



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of darkness a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – December 8, 2024

How can we pray for you? Let us know in the Zoom/Facebook Chat!

*We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in ***BOLD*** with us from your homes!*

10:15 – Zoom Meeting Starts ~ ~ ~ 10:20 – Facebook Live Stream Starts

10:30 – Live Prelude Starts *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* by Prichard

Welcome

Call to Worship – *Kneeling in Bethlehem, Ann Weems*

Our God is the One who comes to us

in a burning bush, in an angel song, in a newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found

locked in a church, not even a sanctuary.

Our God will be where God will be

with no constraints, no predictability.

Our God will be born where God will be born,

but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.

When God is ready, God will come

even to a godforsaken place like a stable in Bethlehem.

Special Advent Hymn – verse 1 & 2 #85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Light the Candle

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might grow and be purified until we reflect God's love across the world.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

Opening Hymn #88 *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

Call to Confession —

We come burdened with our passions, our secrets, our sins. We thank God that he sent his son to lead us to a better life in Christ. We come today to address our faults and beg for His thanksgiving.

Please join in the prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession —

Almighty Lord, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child, we ask for forgiveness that our thoughts are not clean, that we have not followed the teachings of the Bible, that we have not done all that we can to love you. Cleanse our souls so that we may continue our journey to Bethlehem with the strength of thy will within us. Amen

Time for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon —

With joy, we called on God's name and gave thanks to the Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Song of Assurance #581 “Gloria Patri”

Passing the Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Children’s Message

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination

Let us Pray: Let us pray. Lord, we ask for your blessing as we hear today's message. Help us to understand the meaning of this Advent season and to open our hearts to welcome the celebration of Jesus's birth. **Amen**

Hebrew Bible Reading – Psalm 25:1-10

p.863

- ¹ In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.
- ² I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- ³ No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.
- ⁴ Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.
- ⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.
- ⁶ Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
- ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, LORD, are good.
- ⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
- ⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

¹⁰ All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 2:22-25

p.1498

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Sermon

Preparing for the Journey

Affirmation of Faith: 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.

Hymn of Response #649 “Amazing Grace”

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

Call to Offering

As God has helped and guided us through sorrows and joys, let us give back in love and generosity for the work of his church.

Offertory *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* arr. by Kendall

Doxology #606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayer of Dedication –

Let us pray. Lord God, accept these gifts, given in joy to aid those in need and to support the work of your church. **Amen**

Announcements

Closing Hymn #136 “*Got Tell it on the Mountain*”

Charge and Benediction

Postlude “*Sleepers, Wake!*” *A Voice Astounds Us* by Nicolai

ANNOUNCEMENTS

East Wayne Street Thanksgiving Drive: Thanks to everyone who donated.

2nd Annual White Elephant Exchange - Today: Grace will be celebrating our 2nd annual White Elephant gift exchange following the service today, December 1st. The theme is ‘tacky ornament or decoration.’ If you purchase a gift for the exchange, please keep it under \$7. Those attending are encouraged to bring a snack to share. A present isn’t required to attend.

December 8th – Wellspring Winter Dinner: 12:30 PM @ Wellspring: Everyone is invited to assist in serving this holiday meal to Wellspring’s seasonal clients. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Todd German. 260.704.1852

Just Neighbors Meal Team: Grace is again assisting Just Neighbors (an organization dedicated to Fort Wayne's homeless population). We're providing dinners for the evening of December 8th-13th. If you would like to help with a meal or in delivering or serving a meal, please reach out to Betsy Kachmar. 260.740.7168

December Connect Newsletter: There is a new Connect newsletter in the narthex. If you know someone who would appreciate a paper copy please let us know. And We'll send them a copy.

Salvation Adopt-a-Family Gifts are Due Today:

We are Selling SCRIP Today: For more information find John after the service.

Per Capita Reminder: Per Capita for 2024 is \$43.61 which helps support the Ministry of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. We appreciate everyone's help in paying this cost.

Birthdays

Katie Lochry - December 3

Anniversaries

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

To connect to our worship services on Zoom, follow these instructions to watch or listen. You can connect at 10:15 for fellowship; the service starts at 10:30.

Option 1: Automatically Join the Meeting

Follow the link in the email sent every week. This is by far the easiest way to connect to the live video.

Option 2: Manually Join the Meeting

You can download Zoom from <https://www.zoom.us>.

After you have installed the program/app, click on "Join" and enter this information:

Meeting ID: 9712063468 Password: 030414

Option 3: Call in to Listen (Audio Only)

On Sunday Morning, you can call to listen to the service. After you call, it will ask you to enter the Meeting ID and Password Below:

Phone Number: (301) 715-8592 **Meeting ID:** 9712063468

Password: 030414

Light One Candle to Watch 85 for Messiah



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the



light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the
light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and
light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;



va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
tell the glad ti - dings. Let your light be shin - ing.

This text works best when used incrementally during the four weeks of Advent. It underscores the "waiting" theme of the season and concludes appropriately with reference to Matthew 25:1-13. The tune name meaning "deep in the forest" comes from the opening of a Yiddish love song.

TEXT: Wayne L. Wold, 1984

MUSIC: Yiddish folk song; arr. Wayne L. Wold, 1984

Text and Music Arr. © 1984 Fortress Press (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

TIF IN VELDELE

10.7.9.6

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

<i>Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)</i>	<i>Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)</i>	<i>Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)</i>
<i>Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)</i>	<i>Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)</i>	
<i>Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)</i>	<i>Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)</i>	

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
 MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
 Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM with refrain

Glory Be to the Father

581

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody. The piece concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
 Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
 gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
 world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie
 MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.
 Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw © Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;
 Phonetic Transcr. Navaho © Albert Tsosie

AMAZING GRACE
 CM

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise *him, all creatures here be-low; praise *him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heav-en-ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*Or "God"

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain ♩-♩♩

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987
Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT
7.6.7.6 with refrain

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