

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
December 11, 2022



Thought for Meditation

“It seems, then,” said Tirian, smiling himself, “that the Stable seen from within and the Stable seen from without are two different places.”

“Yes,” said the Lord Digory. “It’s inside is bigger than its outside.”

“Yes,” said Queen Lucy. “In our world too, a Stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

Prelude Fanfare & Aria on “Salvation unto Us Has Come” Johnson

Welcome and Announcements Doug Marshall

Call To Worship Advent Wreath Ceremony Deacons

*** Carol of Praise** O Come, All Ye Faithful #249

Prayer of Confession Terri Wilson

Lord, as we wait during Advent we confess that we have not kept watch for you. We have not sought to hear your word for our lives. We have not waited to find your will. We have not noticed the needs of people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Open our ears to your Word of life and hope. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming... *Silent Prayer of Confession*

Assurance of Forgiveness Lamentations 3:22-23

L: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,

P: His merciful love never comes to an end.

L: God’s love and mercy are new every morning;

P: How great is your faithfulness!

L: People of God, rejoice in the good news:

P: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

ALL: All glory be to God on high!

*** 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 To God** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (v5) #272

All glory be to God on high, And to the earth be peace.

Good will to all from highest heaven

Begin and never cease! Begin and never cease!

Children’s Time Terri Wilson

Anthem Keep Your Lamps (Thomas) Chancel Choir

Scripture Luke 2:1-7 (Page 889)

Sermon	Christmas Misconceptions	
* Carol of Response	What Child Is This?	#281
*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 Offering		
Offertory	Bourée on 2 English carols	Rowley
* Doxology	As with Gladness Men of Old (v3)	#290
	As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare, So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to Thee our heav'nly King.	
* Prayer of Dedication		
* Carol of Dedication	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	#277
* Charge and Benediction		
* Congregational Response	Go, Tell It on the Mountain (Refrain)	#258
	Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.	
* Postlude	Postlude on "Regent Square"	Rowley

Congregational Meeting

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. Glenn Nordmark will be your greeter today. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship after worship today; Stephanie Tutka will be your host.



Congregational Meeting

Please plan to stay after worship today for the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will review the 2023 budget.



Join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service @ 7:30pm on December 24.



Starting now, 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

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.

TODAY'S MUSIC: "Salvation unto Us Has Come" is a hymn by German pastor Paul Speratus. It is sometimes considered a Christmas hymn solely because of the first phrase, but mainly it is a Reformation hymn. When it was first published in Christian Songs it was titled "A hymn of Law and Faith, powerfully furnished with God's Word." It has been called "the true confessional hymn of the Reformation," and also 'the poetical counterpart of Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans.'"

Speratus had a turbulent career, owing to his Reformationist views. In 1518, he was invited to become a preacher at the cathedral in Würzburg. He went to Würzburg in 1519, but his preaching was too evangelical for the bishop, and he had to leave. Moving to Salzburg, he preached for some time in the cathedral, until disagreements with the archbishop forced him out. In 1523 he went to Wittenberg and helped Martin Luther assemble the first Lutheran hymnal.

*Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.*

Our choir presents the spiritual "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning," arranged by Dr. Andre Thomas. It is based on Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25: 1–13). In that parable half of the bridesmaids prepared enough oil for their lamps and the long, midnight wait for the bridegroom's arrival. The other half did not; their lamps burned out. The spiritual encourages us to be like the wise bridesmaids, prepared for the long haul and the dark night. It's a call to keep faith and hope alive when it's not easy to do.

This Week's Calendar

December 11-17

Sunday	Sunday School (all ages)	9:00am
	Fellowship & Nurture Meeting	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Congregational Meeting	11ish
	Youth Group	6:00pm
Monday	Finance Meeting	6:30pm
	Cub Scouts Committee Mtg	6:45pm
Tuesday	Bible Study	1:00pm
Wednesday	Cub Scouts Pack Mtg/Christmas Party	7:00pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
Thursday	Ladies Club	6:30pm

Looking Ahead
December 18-24

December 18	Sunday School (all ages)	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Deacons Meeting	11:00am
	Youth Group	6:00pm
December 20	Bible Study	1:00pm
December 21	Cub Scouts Pack Mtg.	6:00pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
December 15	Men's Club	6:00pm
	Cub Scouts Pack Mtg	6:00pm
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service	7:30pm

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