blue Christmas**

**Sunday, December 21,**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Perhaps, as you prepare for Christmas, this season has not felt as joyful for you as it does for others. Perhaps, this is a season of loss and pain – loss of loved one, loss of job, loss of family, and physical, emotional, spiritual pain. As stated by Nancy Townely, "On this night, we remember those for whom the holidays are not joyful; they are lonely, in mourning, feeling alienated and cast apart from family celebrations; they are experiencing depression and sadness and yet are compelled to 'put on a happy face' for others, denying their true feelings."

The service welcomes all with trust and understanding in what can be a very painful time of the year. The service includes the lighting of candles, meditative music, prayers, comforting scriptures, and the giving of prayer shawls. It is an offering of hope, as we decorate a bare branch with shiny blue ornaments. As one after another of the ornaments decorate the barren branch it becomes a glowing, living testament to the resilience of the spirit. Join us as we offer a quiet and reflective service of light in the midst of darkness.



Worship With Us  
*Christmas Eve*



**Sunday, December 7th – Christmas Music Celebration at 6:30pm**  
**Saturday, December 20th – Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00pm**  
**Sunday, December 21st – Blue Christmas Service at 7:00 pm**  
**Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve**  
**12:00 pm Wiggly, Giggly Children's Christmas Eve Service**  
**6:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service**  
**8:30 pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Service**  
**10:30 pm Traditional Candlelit Christmas Eve Service**  
**with Holy Communion**



# Meditations For Your Week



*December 7—December 14*

**Sunday:** “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;’ (Mark 1:1-2). In the Greek, angelos – angel translates to messenger. An angel who is one who brings the message of God. Listen today for angels in our midst, bringing God’s message.

**Monday:** “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” (Mark 1: 3). We do not often like hearing the voice of the prophets. They challenge us and tear us away from our comfortable routines and paths. Listen closely to the prophets who are in your life, even if they are uncomfortable.

**Tuesday:** “[John the Baptist] proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals,’ (Mark 1:7). Jesus’ coming was foretold and has been foretold. The coming of God’s kingdom, the revealing of God’s ways is being announced all around us. How is God speaking in your life to prepare for Christ’s coming?

**Wednesday:** “I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:8). Jesus was in a long line of prophets calling us to turn back to God. Prayerfully consider the gift of the Holy Spirit as you turn back to God. Ask God to bless you with the Spirit’s gifts.

**Thursday:** “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term” (Isaiah 40:2a). Each of us needs God’s tenderness in the midst of our own pain. We also need the tenderness of others. How are you offering God’s tenderness to someone in pain today?

**Friday:** “Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain” (Isaiah 40:4). The promise of Advent is the coming of Christ, not merely as sweet infant who coos, but as an adult who changes the world. How are you expecting God’s way to change the world you know?

**Saturday:** “[God] will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.” (Isaiah 40:11). God does not leave us orphaned or alone. God cares for us tenderly and compassionately as a shepherd cares for sheep. How has God cared for you?

# PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

**Would you like to add someone to the Prayer Chain?** Weekdays, please contact **Donna Fackler at the church office: office@westgroveumc.org or 610-869-9334.** After office hours and on weekends, please contact **Sara Ann Ramberger at sar57ver@verizon.net or 610-869-3863.** All prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for **four Sundays.** If you would like to have the prayer concern extended, **please update your request with Donna.** Thank you.

**Community Prayer Focus in December: West Grove and Avondale Fire Companies**  
**Mission Prayer Focus in December: Community Cafe**

Marianne Aquino

Kory Arnold

Grace Baker (Mears)

Michael Basilio

(Covington)

Cory Beattie (Shaub)

Family of Olive Brinton

Maura Carroll (Bates)

Dee Crawford

Laura Deckman (Paisley)

Joe Devereaux (Keystone)

Leslie Dunn (Boyd)

Olivia Eason

Family of Judy Elvin (Bryan)

Family of Steve Engle

(Ramberger)

Lil and Bill Fili (Bratton)

Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)

Family of Charles Fisher

John Gambill

Richard Heacock

Matt Helm (Laird)

Tonya Howell (Boyd)

Nancy Jessup (Gambill)

Deborah Kennedy (Coates)

Peg Kent



Kim Kurz (Ramberger)

Bill Lilley

Neva Luttmann (Miller)

John McGinley

Family of Phil Miller

(Ramberger)

Lynn Morgan (McClain)

Edel Mullen

Tim Mullen

Liz Powell (Schrader)

Tammy Ramberger

Lisa Reoli

Tom Rosazza (Ramberger)

Dot Russell

Richard Saller

Roann Schneider

Elli Streibel (Mullen)

Heidi Streibel (Mullen)

Jeanette Stryjewski

Jeannie Sullivan

Fernando Tena

Jonathan Tena

Dorothy Tolmie (Tolmie)

Zach Trexler (Lytle)

Joseph White (Tolmie)

Megan Wittman (Lytle)



Tom Fagan - USA (Whelan)

Allan Frost - Guam (Frost)

Brian Kubo - Qatar (Edel Mullen)

LTC Eric Maxwell, U.S. Embassy,  
Mexico City (The Rambergers)

Tom Peirson & Troop - Afghanistan  
(Simonds)

Dave Springer - Fort Bragg, NC

Jimmy Strawhecker - Glen Burnie, MD  
(Lynne Strawhecker)

Chris Weidman - Nellis Air Force  
Base,  
Las Vegas, NV (Fran Miller)

## SERVANTS IN MINISTRY ON SUNDAY MORNING

**Ushers—8:30**

**Ushers—11**

**Greeters—8:30**

**Greeters—11**

**Acolyte 8:30/11**

**Nursery 8:30/9:45/11**

**C. Worship—8:30/11**

**S. S. Roamers**

**Lay Reader—8:30**

**Liturgist—11:00**

**Moment All Ages**

**Hospitality 8:30/11**

**Counters**

**Sound Booth**

### **This Sunday, December 7**

Tim and Eileen Bushnell

Ralph Curtiss and Scott Steele

**TBA**

Maryanne & Lianne Covington

Wesley Boyd / Sydney Curtis

K. Reischke/C. Bratton/L. McClain

Amy Simonds / OPEN

Fran Miller

Karen Hruz

Karen Boyd

Jamie Lindtner

Rain Catoia/The Kreutzfeldts

George Anderson & Donna Shaub

Joe Dea/B. Ditzel/K. Schneider

### **Next Sunday, December 14**

Tim and Eileen Bushnell

Ralph Curtiss and Scott Steele

**TBA**

Maryanne & Lianne Covington

Cecelia Figueroa / Joseph Yarbrough

J. Lindtner / K. Smith / E. Mullen

Jessi Timm / Joan Leaman

Joan Leaman

Mike Chalmers

Tom Hoover

Eileen Bushnell

Beth Arnold / Don Hurst

Sara Ann & Vernon Ramberger

Joe Dea/B. Ditzel/K. Schneider

**THIS WEEK: December 7 through December 14, 2014**

**~~ Hours for the Church Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. ~~**

**Sunday:**

8:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

**6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

**Monday:**

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

9:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday:**

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

**11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**

6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Wednesday:**

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

**6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Thursday:**

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

6:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Friday:**

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**Saturday:**

**9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

7:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

**4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday:**

8:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

**TBA**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Contemporary Worship with PraiseWorks Band

J.A.M. and Christian Education classes

Children's Choir rehearsal (#6)

Traditional Worship with Chancel Choir

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC CELEBRATION (Sanc.)**

CMO Preschool (#3, 4, 5, 6)

Knit Wits (#1)

Memory Bells Rehearsal (Sanc.)

S.O.S. Ladies (#8, 10)

CMO Preschool (#3, 4, 5, 6)

Staff Meeting

**Community Café Free Meal Ministry**

**Advent Bible Study at Jenner's Pond**

Brownie Troop 04317 (#14)

4-H Robotics Club ( #8, 10)

Girl Scout Troop 41250 ( #12)

Yoga-Sanc.

AG Wildcats (#15)

CMO Preschool (#3, 4, 5, 6)

**Advent Dreams Bible Study (#8, 10)**

Luther House Bible Study (Bldg. 1)

**Movie-ing Through Advent (Kit., Sanc.)**

Caregivers Meeting (#16)

CMO Preschool (#3, 4, 5, 6)

Choir Rehearsal (#6)

Boy Scout Troop 12 ( #8, 10)

PraiseWorks Rehearsal

CMO Preschool (#3, 4, 5, 6)

UMW Faith Circle (#1)

**RAP (Retired Active People) Sanc., Kitchen**

**JULIET Breakfast-Sunrise Café. Kennett Square**

Daily Reflections (#8, 10)

Soup Sale (Kitchen)

**Parents Night Out (8, 10 and Sanc.)**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Baptism Sunday and Children's Choir Sings**

Contemporary Worship with PraiseWorks Band

J.A.M. and Christian Education classes

Children's Choir rehearsal (#6)

Traditional Worship with Chancel Choir

**Youth Christmas Party at the Lindtner's home.**

**God's Faithfulness ~ Your Stewardship**

**Report for November 30, 2014**

**General Fund: Offering: \$5,806.<sup>00</sup> Offerings Received YTD: \$300,451.<sup>09</sup>**

**Offerings Estimated to meet Budget YTD: \$328,608 (-\$28,157)**

**Building Maintenance Fund: Offering: \$115.<sup>00</sup> Year-to-Date: \$10,343.<sup>97</sup>**

**Worship Attendance: 205      Sunday School Attendance: 59**

**Emergency Food Bags distributed year-to-date: 72**

# **Second Sunday of Advent**

## **8:30 Contemporary Worship Service**

### **Opening Song**

“Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord”

### **Welcome and Ministry Opportunities and Opening Prayer**

Pastor Monica

*Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.  
First-time visitor or member, let us know you were here!*

### **Celebration Set**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

“In Jesus’ Name”

### **Passing of the Peace**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

The Castaldi Family

### **Advent Wreath Litany**

See Page 2-3

### **Advent Song**

“Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)” TFWS No. 2090, Vs. 2

### **Moment For All Ages**

Jamie Lindtner

### **Scripture**

*Isaiah 40:1-11 and \* Mark 1:1-8*

Karen Hruz

Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #9 for Children’s Worship. At 9:30, the children staying for JAM will be taken to the youth room (#8 & 10) and those who are not staying will be brought back to the Sanctuary.

### **Sermon**

“Not Home Alone!”

Pastor Monica

### **Offering**

“Emmanuel Has Come”

### **Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance**

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Please wait for the Ushers to guide you to communion.*

“Breathe”

### **Prayer After Receiving**

### **Closing Song**

“Sing for Joy”

### **Benediction**