

# MARY "GRACE" THOMPSON GOODNOW

Devotional: "Christmas Excitement"

Scripture Text: John 3:16

This is one of my favorite Christmas verses. Christmas, you exclaim! Indeed, God so loved the world, that he sent his son to us as a baby, whose birth is celebrated at Christmas time. And the angels were so excited about that birth that they had to tell someone. So they appeared to simple shepherds out on the hillside. What was revealed to them was so exciting that they had to go see for themselves if the message was true. Did they wait until some convenient time to go? No! They went immediately. Can't you see them as they rushed pell-mell down the hillside, jumping in their haste? They found the babe just as the angels had told them and they worshipped him in awe and wonder.

As they returned to their sheep their excitement still lingered, and "they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child." By now the villagers are beginning to stir and the shepherds told each one they met about their experience. Then as they trudged back up the hillside, they glorified and praised God.

But we know something the shepherds didn't. We know that just as God loved us enough to send us his Son, his Son loved us enough to give his life for us. Shouldn't our excitement be as great as the shepherds? Let us tell others this wonderful Christmas message.

Prayer: of all. Dear Father, thank you for the greatest gift of all. Fill our lives with the excitement of this miracle, not only at this special time of year, but always. Amen.

Written by Grace Goodnow

West Side Baptist Church Advent 88 Devotional, for Tuesday, November 29, p. 7. Used with Permission. All rights reserved.



# A SERVICE CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life."

John 11:25-26 (New Revised Standard Version)

**Musical Prelude** Janice Hedberg, Church Pianist

**Welcome & Introduction** The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

**\*Invocation Prayer (Stand)**

**\*Song #6 (Stand)** "How Great Thou Art" SWEDISH FOLK MELODY

**A Reading from the Old Testament** Lamentations 3:22-33

**A Reading from the Psalter** Psalm 116

**A Reading from the New Testament** 1 Corinthians 15:20-58  
The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God!**

**\*Musical Meditation** "In the Garden" ARRANGED BY LORIE LINE

**Eulogy, Words of Praise, Family Reflections and Shared Memories**

**Prayers of the Community and The Lord's Prayer** - OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and glory, forever.

**\*A Reading from the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Stand)** John 3:1-21

**Prayer of Illumination and Message** "The Greatest Gift"  
The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

**Invitation to Faith and Friendship**

**\*Closing #104 (Stand)** "Amazing Grace" NEW BRITAIN

**\*Closing Prayer & Benediction (Stand)** The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

**Postlude** Janice Hedberg, Church Pianist

"Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again,  
and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."  
John 16:22

## Obituary

Grace Goodnow, 103, of Topeka, passed away Sunday, November 26, 2023. A full obituary will be available at the Parker-Price website: <https://www.parkerpricefh.com/Obituary/271045/Grace-Goodnow/Topeka-KS>

## Luncheon

The Church is honored to host a luncheon for family and friends after the graveside service, downstairs in our fellowship hall. There is an elevator to the right as you exit the Sanctuary doors.

## Memorials

The family invites memorial donations to be given to West Side Baptist Church or the charity of your choice. The Church is grateful to receive memorial gifts in her memory. The Church is a registered 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit Religious Charitable Corporation. Donations may be tax-deductible as permitted by law. Please place your donation in the basket on the memorial table or give it online at <https://west-side-baptist-church.square.site>.



## WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1008 SW 4th St., Topeka, Kansas 66606

Phone: (785) 233-4241

[www.wsbctopeka.org](http://www.wsbctopeka.org)

Sunday School at 9:15 AM  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM

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FOR AS ALL DIE IN ADAM, SO ALL WILL BE MADE

alive@inChrist.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:22, NRSV