



Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

January 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – January 5, 2025

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 *Here, O My Lord by Langram*

Welcome

Call to Worship

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

The glory of the lord has risen upon us.

Come, worship the Lord of glory.

Proclaim God’s praise among the nations.

Opening Hymn #133 “Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”

Call to Confession

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts.

Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

This is the good news:

Christ is the light of the world, who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.

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

Spirit of God, in the proclamation of your Word, reveal to us the hidden mystery of your love in Christ and strengthen our faith that we may approach you with boldness. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 CEB

Jerusalem’s coming radiance

Arise! Shine! Your light has come;
the Lord’s glory has shone upon you.

2 Though darkness covers the earth
and gloom the nations,

the Lord will shine upon you;

God’s glory will appear over you.

3 Nations will come to your light
and kings to your dawning radiance.

4 Lift up your eyes and look all around:
they are all gathered; they have come to you.

Your sons will come from far away,

and your daughters on caregivers' hips.
5 Then you will see and be radiant;
your heart will tremble and open wide,
because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;
the nations' wealth will come to you.
6 Countless camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
They will all come from Sheba,
carrying gold and incense,
proclaiming the Lord's praises.

Choir Anthem #132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 CEB

Coming of the Magi

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴ He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the Magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹ When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to

their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Sermon

Star Light

Ordination & Installation of Deacons and Elders

Profession of Faith – Apostle’s 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.

Constitutional Questions

Declaration of the Ordination and Installation

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! We will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord’s table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast which he has prepared

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving/ordination, installation & Lord’s Prayer

People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.

People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

We will sing our praises to the One who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.

In that first moment, you spoke, radiant God, and the light of creation dispelled the thick darkness of chaos. You whispered, and your glory filled the skies. You sang, and the dust of the earth was shaped into your image, as you breathed life into us. We could have lived in grace and peace with you for as long as the sun endures, for as long as the moon hangs in the night sky. But we were tempted by the sweet taste of sin, and overwhelmed with temptation's wealth of cheap gifts and thrills.

The prophets were sent to tell of your gifts of joy and peace, but we listened to the world's news of success, power, and achievement. Finally, in that dark time of despair, you sent Jesus, your servant of salvation.

Therefore, we will join our voices with the wise ones, as well as the foolish, of every time and place who forever sing of your grace:

Holy, Holy, Holy #556

Holy are you, God of redemption, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior. Overwhelmed with compassion, he left the glory of heaven, to become a prisoner of sin, so we could be set free. Overwhelmed with hope, he entered death's house, to break its dark power forever. Overwhelmed with love, he traveled another road, walking to Calvary, so we might run with joy into your waiting arms.

So, as we remember his birth, as we prepare to journey with him this year, we speak of that mystery called faith, which is revealed to us through Christ:

Throughout the ages and in every time and in every place you have chosen servants from among your people to point the way to salvation by your grace.

We are grateful for ancestors in the faith who followed without fear, placing their trust in you alone –for judges and monarchs who ruled in righteousness and peace; for prophets and apostles who spoke your bold word of mercy and truth; for leaders and teachers in every age who have nurtured your people in faith and faithfulness.

Above all, we praise you for Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free. Anointed by your Holy Spirit, he proclaimed your reign on earth, revealing your saving love in all he said and did.

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon your servant Stacy, whom you called by baptism as your own. Grant her the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

We give you thanks for your servants, acting and resting, **Elders: Bob Bausser, Cindy Bowers, Bonnie Geist, Kevin Mahoney, Stacey Monnier, and Tom Monnier** – along with **Deacons: Pam Callahan, Betsy Kachmar, Rachel Lilly, and Stacey Monnier** – as they continue in the ministry to which you have called them. Help them to rely on the gifts of your Spirit and to follow Christ faithfully in their callings.

Give these your servants a spirit of truthfulness that they may show the compassion of Christ in the actions of daily living and rightly govern your people.

Holy One of stars and sinners, send down your Spirit of hope upon those gathered around this Table, and on the gifts of the bread and

the cup, that they might make us your faithful and loving children. Feed us with the bread of hope, so when we leave, we will travel another road, to defend the weak, to speak for the voiceless, to assist those cast aside. Refresh us with the sweet nectar of grace, so we, overwhelmed with joy, would go forth to enter the houses of the strangers in our midst; to enter the despair of the lonely and forgotten; to enter the hearts of everyone we meet.

And when eternity's time begins and we are gathered around your Table, with friends and family we loved, with those we ignored and mistreated, with all our sisters and brothers of grace, we will lift our songs of glad joy to you.

God in Community, Holy in One, Hear us as we pray the prayer taught to us by our Lord:

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

#558

The Breaking of the Bread

The Lord Jesus on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, “take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying, “this cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer After Communion

Nourishing God, thank you for inviting us to your table where all are welcome. Thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of blessing. As you have filled our lives with love and hope, may we be a source of your love and hope for others who hunger and thirst for good news. Amen.

Call for the Offering

God intends to unite all creation, so that all may share in the promises of God's new reign. Therefore, with gratitude and joy, let us bring our tributes and gifts, for we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in Christ.

Offertory

Let Us Break Bread Together arr. by Raney

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

Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray. Glorious God, you led three men of wisdom to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary. Overjoyed in the presence of his radiant light, the men knelt down at the infant's crib and offered him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child, whom you called to lead the world into the fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn #147 "The First Nowell"

Charge and Benediction

Liturgy: Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving was adapted from a prayer written by Thomas Shuman, 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Session Meets After the Service:

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.

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.

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.

Worship Volunteers 2025: We are looking for a few fresh faces to fill the ranks of our Sunday volunteers. The work is easy and training is available for all of the positions. Do you like kids, you can give the children's message.

The New 2025 Per Capita: The Per Capita for 2025 is \$45.05 per member – which helps support the Ministry of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. We appreciate everyone's help in paying this cost.

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

SONGS

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
 MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

ADESTE FIDELES
 Irregular

Glory Be to the Father

581

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)

Holy, Holy, Holy

556

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Leon Roberts, 1961; arr. Hanan Yaqub, 1998
 Music © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

SANCTUS (Roberts)

557 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Musical score for 'Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen' in G major, 8/8 time. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.' The chords are: G, G7, Am, G, G, A9, G, D7, G, G7, Am, E, Am, Ddim, Am, A9, C, C/G, G.

Christ has died; Christ is risen;
 Christ will come again.
 Christ has died; Christ is risen;
 Christ will come again.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Leon Roberts, 1981; arr. Hanan Yaqub, 1998
 Music © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Roberts)

558 Amen

Musical score for 'Amen' in G major, 8/8 time. The score consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.' The chords are: G, G7, Am, G, A9, G, D7, G, G7, Am, E, Am, Ddim, Am, A9, C, C/G, G.

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men,
 a - men, a - men, a -
 men, a - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Leon Roberts, 1981; arr. Hanan Yaqub, 1998
 Music © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

AMEN (Roberts)

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
 full reverently upon their knee,
 and offered there in his presence
 their gold, and myrrh, and
 frankincense.
Refrain

6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.
Refrain

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