

*Grace Community Presbyterian Church*  
*December 4, 2022*



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

## Thought for Meditation

God's good news implies the bad news of judgment upon all human attempts to hoist ourselves up to God. *Will Willimon*

## Welcome and Announcements

Doug Marshall

|                   |                                   |          |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Prelude           | Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence | Phillips |
| * Call To Worship | Advent Wreath Ceremony            | Choir    |
| * Hymn of Praise  | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel          | #245     |

## Prayer of Confession

Linda Johnson

Refining God, you speak to us in the beauty of creation, but we do not listen. You sent your prophets to speak your word but we have not heard. We have chosen for ourselves what we think is best and not followed your ways, in our lives, in our church, and in our society.

Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
*Silent Prayer of Confession...*

## Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Timothy 1:14-15

L: The grace of our Lord overflowed into our lives.

**P: Through Christ God's love has filled our hearts.**

L: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:

**P: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**

L: People of God, believe the good news;

**P: 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!

## Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9 (page 595)

## Special Music

Behold Your Handmaiden (Trotta)

Chancel Choir

## New Testament Lesson

John 5:19-30 (page 927)

|   |   |              |
|---|---|--------------|
| <b>Sermon</b>                             | The Uncomfortable Presence  |              |
| <b>* Hymn of Response</b>                 | Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming  | #255         |
| <b>*Affirmation of Faith</b>              | The Apostles' Creed   |              |
|   | <p>I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;<br/>         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.</p> <p>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.</p> |              |
| <b>Call for Tithes and Offerings</b>      |   |              |
| <b>Offertory</b>                          | Noel Nouvelet   | Cherwien     |
| <b>* Doxology</b>                         | As with Gladness Men of Old (v3)  | #290         |
|   | <p>As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare,<br/>         So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,<br/>         All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to Thee our heav'nly King.</p>  |              |
| <b>* Prayer of Dedication</b>             |   |              |
| <b>* Hymn of Preparation</b>              | Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (v1-2)  | (See Insert) |
| <b>The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</b> |   |              |
| <b>* Hymn of Dedication</b>               | O Little Town of Bethlehem  | #250         |
| <b>* Charge and Benediction</b>           |   |              |
| <b>* Congregational Response</b>          | Go, Tell It on the Mountain (refrain)   | #258         |
|   | <p>Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;<br/>         Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!</p>  |              |
| <b>* Postlude</b>                         | Salutation Carol  | Powell       |

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

## Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church.

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for worship. Reitha Bieranoski will be your greeter today. There will be no Coffee Fellowship after worship today

### CHRISTMAS DINNER TONIGHT @ 5:00PM



Come and enjoy the fun at the Annual Congregational Christmas fellowship dinner. All are welcome, just bring a covered dish and join us.

### Congregational Meeting



Please plan to stay after worship on December 11 for the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will review the 2023 budget.



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



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

**TODAY'S MUSIC:** "Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming," a German carol from the Rhineland region, combines the story of Luke 1-2 and Matthew 2 with Isaiah's prophecies about the "rose" from the "stem of Jesse" (Isa. 11:1; 35:1-2). Stanzas 1 and 2 are a combination of folklore ("amid the cold of winter") and imagery from Isaiah. Stanza 3 introduces imagery from John 1. The earliest manuscript is dated around 1580, but the carol may go back another hundred years.

The English translation of stanzas 1 and 2 is by Theodore Baker (1851-1934). Baker studied music in Leipzig, Germany, and wrote a dissertation on the music of the Seneca people of New York State—one of the first studies of the music of Native Americans.

**Salutation Carol** dates back to c.1460 and tells of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary, found in Luke 1:26-38. Medieval carols were often sung and danced. Such carols gave voice to the full range of emotions of the people who created them. "Salutation Carol," using dance-like rhythms and changing meters, expresses the joy of Gabriel's appearing.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell  
This is the salutation of the angel Gabriel.*

*Tidings true there become new, Sent from the Trinity  
By Gabriel to Nazareth, City of Galilee.  
"A young maiden, a pure virgin, By her humility  
Shall now conceive the Person Second in Deity."*

*Then the Virgin Mary did answer most humbly:  
"Whate'er my Lord's commands may be I will obey truly."  
The handmaid of the Lord am I, His servant most surely.  
According to His gracious word Be it done to me.*

Mary's brief yet powerful response to Gabriel's news is found in Luke 1:38. "**Behold Your Handmaiden**" (today's anthem) is her response. "*Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.*"

## **This Week's Calendar**

**December 4 - 10**

|                  |                                 |                |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Sunday School (all ages)</b> | <b>9:00am</b>  |
|                  | <b>Worship/Communion</b>        | <b>10:00am</b> |
|                  | <b>Christmas Dinner</b>         | <b>5:00pm</b>  |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>Session Meeting</b>          | <b>7:00pm</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Bible Study</b>              | <b>1:00pm</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Cub Scouts Pack 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>Cub Scouts Pack Meeting</b>  | <b>6:00pm</b>  |

## **Looking Ahead**

**December 11-17**

|                    |  |                |
|--------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>December 11</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>Congregational Meeting</b>              | <b>11ish</b>   |
|                    | <b>Youth Group</b>                         | <b>6:00pm</b>  |
| <b>December 12</b> | <b>Finance Meeting</b>                     | <b>6:30pm</b>  |
|                    | <b>CS Committee Meeting</b>                | <b>6:45pm</b>  |
| <b>December 13</b> | <b>Bible Study</b>                         | <b>1:00pm</b>  |
| <b>December 14</b> | <b>Cub Scouts Pack Mtg/Christmas Party</b> | <b>7:00pm</b>  |
|                    | <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>                     | <b>7:00pm</b>  |
| <b>December 15</b> | <b>Ladies Club</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 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