

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command
they were created, and he established them for ever and
ever— he issued a decree that will never pass away.

Psalm 148:5-6



Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN
December 28, 2025

1st Sunday of Christmas

Community Worship on Zoom – Live Stream/Replay on Facebook

Sunday Service – December 28, 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

O Little Town of Bethlehem by Redner

Welcome

Call to Worship – *adapted from John 1:1–5, 14*

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
The Word became flesh and lived among us,
full of grace and truth.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
Let us worship the God who comes near.

Opening Hymn #147 “*The First Nowell*”

Call to Confession – *adapted from John 1:10-11*

Though Christ came into the world, the world did not recognize him. Though he came to his own, his own did not receive him. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession – *adapted from Colossians 3:9–10; John 1:12*

Gracious God, you have clothed us with new life in Christ, yet we cling to old ways of thinking and living. We fail to receive your Word with joy, and we resist the transformation you offer. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us, that we may live as your children, formed in the image of your Son. Amen.

Time for silent confession.

Assurance of Pardon – *adapted from John 1:12–13; Isaiah 43:1*

Hear the good news: To all who received Christ, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, claimed, and made new.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Children’s Message

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination — *adapted from Psalm 119:105; John 1:9*

Let us Pray: Living God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we hear the Scriptures read and proclaimed, shine your true light into our hearts, that we may see Christ more clearly and follow him more faithfully.

Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading — Psalm 148

p.982

1 Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights above.

2 Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

3 Praise him, sun and moon;
 praise him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise him, you highest heavens
 and you waters above the skies.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for at his command they were created,

6 and he established them for ever and ever—
 he issued a decree that will never pass away.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
 you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
 stormy winds that do his bidding,
9 you mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars,
10 wild animals and all cattle,
 small creatures and flying birds,
11 kings of the earth and all nations,
 you princes and all rulers on earth,
12 young men and women,
 old men and children.

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for his name alone is exalted;
 his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
14 And he has raised up for his people a horn,
 the praise of all his faithful servants,
 of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the Lord.

Gospel Reading — Matthew 2:13-23

p.1514

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 “A voice is heard in Ramah,
 weeping and great mourning,

Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.
22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Sermon

Experiences from Reading the Bible in a Year

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 #145 “What Child Is This”

Prayers of the People — *adapted from John 1:14; Isaiah 9:2; Psalm 147:3*

God who dwells among us,
we pray for your world, longing for light and healing.
Bring peace where there is conflict,
comfort where there is grief,
and hope where despair has taken root.

In particular today, we bring before you:

- We pray for peace and comfort for the family of Todd German, that they may be surrounded by your presence and upheld by your love.
- We give thanks with joy for Sandy Garcia and the good news of her approval, rejoicing in this moment of gratitude and hope.
- We pray for healing for Dianna Eller, for strength and care through her dental and cancer treatments, and for your sustaining grace in the days ahead.
- We entrust these prayers, and all the unspoken prayers of our hearts, to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for the church,
that we may bear witness to grace and truth.
We pray for all who are sick, lonely, or burdened,
and for those who serve in quiet faithfulness.
Gather all our prayers into your mercy,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Please join with me in the words our Lord gave us.

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 — *adapted from John 1:16; 2 Corinthians 9:7*

From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. Let us return to God with generous hearts, sharing freely from what we have been given. **Amen.**

Offertory

Go Tell It on the Mountain arr. by Hayes

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

Prayer of Dedication — *adapted from Romans 12:1; John 1:14*

Holy God, receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. May they be used to share your grace, extend your love, and proclaim the good news of Christ dwelling among us. We dedicate ourselves with these offerings, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn #133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Charge — *adapted from John 1:5; Colossians 3:17*

Go into the world in the light of Christ. Live in his name, and let his grace be seen in you.

Benediction — *from Numbers 6:24-26*

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Postlude *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. by Bennett

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Reports: If you are responsible for an annual report, please get it to the church office Wednesday, January 7.

Grace's 3rd Annual White Elephant Christmas Party: Thanks to everyone who participated in our Annual White Elephant party. We had 24 adults & 5 children. Each of the kids received a gift bag. 14 of the those attending participated in the gift exchange!

Per Capita: The PCUSA 2025 per capita is \$45.05. If you haven't paid, you still can.

Grace Office Hours: Grace's office will be closed January 1st and 2nd.

Birthdays

Jill Werling – December 29

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

147

The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-ge-l did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun-try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.
 in-tent, and to fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went.
 and stay, right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / né*) as well to "news" (*nouvel / nouvelle*).

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

SERVICE MUSIC

Glory to God

583

Gloria, gloria

Capo 3: (Bm)

Dm

(Em)

Gm

(A)

C

(D)

F

(chords continue)

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*May be sung as a canon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979

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GLORIA (Taizé)

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145

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir-gin sings her lul-la-by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

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.

