



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – December 1, 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 *Waiting for Messiah* by Thygerson

Welcome

Call to Worship –

In each heart lies a Bethlehem,

an inn where we must ultimately answer whether there is room or not.

When we are Bethlehem bound

we experience our own advent in His.

When we are Bethlehem bound

we can no longer look the other way conveniently not seeing stars, not hearing angel voices.

We can no longer excuse ourselves

by busily tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem

and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.

In the midst of shopping sprees

let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.

Through the tinsel, let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.

In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,

let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.

This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

Special Advent Hymn – verse 1 of #85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Light the Candle

We light the candle of hope today. The days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here – the days when God's kingdom of love, justice and mercy will reign.

Opening Hymn #107 *“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”*

Call to Confession –

We seek you Lord. We bring our problems, our disappointments, our sins. We are not clean but for those of us that call on the name of the Lord our burden will be lifted. Our hope is in the Lord.

Prayer of Confession –

Dear God, we welcome the coming of your kingdom. We celebrate the birth of Jesus and yet worry that the gifts we buy are not good enough. We confess that the rush of planning the Christmas dinner blocks the sight of the homeless standing in line for a meal. We confess that we are not preparing the way of the Lord but the way of a Christmas with Christ as an afterthought. Forgiven us. Grant us wisdom to welcome a new path, a new vision, a following of your word. Let us seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. 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: Let us pray, Lord, open our hearts and minds that your words can grow in our souls and illuminate our lives. Bring joy to our lives through the love of your scripture. **Amen**

Hebrew Bible Reading – Isaiah 40:9-11

p.1119

You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

11 He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Gospel Reading – Luke 1:39-45

p.1873

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,
40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored,

that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Sermon

Beginning a Journey

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 #82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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 been with us through all we have. Let us share with those less fortunate through our tithes and gifts.

Offertory

When He Comes by Parker

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

Prayer of Dedication –

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 #121 *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Hark, the Glad Sound* by Haweis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

East Wayne Street Thanksgiving Drive: Thanks to everyone who donated.

2nd Annual White Elephant Exchange - Today: Grace will be celebrating our 2nd annual White Elephant gift exchange following the service today, December 1st. The theme is ‘tacky ornament or decoration.’ If you purchase a gift for the exchange, please keep it under \$7. Those attending are encouraged to bring a snack to share. A present isn’t required to attend.

December 8th – Wellspring Winter Dinner: 12:30 PM @ Wellspring: Everyone is invited to assist in serving this holiday meal to Wellspring’s seasonal clients. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Todd German. 260.704.1852

Just Neighbors Meal Team: Grace is again assisting Just Neighbors (an organization dedicated to Fort Wayne’s homeless population). We’re providing dinners for the evening of December 8th-13th. If you would like to help with a meal or in delivering or serving a meal, please reach out to Betsy Kachmar. 260.740.7168

December Connect Newsletter: There is a new Connect newsletter in the narthex. If you know someone who would appreciate a paper copy please let us know. And We’ll send them a copy.

Salvation Adopt-a-Family Gifts are Due Today:

We are Selling SCRIP Today: For more information find John after the service.

Per Capita Reminder: Per Capita for 2024 is \$43.61 which helps support the Ministry of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. We appreciate everyone's help in paying this cost.

Birthdays

Katie Lochry - December 3

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

Am Em F Dm E

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

E7 Am E Am E

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;

Am Dm Esus E

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

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heav - en - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/ Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

TEXT: Marty Haugen, 1983, all.
MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1983
Text and Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

REJOICE, REJOICE
9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9

Glory Be to the Father

581

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: '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.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

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)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring,

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

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 be-low; praise *him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heav-en-ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*Or "God"

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

OLD HUNDREDTH
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
 8.6.1.6.7.6.8.6
 (alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)

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