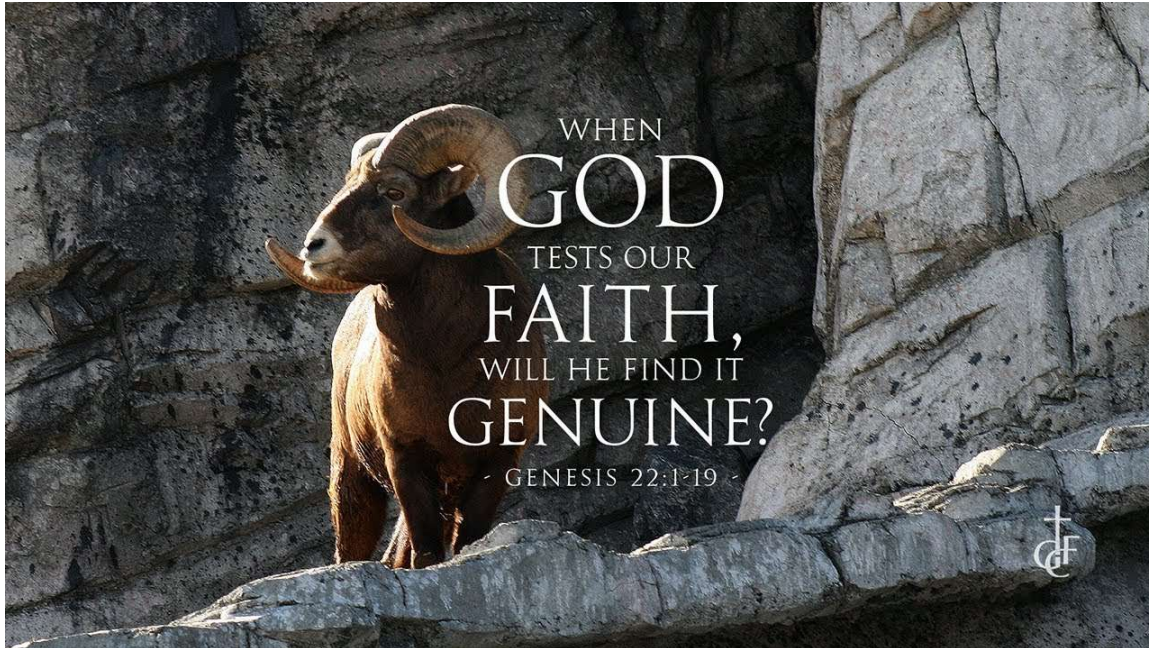


*Grace Community Presbyterian Church*  
*January 29, 2023*



## Thought for Meditation:

Bearing the cross: For whomever the Lord has adopted and deemed worthy of his fellowship ought to prepare themselves for a hard, toilsome, and unquiet life, crammed with very many and various kinds of evil. It is the Heavenly Father's will thus to exercise them so as to put his own children to a definite test. *John Calvin*

**Prelude** All Creatures of Our God and King Rogers

**Welcome and Announcements** Doug Marshall

**Call To Worship** Exodus 6:3; Psalm 95:3 Ben Edwards

L: God said to Moses, "I am the LORD."

**P: "I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty."**

L: The LORD is the great God;

**P: The LORD is the great King above all gods.**

L: Let us sing our praises to the Lord.

**P: Let us praise the Almighty, the King of creation!**

\* **Hymn of Praise** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #210

## Prayer of Confession

O holy and righteous God, too often we dare your justice, mock your mercy, jeer your patience, ignore your power, and scorn your love. We even say "I'm sorry" insincerely and confess our sin flippantly.

We come to you now and plead for your mercy. Help us to own how we have wronged you, to admit how we have grieved you, to confess how we have not loved your people, and to humble ourselves before your mercy. We pray that you would forgive us for the sake of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ... *Silent Prayer of Confession*

**Assurance of Forgiveness** Revelation 5:12

L: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

**P: Jesus deserves all power, wealth and wisdom;**

L: He deserves all strength, honor, glory, and praise!

**P: Jesus died for our sins and purchased our salvation.**

L: Grace Church, believe the good news:

**P: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**ALL: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

## \* 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**

Hebrews 11: 8-12, 17-20 (page 1050)

**Anthem**

Praise God the Lord (Schütz)

Chancel Choir

Praise God the Lord, ye people, all, within his sanctuary's wall;  
Praise Him within His holy tower, the firmament of all His power.  
Praise Him for all His mighty deeds and for His greatness,  
Which exceeds all earthly greatness which we know and all our glory here below.  
Praise Him with brilliant trumpet sound, with harp and psaltry all around;  
Praise Him with timbrel and with string, while all the people dance and sing.  
Praise Him with pipe and cymbals loud, with clashing cymbals bright and proud;  
Let all that breathes now sound the chord and glorify Him. Praise the Lord!  
(Psalm 150, paraphrased)

**Old Testament Lesson**

Genesis 22:1-19 (page 16)

**Sermon***Akedah* - The Binding of Isaac**\* Hymn of Response**

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed?

#306

**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** (debts, debtors)**Call for Tithes and Offerings****Offertory**

Prayer

Guilmant

**\*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****\* Hymn of Dedication**

Lamb of God

#302

**\* Charge and Benediction**

**\* Congregational Response**                      Lamb of God (refrain)

#302

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God;  
I love the holy Lamb of God.  
O wash me in His precious blood.  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

**\* Postlude**

Menuet Gothique

Boëllman

The Prayer of Confession is adapted and reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

## Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church.

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for worship. Lavonne Pelisari will be your greeter today. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship after worship. Linda and Lee Johnson will be your hosts.



We are planning to release an updated church phone directory in February. There are two directories located in the Narthex. Please review your contact information and let us know if it is correct or if there are changes to be made.



2022 Contribution Reports: Don't forget to pick up your contribution report located in the Narthex.



### 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 number you have always had!**



Hope you can join us for our annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sunday, February 19 @ 5:00pm in Cana Hall. See attached flyer.

**TODAY'S ANTHEM:** One of Martin Luther's main contributions to Christian liturgy is the chorale. His idea was to have the congregation sing, and to that end he encouraged poets to write hymns and composers to set them to music in such a way that they could be sung together by the faithful and that were not too hard to memorize. It would take some time before the congregations started to sing them, as most people were unable to read.

For Luther the Book of Psalms was a particularly important part of the Bible. He called it “a Little Bible,” where everything contained in the entire Bible is beautifully and briefly presented. Some of his own hymns are versifications of psalms; the most famous being A Mighty Fortress, based on Psalm 46. In the absence of a German Psalter Ambrosius Lobwasser published the Genevan Psalter in a German translation. This Psalter was very successful and was widely used across Germany. However, it met strong resistance from Lutheran spiritual leaders. In 1602, Cornelius Becker, professor of theology in Leipzig, came up with an alternative. He published his own rhymed version of the Psalms, The Psalms of David for Singing, which could be sung to pre-existing hymn melodies (Becker only provided the texts, not the hymns).

Why the disagreement between the followers of Luther and Calvin? It is not entirely clear, but one difference was in their views of the Psalms. According to Calvin, because the Psalms were inspired by the Holy Spirit the poets should stay as closely as possible to the original text. Luther, on the other hand, saw the Psalms as ‘Christ’s songs’ and interpreted them from a New Testament angle (a view that Isaac Watts would take in the future).

The court in Dresden was one of the places where the Becker Psalter was received with enthusiasm. It was given official status, which explains why Heinrich Schütz became interested in it. Schütz, however, had little interest in using the Lutheran chorales. He had a great sensitivity towards the relationship between text and music. In a hymn with multiple stanzas the same tune must fit the text of each stanza. Because of that, the possibilities to write a melody that depicts the lyrics - Schütz’s ideal - are very limited. (He would not be happy with today’s anthem. His original was for only one stanza from Psalm 150. Our anthem, Praise God the Lord, has four paraphrased stanzas, all using the same music.)

Schütz’s settings of the Becker Psalter, for 4-part choir, were published in 1628. In the foreword he notes that he had already sung psalms from this collection with the choirboys of the court chapel, using his own melodies. He was clearly not satisfied with the connection between the psalms and the hymn melodies. He aimed for a closer connection between lyrics and melody. In the writing of his own melodies he strived to match music and text while finding a middle ground between the popular song and the more sophisticated music intended for choirs.

**This Week's Calendar**  
**January 29-February 4**

|                  |                                 |                |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Sunday School (all ages)</b> | <b>9:00am</b>  |
|                  | <b>Worship</b>                  | <b>10:00am</b> |
|                  | <b>Youth Group</b>              | <b>6:00pm</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Bible Study</b>              | <b>1:00pm</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Cub Scouts Den Meeting</b>   | <b>7:00pm</b>  |
|                  | <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>          | <b>7:00pm</b>  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Ladies Club</b>              | <b>6:30pm</b>  |
|                  | <b>GROUNDHOG DAY</b>            |                |

**Looking Ahead**  
**February 5 - 11**

|                   |                                     |                |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>February 5</b> | <b>Sunday School (all ages)</b>     | <b>9:00am</b>  |
|                   | <b>Worship/Communion</b>            | <b>10:00am</b> |
|                   | <b>Youth Group</b>                  | <b>6:00pm</b>  |
| <b>February 6</b> | <b>Cub Scouts Committee Meeting</b> | <b>6:45pm</b>  |
| <b>February 7</b> | <b>Bible Study</b>                  | <b>1:00pm</b>  |
| <b>February 8</b> | <b>Cub Scouts Pack Meeting</b>      | <b>7:00pm</b>  |
|                   | <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>              | <b>7:00pm</b>  |
| <b>February 9</b> | <b>Christian Ed Meeting</b>         | <b>3:00pm</b>  |
|                   | <b>Finance Meeting</b>              | <b>6:30pm</b>  |

**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 Zurich

**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