

# Grace

and peace to you  
2 Thessalonians 1:2

January 1, 2023

10:30 a.m.

## Grace Presbyterian Church

Prelude

“Coventry Carol”

Teresa Wilhelm

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

Welcome & Announcements

The Peace

Call to Worship

John 1, Revelation 21

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

**And we have all seen his glory.**

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

**Also, he said, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”**

Opening Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swift are winging  
angels singing,  
noels ringing,  
tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of the gospel true.

Thus rejoicing,  
free from sorrow,  
praises voicing

greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you!  
Christ the babe was born for you!

#### Prayer of Approach

Eternal God, a thousand years in your sight are like a watch in the night. As you have led us in days past, so guide us now and always, that our hearts may learn to choose your will, and new resolves be strengthened; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### Invitation to Confession

We come before God not as despised sinners, but as beloved children. With the confidence of children of God, let us humbly confess our sin.

#### Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt and renew our hope. Grant us fresh resolve so that we might turn again to you in this New Year and receive the fullness of your grace that we might live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

#### Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession

#### Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ Jesus came into the world to save us,

**that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.**

We are all one in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word, who came down to Earth, and whose dwelling place is with God's people.

**Christ lives among us as our peace. Thanks be to God!**

#### Celebration of Forgiveness

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

#### Prayer for Illumination

Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Now sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson (pg.616 Old Testament)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Second Lesson (pg. 189 New Testament)

Galatians 4:4-7

Sermon

In the Fullness of Time

Hymn

From Heaven Above

“From heaven above to earth I come  
to bring good news to everyone!  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to all the world, and gladly sing:

“To you this night is born a child  
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
this newborn child of lowly birth  
shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, God’s Son most high,  
who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
he will himself your Savior be  
and from all sin will set you free.”

My heart for very joy now leaps;  
my voice no longer silence keeps;  
I too must sing with joyful tongue  
the sweetest ancient cradlesong:

“Glory to God in highest heaven,  
who unto us the Christ has given.”  
With angels sing the Savior’s birth,  
a glad new year to all the earth.

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

HOLY COMMUNION

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory:

“O Come, Little Children”

Teresa Wilhelmi

Doxology

REGENT SQUARE

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The Acclamation

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**And all that is within me bless God's holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**And forget not all God's benefits.**

Prayer after Communion

SENT TO SERVE GOD'S KINGDOM

Hymn

God of Our Life

God of our life, through all the circling years,  
we trust in thee.  
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,  
thy hand we see.  
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,  
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in thy hand.  
With us abide.  
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land.  
Be thou our guide.  
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,  
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown  
we follow thee.  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone.  
Our refuge be.  
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,  
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“All Hail This Brightest Day of Days”

J.S. Bach

## “To Know Christ, and To Make Him Known.”

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Musicians: Kevin Engleman

Pastor: Jim Reisner

Worship Leader: Kevin Engleman

Audio and Video: Ben Morris

*The chancel flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Lori Thompson, in honor of the birthday of my grandson, Reese Jacob.*

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## Scripture

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

There is a time for everything,

and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- <sup>2</sup> a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- <sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- <sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- <sup>5</sup> a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- <sup>6</sup> a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- <sup>7</sup> a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- <sup>8</sup> a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

<sup>9</sup> What do workers gain from their toil? <sup>10</sup> I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. <sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet<sup>[a]</sup> no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. <sup>12</sup> I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. <sup>13</sup> That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba*,<sup>[c]</sup> Father.” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.