



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod. Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who had been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:1-2

Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

December 29, 2024

The First Sunday of Advent

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – December 29, 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 *In the Bleak Midwinter by Holst*

Welcome

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

Later after the angels,
after the stable, after the child,
they went back as we always must,
back to the world that doesn't understand
our talk of angels and stars
and especially not the Child.

We go back complaining that it doesn't last.

They went back singing praises to God!

We do have to go back,
but we can still sing the alleluias!

Opening Hymn #151 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Call to Confession –

We welcomed a baby on Wednesday. We welcomed the son of God, the Christ Child, not always remembering why we were there. Why we celebrated. Come today to remember.

Prayer of Confession –

Almighty God, we tried to keep You in our thoughts among the trees and tinsel. Sometimes we failed, sometimes we forgot the reason we celebrated. We come to you asking for forgiveness. Knowing that we will work to keep you in

our hearts and minds throughout the year until we once again kneel in Bethlehem. 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: Almighty God, open our hearts and minds that we may hear and understand your words. That the readings from your Holy Book will fill us with the knowledge of your presence in our lives. Help us to follow your path to the kingdom of Heaven. **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.

Scripture Reading: Gospel Reading – Matthew 2:1-12

p.1497

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Sermon

Are We Wise Men

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 #151 “We Three Kings”

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 *Go Tell It on the Mountain* arr. by Hayes

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 #see insert "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Joy to the World* arr. by Kelsey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Joy Offering: We are collecting the special offering today. There are extra envelopes in the narthex if you would like to give.

Christmas Poinsettias Can Go Home: If you purchased a flower please feel free to

take it home with you today following the service. Left plants may get rehomed in the church office with no guarantee of their future survival.

Session Reports: If you are responsible for a Session report, please send it to the office by Tuesday, December 31. If you are not sending a report this time or plan to give an oral report, please also send a not to the office. Thanks.

United Faith Food Bank: We are collecting food items for United Faith's food bank. All items can be brought and deposited in our narthex. Thanks for your continued largess.

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

Elliot Lehman - January 5

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

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Glory Be to the Father

581

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

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The vocal line features a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The bass line consists of block chords.

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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The vocal line includes a half note and a quarter note. The bass line continues with block chords.

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

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The vocal line includes a quarter note and a half note. The bass line continues with block chords.

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

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line includes a quarter note and a half note. The bass line ends with a final chord and a double bar line. A large number '8' is printed at the end of the bass line.

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

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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 system has 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 below; praise *him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen." The asterisk indicates an alternative word, "God", which can be used instead of "him".

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)

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