

Grace

and peace to you
2 Thessalonians 1:2

December 24, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church

Prelude Gesu Bambino by Pietro Yon

Peace

Welcome & Announcements

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

What Child Is This?

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

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.

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-20

Hymn

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,

and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Sermon

From Bedlam to Bethlehem

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

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!

Prayers of the People

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

The Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion

Candlelight Ceremony

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.**

Charge and Benediction

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

Musicians: Valerie Clayton, Melissa Dreisbach, Kevin Engleman

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.

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

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

⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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.

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

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

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

¹⁵ 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.”

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