



WELCOME

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

CHIMING THE HOUR/TIME OF CENTERING

*LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS WREATH

The prophet proclaims: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For shadow shall cover the earth and thick shadows the peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you and God's glory will appear over you.

We shall lift up our eyes and look around. We shall gather together. Our hearts shall thrill and rejoice at the arrival of the salvation of our God.

We light this Christmas wreath and claim the light of God's love in the world, for our God calls us in to bind us together that we may be sent out into the world so that all may know just how profound is God's justice-filled love.

*PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God of glory, as far as the east is from the west, from the north to the south, your light shines so that all people may see and be radiant, so that every heart can thrill and rejoice. Guide us on our journey with Christ and overwhelm us with joy, that we may enter your house and all people may be gathered in. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

There's a Star in the East | No. 135

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's words,

rise up, shepherd, and follow.

You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

There's a Star in the East
TEXT: Isaac Watts
MUSIC: arr. George Frederick Handel
ONE License No. A-740435

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of justice, we confess that we remain passive while others are oppressed. We guard our own prosperity at the expense of those who are poor. We ignore the cries of those in need of help. Forgive us, we pray, for hiding in the shadows of this world more than loving the light of your righteousness made known to us in Christ. Judge us with mercy and extend your grace to us. Strengthen our faithfulness to you and to all who are precious in your sight. Amen.

(A time for silent confession)

POURING OF THE WATER

Because of the grace we receive in baptism, we have nothing to fear.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, God is for us and not against us. Believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

He Came Down (v.1-2) | No. 137

*He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.
He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

*HYMN

The First Nowell | No. 147

***The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

***They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

***And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

***This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

***Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

***Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

SERMON

“Outside Joy” | Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed *Glory to God* | pg. 34

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CALL TO GIVE, OFFERING & OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4) | No. 144

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man I would do my part. Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We thank you for the gifts of your grace and all the resources we hold in trust. Receive our offerings
and use them and our whole lives for your plans and purposes. Amen.

JOYS & CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy... [pastor continues...]

forever sing to the glory of your name:

....who

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

You are truly holy, O God... [pastor continues...] THE LORD'S PRAYER

Glory to God | 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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

This morning we will be taking Communion by intinction. When it is your turn to come forward, you will be handed a piece of bread and are invited to dip it into the cup on either side before returning to your seat.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Illuminate our hearts, O God, with the radiance of Christ's presence, that our lives may show his love in this weary world. Send us to befriend the lost and forgotten, to serve the poor, to reconcile our enemies, and to love our neighbors. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are | No. 151

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

***Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.***

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Remember you are a child of God: And God loves God's children.

In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)
TEXT: Christina Rossetti
MUSIC: Gustav Holst
ONE License No. A-740435

JAN 4 - 11

Events & Celebrations

SUN 04	MON 05	TUE 06
EPIPHANY SUNDAY Communion Worship, 10:00AM New Year's Brunch, 11:15AM NA of EP, 3:00PM	Yoga, 2:00PM Unity Circle, 6:30PM BIRTHDAY Frieda Voeks	GraceB4Work, 7:00AM BIRTHDAY Kelly Hernandez
WED 07	THU 08	SUN 11
EPISD & MONTESSORI Back to School Deacons, 7:00PM	Quilter's, 6:30PM	ORDINATION & INSTALLATION Worship, 10:00AM Fellowship, 11:15AM NA of EP, 3:00PM

Prayers & Concerns

Mary & Mark Dunn	Zoomer Roberts	Pat Bryant	Bob Hedicke
Corey Elson	Mary Province	Pete McMillan	Mildred Helm

GIVING ONLINE

Offerings can be made online with no fee using Zelle© Find us using our phone number **(915) 755-8206** or email address **office@epgrace.com**.

For all offerings given in any form, thank you!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor — Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith
Music Director — Brittney Williams
Additional Accompaniment — Bill Rose

Liturgist —
Accompanist/Pianist — Patricia Ann Provencio
Technology — Angel Martinez,
Bob Jones & Jim Collins

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8001 Magnetic St. El Paso, Texas

915.755.8206

www.epgrace.com