

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 COMPASSIONATE CARE

Elder Kurt Fenstermacher

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES—Hope, Peace, & Joy

Watch and wait. Christ is coming!

Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.

We light this candle for joy.

READING

Hear Mary's joyful song of gratitude from Luke 1:47-55:

Mary said,

“With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,

just as he promised to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever.”

OPENING PRAYER

God of hope, peace, and joy, we come to praise you for the great things you have done. Open us wide. Make your home in each of us. Ready us to bring Christ's message of redemption to the world. Amen.

RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (Verse 5)

No. 88

***O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creating God, you come to us with words of hope,
but we fear your message.**

You place us on the road to peace, but we veer off the path.

You put your Spirit within us, but we fail to rejoice at this amazing gift.

You put your love in Jesus' flesh,

yet we resist sharing that good news in our actions.

Forgive us, Lord. Speak peace to our fearfulness.

Fill us with courage to remain faithful.

Put joy in our hearts.

Empower our hands and feet to serve Christ and his kingdom.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Based on Isaiah 12)

Friends, God is indeed our salvation. Trust and don't be afraid. You are forgiven. Draw water with joy from the spring of salvation. Sing to the Lord who has done glorious things. Amen.

*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,

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever
shall be. Amen.

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

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" TEXT: Trad. liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile, 2008; © 2008 Paul M. Vasile
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ADVENT MOMENT

Jesse Tree

Elder Pam Round

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-45 (CEB)

SERMON

"Courageous Imagination"

Rev. Cindy Carlisle

*HYMN

Sing Out, My Soul (Magnificat)

No. 646

Sing out, my soul.

Sing out, my soul.

Sing out and glorify the Lord
who sets us free.

Sing out, my soul.

Sing out, my soul.

Sing out and glorify
the Lord God!

"Sing Out, My Soul (Magnificat)" TEXT: Taizé Community, 1978; © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen**

*HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

No. 93

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.
Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.
Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee;
here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TEXT: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863 CCLI License No. 11195013

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

**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.**

*HYMN

Rejoice in the Lord Always

No.

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!
Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice!

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” TEXT: Philippians 4:4 MUSIC: Traditional
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*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*PEACE OF CHRIST

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching - Rev. Cindy Carlisle

Liturgist – Elder Beth Jones/ Elder Pam Round

Advent Candles—Heim Family (Michael, Sarah, Ava, & Georgia)

Pianist—Patricia Provencio

Choir Director/Soloist—Brittney Williams

Technology - Bob Jones, JT Thomas, Diane Thomas & Jim Collins



DECEMBER 13-19

Events + Celebrations

15	16	18	19
Zoom Bible Study, 2:00PM	Youth Group, 6:00PM	Quilter's Workshop, 9:00AM BIRTHDAY Yaa Adu-Giamfi	Sunday Worship, 10:00AM Fellowship Hour, 11:00AM Meeting After Worship Session BIRTHDAY Pete McMillan

Prayers + Concerns

Henry Diaz	Bob Hedicke	Edrena Jones	John Stark	Jane Sturgis
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*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

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