

# Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God through lessons and carols at 11:00 a.m.

**December 20, 2020**

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

In the sanctuary and live streamed

## The Bell Calls Us to Worship

**Prelude**                      For Unto Us a Child Is Born    G.F. Handel; arr. L. Smith

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 22                      Angels, from the Realms of Glory                      Regent Square

## Opening Sentences

**Pastor:**                      Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People:**                      **The Maker of heaven and earth.**

**Pastor:**                      The Lord be with you.

**People:**                      **And also with you.**

**Pastor:**                      Let us pray.

**Prayer for the Day**      (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)

God of grace, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. Now fill us with your grace, that with her, we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

**Lighting the Fourth Candle in the Advent Wreath**    The Kehrli Family

At the conclusion of the candle lighting service, all stand to sing:

**O come, O come, Thou *Lord* of might, Who to thy tribes on *Si-* nai's height**

**In ancient times didst *give* the law, In cloud and majes-ty and awe.**

**Rejoice; rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Pastor:**                      The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People:**                      **And also with you.**

**Passing of the Peace** (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

**Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Bob Harrold

**First Lesson**

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

**Second Lesson**

Psalm 89:1-4

Unison

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.  
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to my servant David:  
'I will establish your descendants forever  
and build your throne for all generations.'"

**Piano Meditation**

Huron Carol

French-Canadian

Worshippers may wish to read the text of Hymn 61, from the Native American tradition.

**Third Lesson**

Isaiah 11:1-10

**Hand Bell Meditation** God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen arr. Linda Lamb

Rosemary Gordon and Becky Stirling, hand bells; Susan Steppe, organ

**Fourth Lesson**

Luke 1:26-38

**Sermon**

Ave Maria

Mike Krech

"And Gabriel came to Mary and said, 'Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.'"

Luke 1:28

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 16** The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came Gabriel's Message

The congregation sits.

**Fifth Lesson**

Luke 2:1-7

**Brass Meditation** Adeste Fideles/Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Arr. David Newell

Clyde Getman, trumpet; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn;

Bob Vawter, trombone; Susan Steppe, piano

**Sixth Lesson**

Luke 2:8-14

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 58**      While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks      Winchester Old

**Apostles' Creed**      Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

**Gloria in Excelsis**      Refrain of Hymn 23      Gloria

The congregation sits.

**Seventh Lesson**      Luke 2:15-20

**Brass Meditation**      arr. Brant Adams

Sing We Now of Christmas/God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Bob Vayter, trombone; Susan Steppe, piano

**Eighth Lesson**      Matthew 2:1-12

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 44**      O Little Town of Bethlehem      St. Louis

The congregation sits.

**The Bidding Prayer and The O Antiphons**

**The Lord's Prayer** (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

**Ninth Lesson**      Romans 16:25-27

**Offertory Sentence**

**Offertory** I Wonder as I Wander      John Jacob Niles, 1933; arr. Tim Doran

The congregation stands to sing the

**Doxology 592**      Old Hundredth

**Benediction**

**Hymn 40**      Joy to the World      Antioch

Worshippers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude.

You are also welcome to sing along with the Hallelujah Chorus

Or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and briskly.

**Postlude**      Hallelujah Chorus      G.F. Handel

Following the postlude, Pastor Mike Krech will be at the front of the church near the chancel steps for conversations with anyone, while masked and physically distanced.

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today we follow a worship pattern of lessons and carols, popularized beginning Christmas Eve, 1918, at the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, England.