

# Grace

and peace to you  
2 Thessalonians 1:2

December 24, 2022

10:00 p.m.

## Grace Presbyterian Church

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude (music from 9:30-10 pm)

Welcome & Announcements

Peace

Introit

“On Christmas Night”

Manz/Cherwien

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring:  
On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring:  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth

Then why should we on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad;  
then why should we on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad;  
when from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?

All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night;  
all out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God in highest heaven;  
peace on earth and goodwill. Amen”

Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness —on them light has shined.

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he shall be called Wonderful Counselor,**

**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

**The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

On this Christmas Eve we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place:

**With choirs of angels, and with all the heavenly host, we sing:  
“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all.”**

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

**Alleluia!**

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him,  
born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God,  
Light from light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
very God, begotten, not created!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels;  
sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all  
glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

### Christmas Litany

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, King of glory, Son of righteousness, born of the Virgin Mary:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Lord:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor, Treasure of the faithful:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom, our Way, our Truth, and our Life:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!

Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

**Amen.**

### Hymn

### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-20

Anthem

Nativity Carol

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago;  
born 'neath light of star He who loved us so.  
Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,  
for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;  
over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky.  
Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,  
for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills  
worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills.  
Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,  
for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;  
innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.  
Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,  
for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Sermon

From Bedlam to Bethlehem

Anthem

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

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith

Colossians 1:15-20

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

**He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.**

Prayers of the People

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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

## CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

Hymn

Silent Night

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

Prayer of Dedication

SENT TO SERVE GOD'S KINGDOM

Hymn

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovych

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

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Musicians: Chancel Choir, Cathedral Brass ~ Bill Myers, *trumpet*, Jim Edwards, *trumpet*, Nathan Odhner, *french horn*, Josy Conklin, *trombone*, Keith Genzlinger, *tuba*  
Valerie Clayton, Kevin Engleman, Dennis Butler

Audio and Video: Ben Morris

### ***Christmas Poinsettias***

*The beautiful Christmas poinsettias on the chancel are given in honor and in memory of loved ones by congregation members and friends.*

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## **Scripture**

### **Luke 2:1-20**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while<sup>[a]</sup> Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.