



**Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his
favor rests.**

Luke 2:14

Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

December 15, 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – December 15, 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 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* arr. by Butler

Welcome

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

Each year the Child is born again.

Each year some new heart finally hears,
finally sees, finally knows love.

And in heaven there is great rejoicing!

There is a festival of stars!

There is celebration among the angels!

For in the finding of one lost sheep,
the heart of the Shepherd is glad,
and Christmas has happened once more.

The Child is born anew
and one more knee is bowed!

Special Advent Hymn #85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah – verses 1-3

Lighting of the Candle

Joy is with us this morning as we prepare to light the candle for the third week in Advent. Joy is with us in the expected birth of the son of God. Joy is with us as this congregation anticipates the coming of the Lord.

We light this pink candle to celebrate the joy God brought into the world through Jesus. Fill our hearts with the same joy that the shepherds felt upon seeing Christ. May we spread this joy to others, letting it shine through our words and actions.

Opening Hymn #118 “While Shepherds Watched their Flocks”

Call to Confession —

We are here Lord. We are here to praise and honor you. We are here to show our love and gratitude for all you have given us. But we are also here with our problems, our disappointments, our hidden sins. We pray that calling on the name of the Lord our burden will be lifted. Our hope is in the Lord.

Prayer of Confession —

We come to you with a heavy heart as we know our thoughts and actions do not always promise you honor or show you love. We ask for forgiveness as we travel through this time of Advent thinking little of the nativity and more of the gifts under the tree. Forgive us our transgressions and help us to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Time for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon —

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, 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: All mighty God, open our hearts and minds that your words may grow in our souls and illuminate our lives. Bring joy to our lives through the coming of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Scripture Reading: Hebrew Bible Reading – Isaiah 35:1-10

p.1111

35 The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.

3 Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
4 say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
6 Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
7 The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

8 And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

9 No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
10 and those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Scripture Reading: Gospel Reading – Luke 2:8-14

p.1591

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.”

Sermon

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 #119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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

We thank God for the joy in our lives. We take this time to give an offering to help bring joy into other lives in our church, community and world.

Offertory

As Lately We Watched arr. by Ritter

Doxology #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray. 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 #134 “Joy to the World”

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

How Great Our Joy arr. by McDonald

ANNOUNCEMENTS

North Highland Cookie Decorating Party: On December 21, neighbors of the North Highlands community will be at Grace to decorate Christmas cookies. Grace members are invited to participate or volunteer to assist. If you have kids wanting to join or if you'd like to help, please get in touch with Betsy Kachmar at Betsy_Kachmar@Yahoo.com.

Resource Store Donations: Foundations First is hosting a free store for the community on December 21 and 22. If you have any new or gently used clothes, shoes, household items, tools, or toiletries, they would love to have them. Speak to Betsy Kachmar for more information. She might even be willing to help you deliver said items to FF.

East Wayne Street Turkey Drive Report: Thank you to all who donated food items and monetary donations. Donations included \$250 from members and friends, and Grace donated \$250 from the MOE Special Mission Budget for \$500.

Read the Bible in a Year: We are offering congregation members and friends an opportunity to read the Bible together in 2025. Check out the Narthex sign-up sheet or speak to Stacey Monnier for more information.

2025 Offering Envelopes and Donations: 2025 Offering envelopes are available in the Narthex. Please pick up your box of envelopes. Also, please have all 2024 donations to the church postmarked by December 31, 2024.

To All Committee Chairman: It is that time of year to begin to prepare for the

annual report. Please write a summary of your committee's activities in 2024 and return it to the church office by Sunday, January 6. We hope to have the Annual Report 2024 completed by mid-January.

Birthdays

Holly Bouthot – December 19

Jeff Kachmar – December 20

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 for Messiah

85



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

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 118

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is born of
 4 "The heaven - ly babe you there shall find to hu - man

on the ground, the an - gel of the Lord came down, and
 trou - bled mind: "Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring to
 Da - vid's line the Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord, and
 view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and

glo - ry shone a - round, and glo - ry shone a - round.
 you and hu - man - kind, to you and hu - man - kind.
 this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:
 in a man - ger laid, and in a man - ger laid."

- 5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
 appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song,
 addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
 good will to all from highest heaven
 begin and never cease,
 begin and never cease!"

The publication of this text in the late 17th century marked an important moment in the transition from the older practice of psalm-singing to the newer style of hymn-singing. This tune was not originally written for church use but was derived from an operatic aria.

TEXT: Nahum Tate, 1700, alt.
 MUSIC: George Frederick Handel, 1728; arr. Lowell Mason, 1821

CHRISTMAS
 CM with repeat
 (alternate tune: WINCHESTER OLD, 117)

Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of music is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and Bb4, then a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment consists of chords: G2-Bb2-D2, A2-Bb2-C2, and Bb2-C2-D2.

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

The second system continues the vocal line with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with chords: G2-Bb2-D2, A2-Bb2-C2, and Bb2-C2-D2.

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The third system continues the vocal line with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with chords: G2-Bb2-D2, A2-Bb2-C2, and Bb2-C2-D2.

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with chords: G2-Bb2-D2, A2-Bb2-C2, and Bb2-C2-D2. The piece ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MEDELSSOHN
 7.7.7.7.D with refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

This musical score is for the hymn 'Hark! The herald angels sing'. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"'

SERVICE MUSIC

606 Praise God, from Whom
All Blessings Flow
Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise *him, all crea - tures

This is the first system of the doxology. It is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise *him, all crea - tures'

here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise

This is the second system of the doxology. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise'

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

This is the third and final system of the doxology. The melody concludes in the treble clef, and the bass line concludes in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.'

*Or "God"

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

OLD HUNDRETH
LM

134 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

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