

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

Luke 1: 46b-48



Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN
December 14, 2025

Christmas Pageant
3rd Sunday of Advent

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – December 14, 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 *Manger Lullabies arr. by Wyrtzen*

Welcome

Call to Worship –

The desert blooms, the wilderness rejoices,

For God is coming to restore and renew!

The weak are strengthened, the fearful are encouraged,

For our God comes with salvation and joy!

Come, people of God—

Let us rejoice with all creation, and worship the Lord our God!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Today we light the third candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy.

In a world weary with waiting, God promises joy that springs up like blossoms in the desert. Isaiah declares that “the ransomed of the Lord shall return... and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.”

We await the joy that does not fade, the joy born in Christ, the joy that sustains us even in the waiting.

We light this candle as a sign of our trust that God’s joy is already breaking into the world.

(Light three candles: Hope-purple, Peace-purple, Joy-pink)

Rejoice! For the Lord is near.

Opening Hymn #85 “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

Call to Confession –

In the coming of Christ, joy draws near to us—yet we confess how often fear, impatience, and doubt take root in our hearts. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin together.

Prayer of Confession –

Gracious God, You promise joy in the desert and strength for the weary, yet we confess that we lose heart in the waiting. We grow impatient when your timing is not our own. We let anxiety overshadow your hope, and we forget to rejoice in your presence among us. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our spirits. Teach us to wait with trust, to walk in your way of holiness, and to receive your joy with open hearts. Amen.

Time for silent confession.

Assurance of Pardon –

Hear the good news: God's mercy is steadfast and God's love endures forever. Strengthen the weak hands; take courage, do not fear—your God comes to save. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Song of Assurance #583 “Glory to God”

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.

Christmas Pageant

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination

Let us Pray: Holy Spirit, Open our hearts to your Word this day. As the desert blossoms and the weary find strength, renew us through the Scriptures we hear. Give us patience, as James teaches, and joy, as Isaiah proclaims. Let your Word take root in us and bear fruit in our lives. **Amen.**

Hebrew Bible Reading – Isaiah 35:1-10

p.1111

The desert and the parched land will be glad;

the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.
No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem #87 “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Gospel Reading – Luke 1:46b-55

p.1589

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Walking the Joyful Way Together

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 #96 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptists Cry”

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

In this season of joy, we remember that God’s gifts to us are abundant— new life, renewed strength, and salvation through Christ. In gratitude for all God has done, let us offer our gifts, tithes, and lives for the flourishing of God’s work in the world. Amen.

Offertory

Ding Dong! Merrily on High arr. by Kendall

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

Prayer of Dedication –

Joy-giving God, bless these gifts and bless us as we give. May what we offer today bring hope to the weary, strength to the fearful, and joy to your beloved world. Use these gifts for your glory and for the sake of Christ’s kingdom. Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn #357 *The Days Are Surely Coming*"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Hark, the Glad Sound!* by Haweis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Congregational Meeting This Sunday: This Sunday, following the service, the congregation will be meeting to vote on accepting Sandy Garcia for the position of our pastor here at Grace.

Grace's 3rd Annual White Elephant Christmas Party: Following the service this Sunday, December 14th, we will be celebrating our 3rd White Elephant Christmas Party. America is the theme. Anything about America, its' colors or its' symbols is great. Recycle something you already have or if new, less than \$8.00. There will be gifts for the children. Sliders and drinks will be provided. Bring a snack or dessert to share. All members, visitors and friends are invited.

Christmas Eve Readers Needed: We are in need of volunteers to be readers for our upcoming Christmas Eve service. Please let Jill Werling or the office know if you can help.

Wellspring Christmas Meal Recap: Thanks to everyone who helped out in any way for this special event. We were able to serve food and entertainment to over 50 clients and staff. The barbecue meal came from Lucille's while desserts were provided by members of Grace. Our choir led a sing-a-long and the event ended with bingo for prizes.

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Worship Service Volunteers Needed: We need Worship Service Volunteers for our 2026 calendar Year. Please contact the office if you could help by being a Lay Leader, Soundboard, Video Tech or Counter. Training is easy and provided.

Birthdays

Lewis Joseph Bowers - December 14

Holly Bouthot - December 20

Jeffrey Widmann - December 21

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

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

Glory to God

583

Gloria, gloria

Capo 3: (Bm)

(Em)

(A)

(D)

Dm

Gm

C

F

(chords continue)

**May be sung as a canon.*

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979

Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

GLORIA (Taizé)

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96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jordan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nouns - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our
 ref - ige and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.
 MUSIC: *Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk, 1847, alt.

WINCHESTER NEW
 LM
 (alternate tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR)

The Days Are Surely Coming 357

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom-ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ-teous-ness and jus - tice will spread through-out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then righ-teous-ness and jus - tice will spread through-out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

This text uses imagery from Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Matthew 24:29-36 / Mark 13:24-32 / Luke 21:25-36. These passages are especially associated with the beginning of Advent, a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming while also preparing us to remember his first coming.

