

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
January 1, 2023



Thought for Meditation:

As you look forward to the tomorrow's of life, may God in His wisdom and mercy give you enough: happiness to keep you sweet; trials to keep you strong; sorrow to keep you human; hope to keep you happy; failure to keep you humble; risk to keep you adventurous; success to keep you eager; trust to keep you serene; friends to give you comfort; faith to banish depression; resolve, by the grace of Christ, to make each day better than yesterday. *Maurice Marcus*

Prelude Gesu Bambino Yon

Welcome and Announcements Doug Marshall

Call To Worship Matthew 2:1-2 Cathy Brady

L: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem.

P: They asked, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him?"

L: O people of God, why have you come here this morning?

P: Like the magi, we have come to worship Jesus, the King, our Lord and Savior.

All: O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

*** Hymn of Praise** We Three Kings #288

Prayer of Confession Psalm 51:6-12

O God, You desire truth in the inward being;
Therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
Let the bonds that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And put a new and right spirit within me.

Assurance of Forgiveness Matthew 1:20-21

L: An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

P: "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,

L: "For the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

P: "She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus,

L: "For he will save his people from their sins."

P: Let us rejoice in the Good News:

L: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

ALL: Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

*** Passing of the Peace**

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Please pass the peace of Christ to your neighbors in the pews and introduce yourself to those you do not know.

Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church.

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for worship. Jackie Chickerella will be your greeter today. There will be no Coffee Fellowship after worship today; we will be back Sunday, January 8.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY



We plan to print an updated membership directory soon. If you have made any changes to your home and/or email address, phone number, etc. please contact the office at 724-339-9661 or send us an email to doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org and/or secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org with your changes.



Glenn Nordmark, Reverend Ken and Barb Foust will talk about their recent trip to the Holy Land following the worship service on January 8th.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST(S) AND GREETERS(S) NEEDED



Please sign up to volunteer to be a coffee fellowship host and/or a greeter. Sign-up sheets on the bulletin board by the office. Thanks in advance.



We are collecting items for the next rummage sale. Please help by bringing in your unwanted items for the next sale. They can be placed inside the upper-level door by the old sanctuary

TODAY'S MUSIC: Pietro Yon, Italian-American composer and teacher, was organist and music director at St. Patrick Cathedral, New York. His students included Cole Porter and classical composer Norman Dello Joio. His compositional output was substantial, including 21 masses, many motets, and various other sacred works, solo organ and piano pieces, songs, chamber music, and orchestral compositions, including several concertos. Yet he is known mainly for one piece - "**Gesu Bambino.**" Yon wrote the melody and original Italian text in 1917. The English text commonly used today is not a translation but an original set of lyrics by Frederick Marten.

"**O Bethlehem**" is a Basque carol (both tune & text). As this carol tells the story Bethlehem had no room for Jesus; now he is gone and there is room in every cradle. The original text seems to cast guilt on Bethlehem for rejecting Jesus, specifically referring to Herod's slaughter of its children. A later paraphrase by Elizabeth Poston kept a brief mention of the "no room then/plenty of room now" comparison without including Herod's action. Hers would go on to tell of "God's greatest gift" and the anguish Jesus would suffer.

In 1920, Anglican priest Sabine Baring-Gould wrote a totally new text. In his lullaby, "**The Infant King,**" the incarnation of Jesus is seen in the context of his Passion, death and resurrection. In Scripture, this is seen in Simeon's prophecy to Mary in Luke 2:35. Each of his four stanzas begin "*Sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King.*" In successive stanzas he gives the reason:

- (1) *Angels are watching, ...over the place where he is lying.*
- (2) *Soon will come sorrow with the morning, soon will come bitter grief and weeping.*
- (3) *Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, then in the grave at last reposing.*
- (4) *Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning, conquering Death, its bondage breaking.*

This Week's Calendar

January 1 - 7

Sunday	Worship HAPPY NEW YEAR	10:00am
Monday	Office Closed	
Tuesday	Bible Study	1:00pm
Wednesday	Cub Scouts Den Meeting	6:00pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
Thursday	Ladies Club	6:30pm
Friday	The Epiphany Of Our Lord	

Looking Ahead

January 8-14

January 8	Sunday School (all ages)	9:00am
	Fellow & Nurture Meeting	9:00am
	Worship/Communion	10:00am
	Youth Group	6:00pm
January 9	Cub Scouts Committee Meeting	6:45pm
January 10	Bible Study	1:00pm
January 11	Cub Scouts Pack Mtg.	7:00pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
January 12	Christian Ed. Meeting	3:00pm
January 14	Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby	9:00am

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
(724) 339-9661
Website: www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Worship Service is at 10:00am

Church Staff:

Pastor: Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor
doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Secretary: Wendy Stein Clark
secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Christian Ed.: Bill Ludwig
Organist: Kenneth McGeary
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zunich

Elders

Reitha Bieranoski
Cathy Brady
Cathy Christoforetti
Ben Edwards
David Highfield
Dan Howard
Henry Kedzierski
Val Lester
John Napierski
Sharon Rupert
Stephanie Tutka
Cathy Vitari (clerk)

Deacons

Darlene Artman
Rich Artman
Gary Barbiaux
Judy Barbiaux
Elsie Deem
Margie Bistline
Beulah Brown
Jackie Chickerella
Cindy Irvin*
Terri Ludwig
Lavonne Pelisari
Debbie Roskey
Mary Ann Walter
Lou Walter
Shirley Wilson

*Denotes Moderator