

Bold Text is read or sung by the congregation

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME & THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Angel Tree

Elder Sandy Winston

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Jane Sturgis

In the midst of frenzied shopping and end-of-year weariness,

we spread out a purple cloth,

(a purple cloth is spread over the communion table)

read again the ancient stories,

(a Bible is placed on the table)

and light a candle in the darkness,

(a candle is lit)

to celebrate a visitation.

Gathered here we declare our intention to live

as if the greatest gift in the world

were about to be placed into our hands

(a wrapped parcel is laid on the table),

and as if the Giver has understood

our deepest needs, our most heartfelt prayers.

Like Mary,

may we be surprised by our calling;

like Simeon and Anna,

may the years increase our faith;

like sleepy shift workers on a hillside,

may our eyes be opened;

like Joseph

may we listen to our dreams;

for this season requires our creative imagination.

There is a Presence in our world that asks to be seen,

who will stay awake?

There is a coming to our world that seeks a welcome,

who will offer hospitality?

Even now Jesus Christ is moving towards us.

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verse 1)
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

No. 88

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,
have mercy on us, Father.

When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing
 and hearing and touching the needs of others,
let your grace consume us, O God.

When the wars around us are of no concern,
**forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion
 for those who suffer.**

When our caring is not extended to action,
move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.

**We come to confess our sinfulness
 before you and before each other.**

**Remove all barriers that divide us,
 and let there be no obstacle to our love for you
 and for one another. Amen.**

(All pray in silence.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Holy God of Peace, We seek your peace in these darkening days.

We seek a calm within,

And an absence of conflict between people and nations.

But more deeply, we seek your shalom –the deep and abiding peace
 that will come only through the justice of your kingdom.

But, Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us,

For God's love has been poured into our hearts

Through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism.

Believe this good news and give thanks:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God

*SONG OF PRAISE

*Glory to God, Whose
 Goodness Shines on Me*

No. 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
 and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
 And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10

SERMON

“Giving Birth to Christ”

Elder Bill Rose

*HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

No. 82

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

TITHES & OFFERING

For online offerings, please scan the QR Code at the bottom of the next page.

For all offerings sent in the mail, dropped in the offering plate as you come in or leave, or made online, thank you!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

Doxology

No. 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (Doxology) TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709 CCLI License No. 11195013

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER

GTG pg. 35

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

How firm a foundation,
ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith
in God's excellent Word!

For I will be near thee,
thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee
thy deepest distress.

What more can be said
than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge
to Jesus have fled?

"When through fiery trials
thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient,
shall be thy supply;

"Fear not, I am with thee,
O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God,
and will still give thee aid;

The flame shall not hurt thee;
I only design
thy dross to consume,
and thy gold to refine.

I'll strengthen thee, help thee,
and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent
hand.

"The soul that on Jesus
hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert
to its foes;

"When through the deep waters
I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow
shall not overflow;

That soul, though all hell
should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never,
no, never forsake."

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching - Elder Bill Rose

Liturgist – Elder Jane Sturgis

Pianist—Patricia Provencio

Choir Director—Brittney Williams

Technology - Bob Jones, JT Thomas, Diane Thomas &

Jim Collins



NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 5

Events + Celebrations

30	1	2
BIRTHDAY, Reese Flory	Zoom Bible Study, 2:00PM BIRTHDAY, Gatha Bigham	Quilters Board, 6:00PM Youth Group, 6:00PM BIRTHDAY Kwame Adu-Gyamfi
4	5	5(continued)
BIRTHDAY Nathan Diaz	Sunday Worship, 10:00AM Fellowship Hour, 11:00AM	MEETINGS AFTER WORSHIP Hospitality Team Building & Grounds Technology Team

Prayers + Concerns

Bob Hedicke

Henry Diaz

John Stark

Beverly Baldwin

Nancy Pries

*Need to add or remove someone from the Prayers/Concerns list?
Give us a call at (915) 755-8206 or email us at office@epgrace.com*

*We are imperfect followers of Jesus Christ,
continually being transformed by God's love and forgiveness.
We are building a vibrant, welcoming community that expresses that love in word
and in action. Together we will nurture, be nurtured, and bring help
and hope to the world.*

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8001 Magnetic St. El Paso, Texas

915.755.8206 www.epgrace.com