

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
December 12, 2021



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.

Special Music

O Come, Emmanuel (Poorman)

Chancel Choir

Scripture

Titus 2:11-14 (page 1041)

Luke 1:26-38 (page 887)

Sermon

God's Interruptions

*** Hymn of Response**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

#251

***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.

Prayers of the People

Call for Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

In Dulci Jubilo

Bach

*** Doxology**

#166

*** Prayer of Dedication**

*** Hymn of Dedication**

The First Noel (v1-2, 6)

#265

*** Charge and Benediction**

*** Congregational Response**

Emmanuel

#243

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

*** Postlude**

Noël Parisien

Quef

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***PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church this morning.

There will be no Coffee Fellowship in Cana Hall after the service today.

Finances & the 2022 Budget

At the congregational meeting last week there was some confusion about what needed to be done. In the Presbyterian Church, the session approves the budget, though the called pastor's salary is approved by the congregation. Since Doug is the Interim Pastor he is hired by the session, who approves his salary. Therefore, there was no need for a vote by the congregation. Since Doug is new here at Grace he didn't know how you have done this meeting in the past, which added to the confusion. The purpose of the meeting was to review the finances of 2021 and the budget for 2022.

The actual budget should have been handed out during the meeting so that people could look at it and see what session approved. It is in the bulletin this week. Please look through it (hopefully not during worship) and let us know if you have any questions. Dave Briscoe will be available after worship, in the library, to answer any questions about the budget.

C.S. Lewis – Adult Sunday School Class

You may have seen the blockbuster movie, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. You may even have read the book or the whole Narnia series. But what do you know about C.S. Lewis, the man behind the book? What does "C.S." stand for? He was one of the most published authors of the 20th century, a professor of medieval literature at Oxford and Cambridge, a man who loved long walks, going to a pub to drink beer, smoke his pipe and tell jokes with friends. Join Pastor Doug as he leads a four week class (January 9, 16, 23, 30) on the life and writings of C.S. Lewis, whose faith and writings are still contemporary, encourage us in our own lives and challenge us to grow in our faith. Sundays @ 10:00 AM, in Cana Lounge.

TODAY'S MUSIC: Many of the advent hymns and Scripture texts speak of our darkness and captivity: "Ransom captive Israel," "disperse the gloomy clouds of night," "the people who walk in darkness." Advent helps us remember how hopeless we were before Christ rescued us. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's experience in a Nazi prison gave him an interesting perspective on that: "*A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes – and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of advent.*"

"**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**" is one of our most well-known Advent hymns. This hymn's seven "Great Antiphons," or "Great O's," were sung in the monasteries during Advent vespers in 9th century (possibly as early as the 5th). The significance of the "O Antiphons" is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel* (O God with us). Also, each one refers to a prophecy from Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. The seven antiphons were recited or chanted during Vespers during a special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil.

O Sapientia: Isaiah had prophesied, "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord." (11:2)

O Adonai: Isaiah had prophesied, "For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us." (33:22).

O Radix Jesse: Isaiah had prophesied, "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." (11:1)

O Clavis David: Isaiah had prophesied, "I will place the Key of the House of David on His shoulder; when he opens, no one will shut, when he shuts, no one will open." (22:22).

O Oriens: Isaiah had prophesied, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown." (9:2).

O Rex Gentium: Isaiah had prophesied, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." (9:6).

O Emmanuel: Isaiah had prophesied, "The Lord himself will give you this sign: the Virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." (7:14)

But wait, there's more! The Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one - Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia - the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, "I am (will be) Tomorrow."

CALENDAR EVENTS

This Week

Dec. 12	Christmas Dinner	5:00pm
Dec. 13	Mission Meeting	6:30pm
Dec. 14	Bible Study	1:00pm
Dec. 15	Choir	7:00pm
Dec. 16	Ladies Club	6:30pm

Looking Ahead

Dec. 21	Bible Study	1:00pm
Dec. 22	Choir	7:00pm
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Worship	8:00pm
Dec. 25	Merry Christmas	

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
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Website: www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Worship Service is at 10:00am

Church Staff:

Pastor: Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor
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Secretary: Wendy Stein Clark
secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Christian Ed.: Bill Ludwig (interim)
Organist: Kenneth Mc Geary
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zurich

Elders

Cathy Brady*
Dave Briscoe*
Arch Carroll
Cathy Christoforetti
Michael Cochenour*
Martha Gumbert
David Highfield
Dan Howard
John Irvin*
Henry Kedzierski
Val Lester*
Lew McNay
Glenn Nordmark*
Stephanie Tutka*
Cathy Vitari**

Deacons

Darlene Artman
Rich Artman
Gary Barbiaux
Judy Barbiaux
Kitty Berkey
Margie Bistline
Beulah Brown
Jackie Chickerella*
Cindy Irvin
Linda Johnson
Terri Ludwig
Connie Markle
Judy Sulitz
Mary Ann Walter
Lou Walter

*Denotes Chairman

**Clerk of Session

*Denotes Moderator