



United in Grace Lutheran Church

1300 Tuolumne Street | Vallejo, CA 94590

www.unitedingracelutheran.org

Reaching out, welcoming in!

November 24, 2022

Use the link below at to sign onto Sunday Zoom worship at 10 AM.

https://zoom.us/j/8210496017?pwd=d2p6TG9IaWdoc1U2NFRpN3NCK3pLUT09

Meeting ID: 821 049 6017 | Passcode: Grace

Join by mobile phone: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) Meeting ID: 821 049 6017 | Passcode: 554709

Serving on November 27, 2022

First Sunday in Advent

Presiding and preaching: Matthew Hervey

Assisting Minister: Kim Hervey

Lector: Karen Spears



What is Gold Like?

During Advent we anticipate Christ's coming as an infant as well as Christ's return, when the earth will be renewed and all will be well. We should be startled and amazed by that reality—that Christ, a member of the Trinity, God's own self, came down from heaven to earth. What kind of God does that? Who is this God that became like one of us? What is God like?

Our worship during Advent will take on the curiosity of a wondering child as we examine different aspects of God's character. There will be weekly readings from *What Is God Like?* (a book by Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner and beautifully illustrated by the Malaysian artist Ying Hui Tan), at the beginning of each worship. The portion read from the book will be in quotation marks. If someone were to ask you what God is like, what would *your* answer be? You may want to have your own Advent wreath, ready to light the candles at the appropriate time during worship.

Anticipating Sunday...

Turn On. Tune In. Wake Up!

In the 1960's people were urged to turn on, tune in, and drop out—to leave the material world behind in favor of an alternate reality. In Sunday's gospel, Jesus also urges us to tune into an alternative to the material world, one he called the coming of the Son of Man. In Jesus' person, the dominion of God comes into the world, and the risen Christ continues to give us abundant signs of its presence. Jesus commands his followers not to drop out of the world, but to be on the lookout for him in it.

Christians await the second coming of Christ, the *parousia*, when we believe we will experience God's reign in its fullness. In the meantime, we live, in the words of some theologians, "already, but not yet." We look for glimpses of the dominion in the here and now. The season of Advent, and Sunday's readings, are designed to help turn us on to the

excitement and anticipation of God's reign in our lives and tune in to the infinite opportunities we have to participate in it. In other words, they want to wake us up!

St. Paul exhorts us in the second reading to lead lives of faithful obedience until the final day. He also challenges us to participate in God's dominion in the here and now, calling us to wake from sleep, to "put on Christ." Eyes wide open and wrapped in Christ, we are called to a new day. Isaiah describes his own vision: gathered by God, learning and teaching God's ways, walking in God's paths, beating swords into ploughshares and spears to pruning hooks. Wideawake, active, and ready for encounters with Jesus, we may find God's dominion when and where we least expect it.

Readings and Psalm November 27, 2022

First Sunday in Advent

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In Sunday's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will



be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Isaiah 2:1-5

Weapons of war transformed into instruments of peace

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)

Romans 13:11-14

Salvation is near; time to wake from sleep

Matthew 24:36-44

The sudden coming of the Son of Man

The Readings in the Bible

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk



Psalm: Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

in the light of the LORD!

⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.



[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one

will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

About the Readings in the Bible...

This coming Sunday is the first week of Advent, the beginning of a liturgical year during which we will hear from the gospel of Matthew. In Sunday's readings, the coming of Christ means the hope of justice, peace, and honorable living. Come to worship, to pray for such a world as this.

Isaiah 2:1-5

During the eighth century before Christ, a time of considerable social disruption for the peoples of Israel and Judah, Isaiah's oracle described a vision of Mount Zion—a mythic name for Jerusalem—becoming a locus of God's justice and peace for the whole world. In Advent the church both anticipates and celebrates the presence of God in Jesus Christ, who is himself, like Jerusalem in the oracle, the locus of divine justice and peace for the world.

Psalm 122

Psalm 122 is one of the Songs of Zion, that is, one of the chants sung by Israelites as they traveled in pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate their primary religious festivals, or, in their absence from Jerusalem, sung to praise God for the symbolic power of the city as the center of divine presence on earth. The point of the psalm each Sunday is to give the entire assembly words to sing as a response to the first reading. Responding to the first reading from Isaiah 2, Psalm 122 expresses our delight as we enter the city of God. On this Sunday, "Jerusalem" means the new church year, the worshiping assembly, the word and sacrament we receive, even the promise in Advent of the future peace that comes from God.

Romans 13:11-14

In about 56 ce, Paul, believing that the end of the world was at hand, wrote to the church in Rome, urging the believers to wake up and to live in the light of Christ. At the start of Advent the church hears Paul's wake-up call, to put on the Lord Jesus Christ. In the darkness of winter, we awake to the light of Christ. God is like the coming dawn.

Matthew 24:36-44

The gospel of Matthew was written probably in the mid-80s as an elaboration of Mark's gospel. In Matthew 24, a chapter shortly before the beginning of the Matthean passion, Jesus alerts his hearers to the coming of the Son of Man, who will arrive unexpectedly to judge the earth. The Son of Man is a title given to an eschatological figure who had been part of Jewish expectation for several centuries, who would vindicate the righteous and punish evil doers. Matthew joins others in the early Christian movement by applying this language to Jesus. At this beginning we contemplate the end: the arrival of the divine judge means the end of the earth as we know it. In Advent, we are called to ready our lives to receive our disorienting God. The arrival of God, like a flood, always surprises us.

Images in the Readings

The apocalyptic imagery of **the end of the world**, like the flood sweeping all things away, echoes from the Old Testament into the preaching of Jesus, and continues in contemporary disaster movies and terrorist activity. For Christians, fear about the end always comes to rest in trust in the presence of God. When all is over, at our end, is God.

Today's readings expand and challenge our society's welcome of God arriving as only baby Jesus, for God comes as **judge** and calls us into a life of justice for all, evoking in us both anticipation and fear. Often in classical art, Justice is a towering robed woman who judges right from wrong.

Often in the Bible God meets with humankind on a **mountain**. Our language even calls "a mountain-top experience" one so overwhelming that it changes one's future. Sinai, Horeb, Jerusalem, the mount of Jesus' sermon, the Mount of Transfiguration, the Mount of Olives, Golgotha, Zion: all are superimposed on our church buildings, for the Christian mountain is wherever we receive the word and sacraments.

In English, the phrase "**swords into plowshares**" indicates the hope for world peace, a hope for which Christians pray to God.

Advent

Although the historical record is sketchy, it appears that our Advent arose out of a season of fasting to prepare for baptisms at Epiphany. By the sixth century, an eschatological emphasis was present. Our Advent comprises the four Sundays before Christmas. Each year, the first Sunday contains the theme of readiness for divine judgment, the second Sunday the ministry of John the Baptist, the third Sunday the Baptist's call to a repentant life, and only on the fourth Sunday a narrative concerning the birth of Jesus. God comes, in the past in the history of Israel and the incarnation of Jesus, in the present in the word and sacrament of each Sunday, and in the future at the end of all things. The lectionary appoints readings to fit this pattern, and its tone stands in stark contrast to our society's weeks of preparation for Christmas.

CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

In ways more profound than many Christians today realize, the entire Christmas cycle pivots around winter solstice, the year's shortest day and longest night. The themes of darkness and night already appear in this first Sunday of Advent, weeks before solstice: night far gone, waking from sleep, a thief in the night. In fact, winter

solstice was the original Christmas Day. While solstice now occurs in Israel/Palestine and throughout Earth's northern hemisphere around December 21, when Christians first began celebrating Christmas, winter solstice was set on their calendar on December 25, making the longest night the center of the season. When we take care to subvert racially weaponized binaries, Advent can be a sacramental way to enter Earth's annual cycle of darkness. Earth and sky become expansive liturgical space, helping us ask: How shall we pray, wait, hope, and act with integrity as we move into our longest night and deepest darkness?

Announcements

Information On What's
Happening and
Announcements
For Our Church
Community...

Do you have any announcements or items you would like put in the UIG Gazette? Please email them to me by Wednesday afternoon at susanraeriley@att.net and I will add them in...



Santa Loves Seniors is again collecting gifts for seniors in need. Below is the list that Anita was given to select the specific senior you want to buy a gift for and their suggested ideas/needs for gift. You may select more than one if you wish! Please **contact Anita Patten** via email at anitapatten@comcast.net or call her at **707-745-0648** with any questions!

Here's what to do:

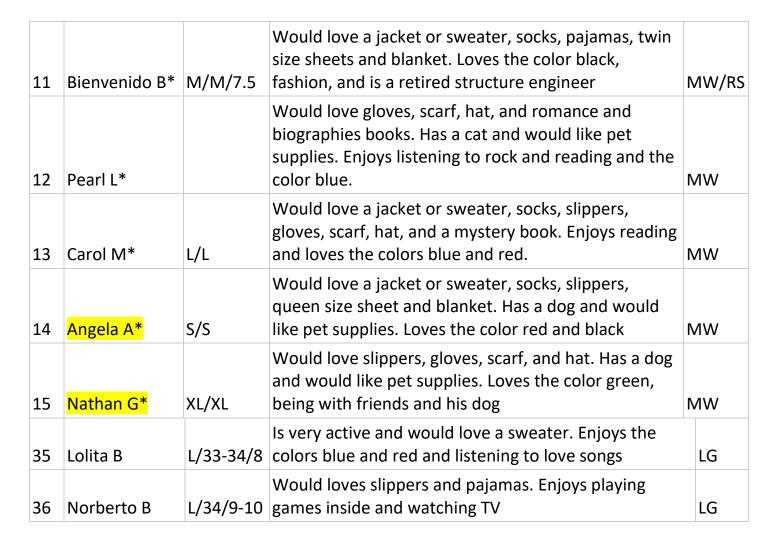
- Select a senior from the "Nice List" below that you would like to buy a gift(s) for; the items listed are their requests, you do not need to get them all.
- Email or call Anita with the name and number of the person you are buying for.
- Wrap the gift with the name and number of the person you are buying for on the gift tag.
- Please bring your wrapped gift(s) to the Riley's for storage by the first week in December.
- Again, please contact Anita Patten with any questions!

Nice List: Santa Loves Seniors

Total number: 20

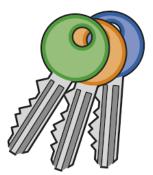
Please remember to label each gift(s) with a tag that has the seniors name and the number on the far left.

The names highlighted in yellow have been taken...but there are many more to choose!





37	Virginia G*	2XL/XL/7	Would love red silk pajamas. Enjoys playing with puzzles, the color yellow, and all types of music	LG	
38	Bernice H*	M/10- 12/9	Would love queen size sheets and blankets. Enjoys the colors blue and yellow and reading.		
39	Ron M*	2XL/48/12	Would love a jacket or sweater, slippers, pajamas, gloves, scarf, and hat. Is a sports fan, 49ers, Giants, Warriors. Enjoys golf and walking. Favorite color is blue and like listening to pop music	LG	
62	Guensik	M	Would love pajamas		
63	Soonae	L	Would love pajamas	RS	
64	Charlene	2X	Would love pajamas		
65	Debra	XL	Would love pajamas		
66	Daniel	XL	Would love pajamas	RS	
174	Ignacia V		Would love blankets, gloves, scarf, and hat. Favorite color is red	MT	
175	Jeffie R	12/14/8	Would love queen size blankets. Loves the color yellow and enjoys listening to gospel music	MT	
176	Irma A	XL (shirt)	Would love pajamas and blankets.	MT	
177	Carlos C	L (shirt)	Would love a 49ers shirt and pajamas. Is a big 49ers fan. Enjoys the color red	MT	
178	Nelia G*	M/12/7.5	Would love a jacket and pajamas. Enjoys the colors gray and blue	MT	



Do you have any church keys??

The council has discussed the importance of keeping track of **who** has keys to our church. The locks were changed after our break in earlier this year and the distribution of those keys is documented.

What is *unknown* is who has keys to the *church office*, as this door has been reused in our renovation. **IF you have keys to the church office door**, please let Susan Riley know so this may be documented on the **Key Log for UIG**. You may email me at <u>susanraeriley@att.net</u>, call me at <u>707-644-9646</u> or text me at <u>707-315-7410</u>.

Thank you in advance for your help with this!

Come out and hear the wonderful Vallejo Choral Society in December, of which **Dean Ahlberg** is a member...You won't be disappointed!

VALLEJO CHORAL SOCIETY

Walk With Me

Songs of Resilience and Remembrance

Featuring Requiem by Eleanor Daley

Conducted by Derek Tam



Tickets \$25 online, \$30 at the door

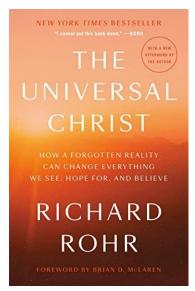
WWW.VALLEJOCHORAL.ORG



Please <u>email</u> me your favorite photos - recent or a favorite from the past - to share in the gazette! I know I'm not the only one that loves to see them!

Leslie Perroti shared this photo of late blooming Christmas tree light strawberries – beautiful! Thanks Leslie!





Book Study News

By Judy Faye

Our book study is well underway. The study meets in rotating homes on **Wednesday mornings at 10 AM** and **via Zoom at 7 PM Wednesday evenings**. Refer to the calendar at the end of the Gazette for location of Wednesday morning meetings.

Please contact **Judy Faye at (707) 980-9667** with any questions or for MORE information.

Christ's Care List

United as one body in Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation....We pray for the church.

- For the church and all places of worship. For members and friends of **United in Grace Lutheran Church**, that we continue to grow in God's Living Word, pray for each other and reach out to others in ways we are able.
- We pray for our renovation project, for a smooth and safe building experience, for financial stability for the project and for minimal unexpected findings. We pray for PG&E to fit us in to their schedule for hook us up as soon as possible in the new year.

We pray for the earth.

That humankind will care for our earth, our only home, with love and respect. We pray for those affected by natural disasters of all types... wildfires, hurricanes, floods, tornados, earthquakes.



We pray for the nations.

• We pray for those who govern or are in power in our world, to recognize the urgency of the words from Micah, "...what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

- We pray for the people of **Ukraine**. Give them strength, resolve to resist, courage and hope for peace. May the nations of the world support them for a swift end to this invasion with no more lives lost.
- Those affected by gun violence. We pray for your presence with the families and friends of those murdered in Vallejo, Tulsa, Uvalde, Buffalo, Colorado Springs...and too many more places to list. May real gun control become a reality.
- Acknowledging and lamenting the sin of racism that scars our country. Open the hearts of those who are held captive to the sin of white privilege, granting humility and the willingness to listen and a commitment to seek justice for all.
- We pray for all who are waiting at our border seeking asylum. May our response reflect the call of Jesus to care for those in need of food, shelter, and hope.

We pray for all those in need.

Healing of body, mind, and spirit...

- Family members of Doreatha Patton, who have COVID
- Dick Tygielski, husband of Paula Tygielski, who has pancreatitis
- **Bjorn and Lauren Ahlberg,** (nephew of **Dean Ahlberg**), who are in the process of adoption and also for the birth mother who will be giving up her child.
- Martin Theiss, son of Pr. Paul Theiss, undergoing treatment for cancer
- Leslie and Peter Perroti, son Dan and children, for strength and resilience to get through a very stressful time in their family
- Kathy Campas-Sutin, continued healing, hope and strengthening after surgery

For those in need of long-term prayer...

- Jan Jackson
- Carmen Harnish
- Carol Hess and her daughter Rhonda
- Doreatha Patton
- Karen Hansen and daughter Julie
- Karen Spears
- Louisa Johnson, and husband Don who cares for her
- Margaret Cole
- Paula Tygielski
- Scott Soliday
- Tony Egbo

Please email me your prayer requests to be added to Christ's Care List at <u>susanraeriley@att.net</u>. Most prayer requests will remain on the list for about one month...please let me know if it is time to update any requests or if you would like to have them removed – thank you!

Are you or someone you know in need of **COMMUNION** at home?

Just let us know and we will schedule with you to come and visit you in your home, nursing home, rehab facility or hospital as Covid restrictions permit.



Lynne Witte (707) 631-6586.

Regular communion care visits are generally made during the second week of each month.

You may contact Judy Faye (707) 980-9667, Karen Spears (707) 299-9895 or

Upcoming Commemorations

Andrew, Apostle Wednesday, November 30, 2022

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552 Saturday, December 3, 2022

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Happy Birthday to those born in November!

- 2 TERESA ARELLANO
- 3 DOREATHA PATTON
- 9 JUDITH FAYE
- 12 ANDREA ARELLANO



NOVEMBER 2022

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OE		1	Book Study 10 AM Home of Karen Spears +++ Book Study via Zoom 7 PM	Sewing Ministry 1 PM – 4 PM Home of Suzanne Huddleston	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday Worship Leader and Preaching: Pr. Sara Schultz Daylight Saving Time ENDS	7	8 Election Day	9 Book Study 10 AM Home of Susan Riley +++ Food Bank NO Zoom Book Study	10	Veterans' Day . * * * . VETERANS DAY	12
23rd Sunday after Pentecost Worship Leader and Preaching: Matthew Hervey Council Meeting after worship	14	15	16 Book Study 10 AM Home of Leslie Perroti +++ Book Study via Zoom 7 PM	Martha Circle 12 PM – 2 PM Home of Judy Faye, Lisa Olson, hostess	Theater showing of <i>The Chosen</i> , Season 3, episodes 1 & 2 at Century Vallejo 14 3:25 PM	19
20 Christ the King Sunday Worship Leader and Preaching: Pr. Sara Schultz Congregational Meeting after worship	21	22	NO AM Book Study +++ Book Study via Zoom 7 PM	Thanksgiving Day THANKS BE TO GOD	25	26
27 1st Sunday in Advent Worship Leader and Preaching: Matthew Hervey	28	29	30 Book Study 10 AM Home of Dean and Judy +++ Book Study via Zoom 7 PM			

Reminders and general info...



Sewing Ministry

The Sewing Ministry meets monthly on the **first** Thursday of the month, from 1 PM – 4 PM. During our renovation, the group meets at the home of Suzanne Huddleston, 219 Valencia St., Vallejo; 707-642-8094. (She even has a "Lutheran room" – come check out what that means!) The Sewing Ministry

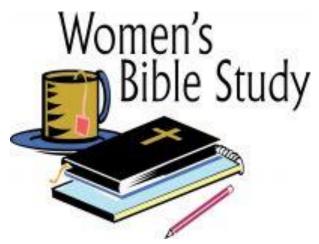
works on various projects throughout the year, including projects for Lutheran World Relief (quilts, Personal Care Kits, School Kits) and quilts for local needy seniors. The current project is making School Kits. You do NOT need to know how to sew to participate and all are welcome! For more information, please contact Anita Patten.

Team UIG at the Food Bank

Join Team UIG and help feed the hungry by sorting produce at the Fairfield Food Bank warehouse on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The Fairfield Food Bank warehouse is located at 2370 North Watney Way in Fairfield.



All are welcome to join the team. Just show up on the second Wednesday of the month at 1pm, and we will put you to work. For answers to your questions, please call, text, or email team captain **Dean Ahlberg** at 707.980.9659 or deanahlberg@aol.com. Thank you, Dean



All Women are invited...to the Martha Circle which meets the third Thursday of each month, from 12-2 PM.

The Bible study used comes from the magazine of the Women of the ELCA, "**Gather**"; copies will be available of the study.

Bring your own bag lunch and dessert will be provided. Please join us!

We are continuing to place our Brown Bags onto the hands of hungry folks we encounter on street corners and parking lots. We encourage those of you who are reluctant to hand them out, to try it. I think you will find it rewarding. Just roll down your window and hold up a bag. Ask if they would like a lunch. Very seldom will someone decline.



We can't get them at church during our renovation but call or email me and I will gladly bring some to your house. It's a small thing we do, but much appreciated.

Our funds are getting low. Each bag costs about \$5.00 to fill. Please consider making a donation. In the memo line of your check, put "Brown Bag Ministry". Thank you for your generosity, and may God bless our efforts.

Karen Spears | 707-644-2985 | klspears68@live.com



Three Ways to Tithe

By Mail

To tithe by mail, please mail your check (no cash, please) to **United in Grace Lutheran Church** 1300 Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, CA 94590.

Using Vanco

To tithe using Vanco, the ELCA's electronic tithing service, click on the following link: https://gp.vancopayments.com/gpo/#/donateNow/723f9e3a-8a35-4573-994d-9485158.

Using PayPal

To tithe using PayPal, click on the following link: https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=B9SJ6Z4KNHG5W.

Thank you, faithful stewards, for your faithful financial support during difficult times. Yours in Christ, Dean Ahlberg, Financial Secretary, (707) 980-9659

If you would like to have an updated copy of Members and Friends for United in Grace, send me an email (susanraeriley@att.net) and I will reply attaching the document. IF you do not have email, call me (707-644-9646) and let me know - I will mail you a paper copy.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise specified, worship resources, biblical commentary and clip art from Sundays and Seasons, Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress, all rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB123348.

