

Grace

and peace to you
2 Thessalonians 1:2

December 18, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry Charles E. Perry

The Peace

Introit Rorate Caeli Desuper Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

O heavens, send your rain upon us,
send down the Just One to Israel.

Do not be angry with us Lord,
remember no longer all our past transgressions:
see your city of Holies now has been deserted:
Zion has been abandoned:
Jerusalem has been made desolate:
the house of your kind and merciful blessing and of your glory,
the place where abundant praise rose from our fathers
O heavens, send your rain upon us,
Send down the Just to Israel

Text Isaiah 45

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news—these threads of love—not only weave deeper connections between neighbors but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly.

(Light candle)

In a lonely world, let this light shine bright. From generation to generation, we are held in God's love

Thanks be to God for this good news. Amen.

Hymn

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

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!

Invitation to Confession

One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone. We need one another.

We need one another to grow.

We need one another to love.

And we need one another to see God more clearly.

So together, let us lift our voices in unison.

Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God.

Prayer of Confession

**God of today and tomorrow,
when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's
house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings
upon her.**

How often do we have that same opportunity?

How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy?

Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession

Friends, this is what I know—
God delights in us.

God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says, “Come on home. There is room for you here!”

And in that moment, we are blessed.

In that moment, we are forgiven.

In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home. So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace.

Loving Lord, your saving grace makes all the difference in our lives. We are grateful, and we accept your forgiveness joyfully, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Celebration of Forgiveness

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;
new life, new hope the child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing:

“Glory, glory, glory!”

Let the heavens ring.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Word with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. As we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen

Let us read responsively the Magnificat ~ Mary’s Song of Praise, from Luke 1: 46-55 as found on the screen or in the New Testament on page 57 of the pew Bibles.

My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

For he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty one has done great things for me and holy is his name.

His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with His arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has put down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

God has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy

According to the promise he made to our ancestors to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Magnificat

Taylor Scott Davis

Magnificat anima mea

Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

Et exultavit spiritus meus

in Deo salutari meo.

My soul magnifies the Lord.

And my spirit has rejoiced

in God my savior.

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae:

ecce enim ex hoc

For he has regarded the low estate

of his handmaiden:

Ecce enim ex hoc

beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

for behold, henceforth

all generations shall call me blessed.

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est:

et sanctum nomen ejus

For he who is mighty has done great things for me;

and holy is his name.

Shall I Rejoice

Shall I rejoice for Christ in me,
the first of such to say?
All that this child shall ever say or be
now lives and grows in me.

Shall I rejoice for Christ in me,
his name forever mine?
I yield to him my life's identity;
Christ lives and grows in me.

Shall I rejoice for Christ in me
both glory and disgrace?
My song shall be both joy and agony;
Christ lives and grows in me.

Shall I rejoice for Christ in me,
as cloud and shadows rise?
I ponder scenes that I don't want to see.
Christ lives and grows in me

Text: Terry York

Gloria Patri

*Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen!*

Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be
world without end Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Unison Prayer of Response

**Creator and Redeemer of all things,
you have shown mercy to the afflicted
and poured consolation upon your people.
You have sent your Son, the promised Messiah,
to be born among us, light shining in the darkness.
Our souls magnify you; our spirits rejoice in you.
All glory to you in heaven and on earth
for your great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Alleluia! Amen.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorious /Kirchner

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as saints of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, this Rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

Doxology

THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING TO SERVE GOD'S KINGDOM

Hymn

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Charge and Benediction: The Work of Christmas Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins.

Text: Howard Thurman

Postlude Magnificat V – Gloria Marcel Dupre

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

Musicians: Chancel Choir, Fairmount Strings, Valerie Clayton & Kevin Engleman,
Pastor: Jim Reisner
Worship Leader: Lisa Starke
Advent Candle Lighting: Josh, Lindsay, Justin, and Ava Jablonski
Audio and Video: Ben Morris

The chancel flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Bob and Pat Small in celebration of Connor's 30th birthday.

CHANCEL CHOIR

SOPRANO

Betsy Alexander
Wendy Browder
*Shannon Coulter
Chris Hoyler
*Sue Kuhl
*Martha Reisner
Elsa Scherphorn

ALTO

Nora Berlinger
Kirsten Caminiti
Dana Ergenbright
Pat Jones
Suzy Kiefner
Robin Nagele

TENOR

Dennis Butler
Chris Sterman

BASS

Steve Alexander
Joseph Caminiti
Joe Kiefner
Drew Nagele
Hank Schneider

*Soloist

SAXOPHONE

Benjamin Eyre

ORGAN

Kevin Engleman

FAIRMOUNT STRINGS

VIOLIN

Leah Kim
Barbara Jaffe

VIOLA

Beth Dzwil

CELLO

Mimi Morris Kim

BASS

Timothy Raub

FLUTE

Lois Herbine

OBOE

Matthew Schipp

CLARINET

Karen DiSanto

BASSOON

Asha Kline

HARP

Megan Landfair

TIMPANI

Travis Goffredo

PERCUSSION

Sean Kennedy