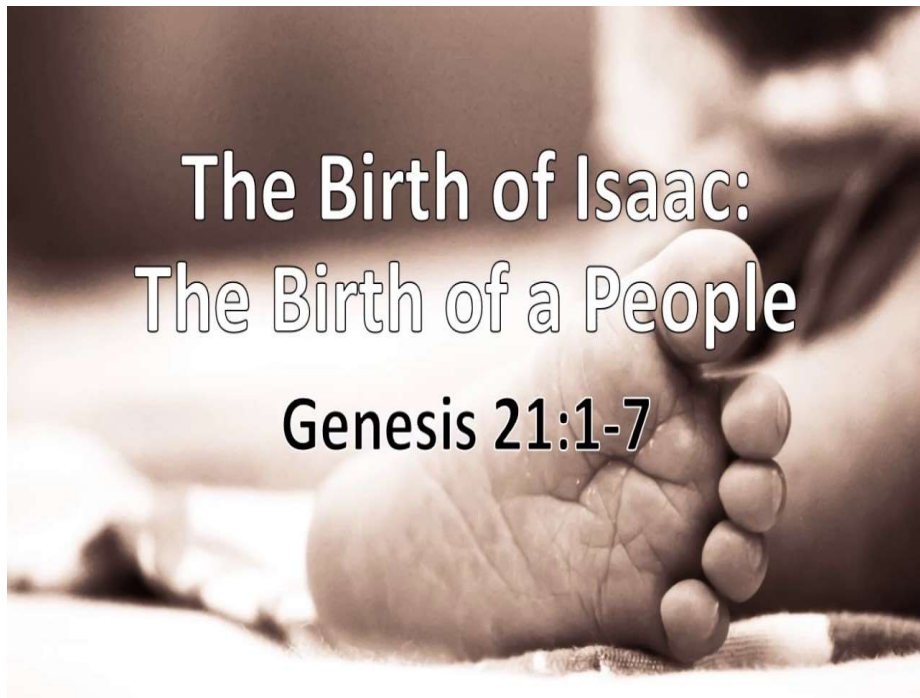


*Grace Community Presbyterian Church*  
*January 15, 2023*



## Thought for Meditation

FIRE! God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, not the god of the philosophers and the scholars – absolute certainty – beyond reason.

JOY! PEACE! Forgetfulness of the world and everything, but God! The world has not known Thee, but I have known Thee. JOY! JOY! JOY! Tears of joy! *Blaise Pascal*

**Prelude** Partita on “Nettleton” Haan

**Welcome and Announcements** Doug Marshall

**Call To Worship** 1 Chronicles 29:10-11 Cathy Vitari

L: Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel, forever and ever.

**P: Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty;**

L: All that is in heaven and earth is yours;

**P: Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head of all.**

L: Let us worship and glorify the God of our salvation!

**P: Let us sing our praises to the God of majesty!**

**\* Hymn of Praise** Glorify Thy Name / Majesty #9 & 10

## Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord... *Silent prayer of confession.*

**Assurance of Forgiveness** Psalm 32:1-2

L: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven.

**P: Blessed are those whose sins are covered.**

L: Happy is the one whose sin the LORD does not count.

**P: Blessed is the one whose spirit is clean.**

L: Grace Church, believe the good news:

**P: Jesus forgives all our sins.**

**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.*

**\* Glory Be To the Father** #813

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen. Amen.

**New Testament Lesson**

John 16:20-24 (page 940)

**Anthem**

Family of Faith (MacKenzie)

Chancel Choir

In Christ's name, we gather, in God's presence we rejoice, in the Spirit, strangers and friends sing united as one voice.

*Refrain*

Abounding in hope, rooted in love, assured by the gifts of God's marvelous grace. Believing in One that was sent from above, we stand as a family of faith.

We're traveling on life's journey, finding our way by heaven's wondrous light. There is no burden carried alone when we walk the way of Christ. *(refrain)*

Like instruments of a symphony, each one unique, yet all belong. Through God we blend into harmony, together we are strong, hear our song! *(refrain)*

*Words by Valerie MacKenzie, adapted from Gal 6:2, 10 & 1 Cor 12:27*

**Old Testament Lesson**

Genesis 21:1-7 (page 15)

**Sermon**

A Funny Faith

**\* Hymn of Response**

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

#370

**\*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 to 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.

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer****Call for Tithes and Offerings****Offertory**

Come We that Love the Lord

Childs

**\* Doxology**

#166

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

* <b>Hymn of Dedication</b>	We're Marching to Zion	#416
* <b>Charge and Benediction</b>		
* <b>Congregational Response</b>	We're Marching to Zion (Refrain)	#416
	We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion.	
	We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God.	
* <b>Postlude</b>	Come, Christians, Join to Sing	Harmon

The Prayer of Confession is reprinted by permission from the *Book of Common Worship*, © 1993  
Westminster/John Knox Press

**\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

## Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church.

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for worship. Gary and Judy Barbiaux will be your greeters today. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship after worship; Jen Beck and Mike Cochenour will be your hosts.

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY



We plan to print an updated membership directory in February. 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](mailto:doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org) and/or [secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org) with your changes.



2022 Contribution Reports: Please pick up your contribution report located in the Narthex.



**always had!**

### 2023 Offering Envelopes

The 2023 Offering Envelopes are on the table, in the narthex, just to the right of the old entrance. Please pick up your envelopes. Thanks.

**Please note - many of the numbers have changed. Make sure you look for the box with your name. Do not automatically take the same # you have**



- Christian Ed Meeting will be held this Thursday, January 19 at 3:00pm.
- Session meeting on January 23 will be held at 6:30pm NOT 7pm.
- Men's Group has been moved to Wednesday, January 25 at 6:00pm

**TODAY'S MUSIC:** *"Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood."* So wrote Robert Robinson as he recalled his own life. When he was fourteen, he went to London to learn a trade, but he learned more when he joined a gang. When he was seventeen, he and his friends decided to attend a George Whitefield meeting. For them it was a joke. They went to mock and laugh at the Methodists. But when Whitefield began his powerful sermon on "the wrath to come," Robinson felt as if Whitefield had written that sermon specifically for him. For almost three years he was haunted by that message until, in his 20th year, he found "peace by believing."

While serving Calvinist Methodist Chapel in Norfolk, England, he wrote a hymn to complement his sermon for Pentecost - "**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.**" It was a hymn of praise and petition to the Holy Spirit who "fills my heart with joy and love." Today's prelude is a **Partita** (set of variations) based on the tune **Nettleton**, the tune most often used for his hymn.

Valerie MacKenzie composed the music and wrote the words for today's anthem, **The Family of Faith**. The words are adapted from Galatians 6:2, 10 and I Corinthians 12:27. She was born and raised in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and received her degree in Music Education in 1979 from Acadia University with a major in piano and minor in organ. She has been active in church music throughout her life time, recently retiring as music director at Park Royal United Church – a position she held for 17 years. Working with young people has been a passion and she continues to operate an active music studio where she teaches piano and theory and encourages young composers.

Isaac Watts originally published "**Come, We that Love the Lord**" under the title "Heavenly Joy on Earth." Based on passages from Revelation, Watts addresses the joys of the saints, singing as they "surround the throne." In two stanzas often omitted in today's hymnals, Watts describe the presence of joy that can also be found on earth:

*The men of grace have found glory begun below;  
celestial fruits on earthly ground from faith and hope may grow.  
The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets  
before we reach the heav'nly fields or walk the golden streets.*

Watts not only wanted the singer to communicate the joy of what was to come through eternal life in heaven, but also the blessings of God on earth. An allusion to John Bunyan's popular devotional classic The Pilgrims Progress is found in the final stanza calling attention to the Christian journey toward Zion and a triumphant entry into "Immanuel's ground."

**This Week's Calendar  
January 15-21**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday School (all ages)</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	<b>Deacons Meeting</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
	<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Cub Scouts Den Meeting</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Christian Ed Meeting</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
	<b>Ladies Club</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>

**Looking Ahead  
January 22 -28**

<b>January 22</b>	<b>Sunday School (all ages)</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Fellowship &amp; Nurture Meeting</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>January 23</b>	<b>Session Meeting</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>January 24</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>January 25</b>	<b>Men's Club (Cana Hall)</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
	<b>Cub Scouts Den Meeting</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>

**CrossCurrents** will be mailed out. If you would like to put anything in **CrossCurrents**, please get it to the office by Monday morning. You can leave a copy on Wendy's desk or send it to her by email: [secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org).

**CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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

Worship Service is at 10:00am

**Church Staff:**

Pastor: Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor  
[doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org)  
Secretary: Wendy Stein Clark  
[secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org](mailto: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