



**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be  
on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty  
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Isaiah 9:6**

**Grace Presbyterian Church**

**Fort Wayne, IN**

**December 22, 2024**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook**

## Sunday Service – December 22, 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**      *The First Noel* arr. by Thygerson

### Welcome

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

When the Holy Child is born into our hearts

**there is a rain of stars**

a rushing of angels

**a blaze of candles**

this God burst into our lives.

**Love is running through the streets.**

**Special Advent Hymn #85** Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah – verses 1-4

### Lighting of the Candle

The four Advent candles are arranged on a circular wreath, with no beginning or end, reminding us of the eternity of God's love and the everlasting love we find in Jesus.

The candle we light today marks the final Sunday before Christmas and is a time of prayer. This candle of love takes us to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph awaiting the birth of Jesus. And the anticipation of shepherds and Angels.

**Opening Hymn** God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen - see insert

### Call to Confession –

We gather today to thank God for the gift of his son. We are sorry we have not followed your lead. We offer our regrets and come to you for forgiveness.

## Prayer of Confession –

All Mighty God, forgive us our thoughtless actions. Forgive us our hateful thoughts. Forgive us our thinking of ourselves before ours who may be in need. We ask for your help in overcoming these short comings.

*Time for silent confession*

## Assurance of Pardon –

With love, we call on God and give 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: Lord God, we come to you today preparing to welcome your son into the world again. We hear the words of scripture we see the children come forward raised in your word. We ask that this Christmas we remember all that you have given the earth from creation, to the birth of Jesus, to today. Be with us now. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading: Hebrew Bible Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-4, 11b-16** p.480

7 After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his

enemies around him, 2 he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

3 Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.”

4 But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

11 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. 15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”<sup>9</sup> 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.

**Choir Anthem** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

#82

**Scripture Reading: Gospel Reading – Luke 2:1-16**

p.1590

2 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 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.

### **Message & 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 Do You Hear What I Hear - see insert

Children's Program

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 happiness and love for the work of his church.

Offertory                      *Manger Lullabies* arr. by Wyrzten

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

Prayer of Dedication —

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

Announcements

Closing Hymn #121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr, by Smith

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thanks to Everyone Wellspring & Just Neighbors:** Our Grace Deacons and MOE would like to thank everyone who volunteered and donated to the recent holiday meals and entertainment that we were able to pass along last week. Each of you helped to make a Christmas difference in the lives of so many families.

**Worship Volunteers for 2025:** We are putting together the list of volunteers for our Sunday Services. Many of you who have volunteered in the past have already received an email. If you haven't helped before, but would be willing to assist in any way, please reach out to Jill Werling or Justin in the office.

**Please Submit All Reports or Articles for the Newsletter:** If you have any reports or articles for the newsletter – or even ideas for it – please send them to Justin in the church office by Monday, 12.23.

**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 Chairmen:** 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

Jeffery Widmann - December 21\*

Betsy Kachmar - December 27

Jill Werling - December 29

## 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

## God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ, our Savior  
Was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father  
A blessed Angel came;  
And unto certain Shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by Name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All other doth deface.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

CCLI Song # 39441

Author Unknown

© Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

CCLI License # 1292718

## 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 rest, and finally quarter notes G4 and F4. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line of quarter notes: G2, Bb2, D3, and F3.

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

The second system continues the vocal line with quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5, followed by a quarter rest, then quarter notes G4 and F4. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: G2, Bb2, D3, and F3.

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

The third system continues the vocal line with quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5, followed by a quarter rest, then quarter notes G4 and F4. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: G2, Bb2, D3, and F3.

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

The fourth system concludes the vocal line with quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5, followed by a quarter rest, then quarter notes G4 and F4. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: G2, Bb2, D3, and F3. The system ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final notes.

## Do You Hear What I Hear

### Verse 1

Said the night wind to the little lamb  
Do you see what I see  
Way up in the sky little lamb  
Do you see what I see  
A star a star dancin' in the night  
With a tail as big as a kite  
With a tail as big as a kite

### Verse 2

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy  
Do you hear what I hear  
Ringing through the sky shepherd boy  
Do you hear what I hear  
A song a song high above the trees  
With a voice as big as the sea  
With a voice as big as the sea

### Verse 3

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king  
Do you know what I know  
In your palace warm mighty king  
Do you know what I know  
A Child a Child shivers in the cold  
Let us bring him silver and gold  
Oh let us bring him silver and gold

### Verse 4

Said the king to the people ev'rywhere  
Listen to what I say  
Pray for peace people ev'rywhere  
Yeah listen to what I say  
The Child the Child sleepin' in the night  
He will bring us goodness and light oh yeah  
He will bring us goodness and light

Gloria Adele Shain | Noel Regney

© 1977 Universal Music Works on behalf of Primary Wave Jewel

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

CCLI License # 1292718

606

# Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise \*him, all creatures here below; praise \*him above, ye heavenly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.' The asterisk indicates an alternative word 'God'.

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

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

\*Or "God"

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

OLD HUNDRETH  
LM

# 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth,  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868  
 MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS  
 B.6.8.6.7.6.8.6  
 (alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)

Songs reprinted with permission under CCLI 1292718 or ONE LICENSE A-731346.