

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

SONG: Come People Of The Risen King

CHILDREN'S TALK

CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
We have sinned against you
And against our fellow men,
In thought and word and deed,
In the evil we have done
And in the good we have not done,
Through ignorance, through weakness,
Through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
Who died for us,
Forgive us all that is past;
And grant that we may serve you
In newness of life
To the glory of your name. Amen.

Common Worship, ©
The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2006

NOTICES (Children leave for Sunday School
and Crèche)

CHRISTMAS BOOK REVIEW

SONG: Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus

SONG: I Surrender All

READING: Malachi 2:17-3:4, 4:1-6

SERMON: Luke 1:5-25

PRAYERS

SONG: Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

BLESSING

NOTICES

Christmas Services

All services will be held both at 10:30am at the
Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and at
4pm at Eltham College, Mottingham.

5th Dec - Jazz Carol Service

12th Dec - Traditional Carol Service

19th Dec - The Greatest Gift Treasure Hunt
(from 9:45am and 3:15pm) followed by
All Age Carol Service

Women's Christmas Pudding Event - *Booking deadline tomorrow!*

Our Christmas pudding-making evening will
be on 26th November, 7.30pm - 9.30pm at the
Village Church. Ingredients provided. Email
christmaspuddingevent@gmail.com by
22nd November to book.

Book discussion

Join us at 8pm on the 17th January 2022 for a
book discussion on "Men and Women in the
Church" by Kevin DeYoung. Venue tbc.

Grace Groups

Our small group Bible studies meet on
Wednesdays at 8pm (7:30pm for food) in the
King William building of the Royal Naval
College, Greenwich. This Wednesday we will
look at Ephesians 5:22-33.

Giving

Grace Church is funded wholly by the
donations of its members. To support our
work and give tax efficiently please email
treasurer@gracechurchgreenwich.org.uk
(40-52-40 / 00027789) or give through our
website at www.greenwich.church/give

[Don't want to miss anything? Why not subscribe to
our Google calendar \[www.greenwich.church/calendar\]\(http://www.greenwich.church/calendar\)](#)

Next Sunday, 28th November: Luke 1:26-38

www.greenwich.church

 @GCGreenwich  GraceChurchGreenwich

Grace Church takes seriously the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.
If you have any concerns, please contact our Safeguarding Officer, Kate Squire
(safeguarding@greenwich.church) or the Diocese of Southwark Safeguarding
team (020 7939 9423). See www.greenwich.church/safeguarding



**GRACE CHURCH
GREENWICH**

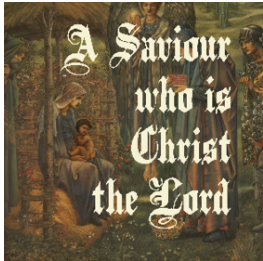
Welcome!

Sunday 21st November 2021

*"God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior,
to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."*

Acts 5:31

Luke 1:5-25



⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

Everyone knows that the Christmas story begins with a miraculous pregnancy. But did you know there were *two*?

The angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah	The angel Gabriel appears to Mary
(and he is afraid)	(and she is afraid)
to announce that his wife will give birth to a son - John the Baptist	to announce that she will give birth to a son - Jesus
which is miraculous because his wife is an elderly woman	which is miraculous because Mary is a virgin
Zechariah questions it, through unbelief	Mary questions it, but with faith

- 1) The birth of John proves God was certainly at work
 - An **eye-witnessed** miracle
 - The **fulfilment** of prophecy (1 Samuel 1; Malachi 3-4)
- 2) The birth of John underlines that people need to be reconciled before the judgment (more on this later...)
- 3) Don't do a Zechariah and miss out on the privilege of sharing the news!
 - Though God later gives him a second chance

COFFEE QUESTIONS

How has Luke's gospel increased your confidence in the Christian message so far?
How might unbelief hinder you from sharing the news?