



“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Luke 3:16c

Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

January 12, 2025

The First Sunday of Epiphany

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – January 12, 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 *Softly and Tenderly* by Thompson

Welcome

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

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters.

The God of glory thunders, the Lord over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful.

The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Opening Hymn #264 “At the Name of Jesus”

Call to Confession –

As the multitudes of old responded to John's call to be baptized for the repentance of sin, we remember our baptismal vows as we come before God with sorrow for our sin. Let us renew our walk with our Lord by confessing our sins and asking our Lord's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession –

As the multitudes of old responded to John's call to be baptized for the repentance of sin, we remember our baptismal vows as we come before God with sorrow for our sin. Let us renew our walk with our Lord by confessing our sins and asking our Lord's forgiveness.

Time for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon —

Hear the good news of the Gospel. Our Lord Jesus Christ who was sinless sought John's baptism for the remission of sins in unity with sinners of every time and place. Though without sin, Jesus became sin for our salvation. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. In 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: As we attune our hearts and minds to your sacred Word recorded in scripture, God of glory, give life to our faith that we may hear your Word in the light of the gracious life, death and resurrection of your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ who brings light in the midst of darkness and hope in the midst of despair. **Amen.**

Hebrew Bible Reading — Isaiah 43:1-7

p.1126

1 But now, this is what the Lord says—

he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
3 For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your stead.
4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
5 Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.
6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'
Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Scripture Reading: Gospel Reading – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

p.1549

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. 16 John answered them all, "I baptize you with[a] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Sermon

Faithful, Helpful and True

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 #450 “Be Thou My Vision”

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 we proclaim the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ with songs and prayers, we proclaim the glory of our Lord by our participation in Christ’s saving work in the world. Our offering that we present to the Lord proclaims the love for the world that Christ has planted in our hearts. Let us proclaim Christ’s glory as we offer our gifts for Christ’s mission for the world.

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

Prayer of Dedication –

Let us pray. God of hope, love and peace: you have sent your Son into the world to inspire us to love our neighbors through the way that we live and care. Through Jesus Christ, you have broken down the walls of selfishness and have enabled us to see Christ in those who struggle in life. With thankful hearts inspired by the love Christ has had for us, we present our offerings to you. Cause these offerings to proclaim the glory of our Lord throughout the world. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn #610 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

O God, Our Help in Ages Past by Croft

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:

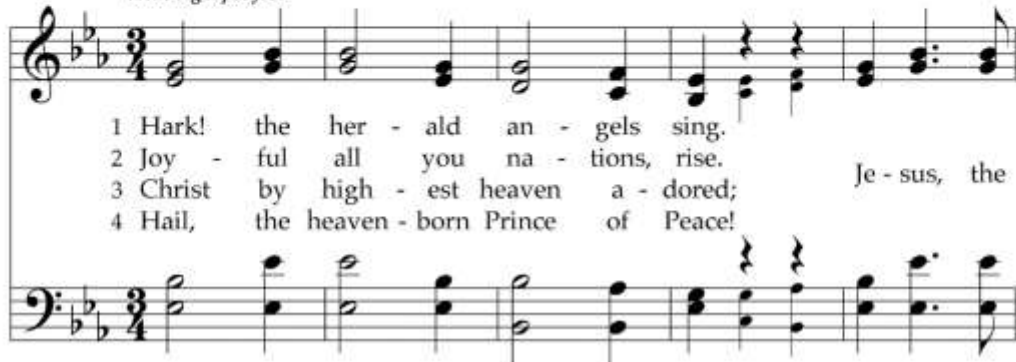
Phone Number: (301) 715-8592 *Meeting ID:* 9712063468

Password: 030414

127 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Jesus, the Light of the World

With a gospel feel



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing.
 2 Joy - ful all you na - tions, rise. Je - sus, the
 3 Christ by high - est heaven a - dored;
 4 Hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!



light of the world. Glo - ry to the
 Join the tri - umph
 Christ, the ev - er -
 Hail, the Sun of



new - born King,
 of the skies. Je - sus, the light of the world.
 last - ing Lord;
 righ - teous - ness!

This blues-tinged setting of a familiar Christmas carol participates in a longstanding African American practice of adapting Anglo-European texts, as is done here by incorporating a repeated internal line and by appending a refrain that expands that line's language and imagery.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.



Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright.



O, shine all a - round us by day and by



night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

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, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment consists of chords: G2-Bb2, A2-Bb2, Bb2-C3, and C3-D3.

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

The second system continues the vocal line with quarter notes D4, E4, F4, and G4. The piano accompaniment features chords: A2-Bb2, Bb2-C3, C3-D3, and D3-E3.

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

The third system continues the vocal line with quarter notes A4, Bb4, C5, and D5. The piano accompaniment features chords: E3-F3, F3-G3, G3-A3, and A3-Bb3.

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

The fourth system concludes the vocal line with quarter notes Bb4, C5, and D5. The piano accompaniment features chords: E3-F3, F3-G3, G3-A3, and A3-Bb3. The system ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. 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 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

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth goodwill to men

I thought how as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth goodwill to men

And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth goodwill to men

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead nor doth He sleep
The wrong shall fail the right prevail

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